

Israeli Prison Guard Shoots Palestinian Leader Marwan Barghouti With Rubber Bullet, Family Says

Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti was shot in the leg with a rubber bullet by an Israeli prison guard at Ganot Prison last week, his wife Fadwa Barghouti said in a statement, marking the latest in a series of assaults against him during his 24 years in Israeli detention.

According to Fadwa Barghouti: *“One of the prison guards fired a rubber bullet into Marwan’s leg, causing him to bleed and suffer a painful injury - another episode in the ongoing series of assaults against him.”*

The family says it learned of the incident from Marwan’s lawyer and that he has not received medical treatment for the wound. Fadwa Barghouti said the shooting came alongside what she described as an “inciting” report issued by the Israel Prison Service, timed to coincide with the growing international “Free Marwan, Free Palestine” campaign.

This comes as last week the Arab League called for an international commission of inquiry into what it describes as “repeated assaults” on Barghouti.

A Pattern of Escalating Abuse

The Free Marwan Now campaign says this incident is not isolated. Marwan Barghouti’s legal team and family have documented a pattern of mistreatment over the past two and a half years. Since October 2023, Barghouti has been held in solitary confinement and repeatedly transferred between prisons. No international journalists have been granted access to him since 2006, and lawyer and family visits remain rare.

Below is a list of the reported attacks against Marwan since 2002.

- On 15 April 2002, Israeli soldiers disguised in an ambulance seized Marwan from Ramallah and transferred him to Israel—in violation of the Geneva Conventions.
- He was convicted in a trial widely condemned as illegitimate and politically motivated. The Inter-Parliamentary Union—representing over 180 national parliaments, including the US Congress—found “numerous breaches of international law” in his case, concluding it was “impossible to say that Mr. Barghouti received a fair trial.”
- No international journalists have been given access to him since 2006, lawyer visits are extremely infrequent, and family visits almost non-existent.
- Oct 2023 - Following the Hamas-led attacks, Barghouti was placed in solitary confinement and repeatedly transferred across at least four different Israeli

prisons—Ofer, Ramla, Ohalay Kedar, and ultimately Megiddo. Barghouti's son, Arab, reports his father was ordered to kneel by the prison governor; when he refused, he was forced down—resulting in a dislocated shoulder.

- Dec 2023 - His legal team reported Barghouti was beaten multiple times while held at Ayalon Prison, including being dragged naked across the floor in front of other prisoners.
- Feb-Mar 2024 - Transferred to Ramla Prison's solitary wing, continuing frequent prison moves. Rights groups characterized these as punitive measures tied to the Gaza war.
- 6 Mar 2024 - Barghouti was reportedly dragged in handcuffs to a camera-free area at Megiddo and severely beaten—collapsing and struck until losing consciousness. He sustained bruises to his face, back, legs, and right foot.
- May 2024 - His lawyer described Barghouti as physically weakened: having visible weight loss, impaired vision in his right eye, and overall deteriorating health. Conditions include cramped, dark cells and no access to medical care for injuries sustained earlier.
- 9 Sept 2024 - Barghouti was the target of another violent assault while in solitary at Megiddo. Reportedly suffered fractured ribs, limb injuries, right ear bleeding, back pain, and infection from untreated wounds.
- Oct 2024 - His ordeal gained international attention—Fatah officials warned Israel of a potential plot to eliminate him. Human rights groups decried the assaults as intentional harm to a high-profile prisoner.
- Late 2024- Early 2025 - US officials and Middle Eastern governments raised concerns over his treatment, urging Israel to conduct transparent investigations into the credible allegations of abuse.
- 15 April 2025 - Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir was today filmed threatening Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti in a jail cell. The footage is the first time Barghouti has been seen by the outside world in years. Ben-Gvir has been sanctioned by the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway due to repeated incitements to violence. His threats to harm Marwan Barghouti were made in the solitary confinement wing of Ganot Prison in Israel.
- 24 March 2026 - a unit of guards entered the cell with a dog, forced him to the ground; where the dog repeatedly attacked him in Megiddo Prison
- 25 March 2026 - he was assaulted during the transfer between Megiddo and Ganot prisons

- 8 April 2026 - he was beaten severely and left bleeding for more than two hours, requested medical care, and was denied treatment whilst in Ganot Prison
- July 2026 - Prison guards entered Marwan's cell and fired into his leg with a rubber bullet.