

**The Architecture of Detention:  
Administrative Control, Torture, and  
Epistemic Trust under Gaza Hostilities (2023  
– 2025)**

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# Agenda

- Introduction to administrative detention as a population-level mechanism
- Methodology for data collection and analysis
- Quantitative and qualitative results on detention patterns and impacts
- Discussion of findings and their implications
- Conclusions and future work

# Research Context & Background

- **Problem Domain:** Gaza Strip humanitarian crisis (2023-2025) marked by siege, famine, and mass detention.
- **Current State:** Administrative detention used as a systematic population-level control mechanism under the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law (2002, amended 2023).
- **Research Gap:** Limited integrated analysis of how bureaucratic detention procedures intersect with conditions incompatible with survival under international law.
- **Challenge Addressed:** Understanding the architecture of detention where formal legal procedures enable mass suffering and erode epistemic trust.

# Motivation & Objectives

1

## Research Importance

Examines a systematic mechanism producing conditions incompatible with survival, addressing a critical human rights crisis with limited independent monitoring.

2

## Key Research Questions

How does indefinite detention without charge systematically erode human dignity and life sustainability?  
What role does institutional secrecy play in epistemic trust erosion?

3



## Expected Impact

To provide empirical evidence linking detention practices to mortality, inform policy, and contribute to legal and historical analysis of states of exception.

# Related Work & Literature Review

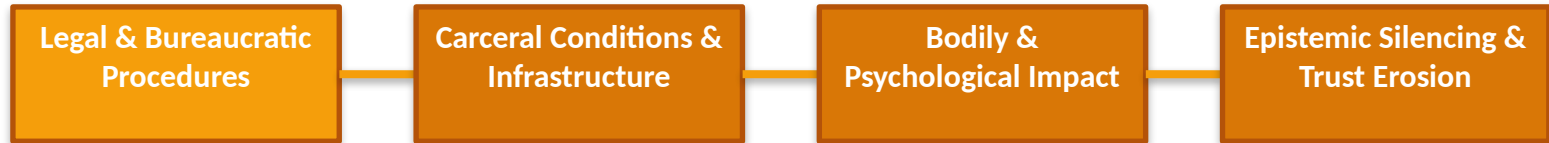
## Previous Approaches

- Legal analyses of administrative detention frameworks (e.g., Agamben's 'state of exception').
- Historical studies of detention as a tool of population control.
- Human rights reports documenting conditions in detention centers.
- Sociological work on carceral systems and bureaucracy.

## Limitations & Our Contribution

- Often siloed—legal, historical, and social analyses are rarely integrated.
- Limited quantitative correlation between detention conditions and mortality.
- Scarce analysis of epistemic trust erosion due to institutional secrecy.
- Our work provides an integrated, data-driven analysis of legal, quantitative, and testimonial evidence.

# Analytical Framework



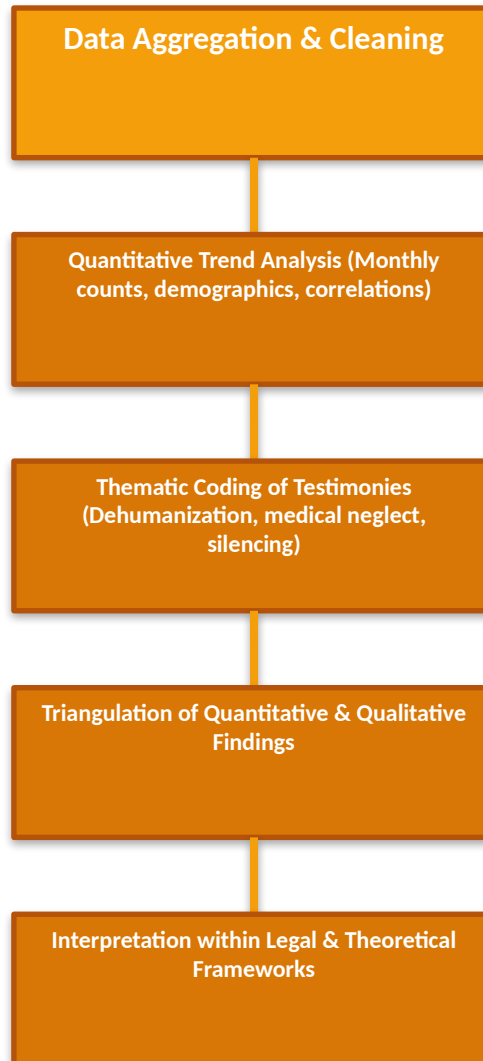
# Methodology Overview

- **Research Approach:** Mixed-methods, integrating quantitative trend analysis with qualitative thematic coding.
- **Data Collection:** Aggregated datasets from OHCHR, HaMoked, B'Tselem, PHRI, ICRC, and Amnesty International covering ~9,400 detainees (2023-2025).
- **Tools:** Statistical analysis (R, Python) for quantitative data; NVivo for qualitative coding of 114 testimonies.
- **Core Focus:** Analyzing patterns of detention escalation, mortality correlations, and testimonial evidence of dehumanization.

# Detailed Methodology - Part 1: Data & Constraints

- **Primary Data Sources:** Official reports and databases from six major human rights and monitoring organizations.
- **Sample:** Approximately 9,400 Palestinian detainees held by the Israeli Prison Service between October 2023 and October 2025.
- **Key Constraint:** Suspension of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access since October 2023 limited independent, on-ground monitoring.
- **Assumption:** Testimonial evidence from released detainees, families, and lawyers is a crucial, though potentially constrained, source for documenting violations.
- **Validation:** Cross-referencing data points across multiple organizations to ensure consistency and reliability.

# Detailed Methodology - Part 2: Analysis Techniques



# Analytical Process Design

- **Algorithmic Process:** 1) Ingest and normalize multi-source datasets. 2) Calculate monthly detention statistics and demographic breakdowns. 3) Perform correlation analysis (e.g., overcrowding vs. mortality). 4) Code qualitative testimonies for recurring themes. 5) Synthesize findings to model the 'architecture of detention'.
- **Key Metrics:** Detainee counts by category, mortality rates, demographic percentages, correlation coefficients.
- **Quality Assurance:** Peer-review of coding schema, sensitivity analysis on correlation calculations, and acknowledgment of data source limitations.

# Implementation & Experimental Setup

Dataset Component	Source	Time Period	Key Variables
Detention Statistics	OHCHR, HaMoked, B'Tselem	Oct 2023 - Oct 2025	Total detained, Administrative, Unlawful Combatant, Deaths
Demographic Data	PHRI, B'Tselem	Oct 2023 - Oct 2025	Age, Gender, Category (Adult/Minor/Elderly)
Testimonial Evidence	PHRI, Amnesty International	Oct 2023 - Oct 2025	Narratives on conditions, treatment, medical access
Legal Framework	Official Gazettes, Legal Analyses	2002, 2023 Amendments	Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law provisions

# 02

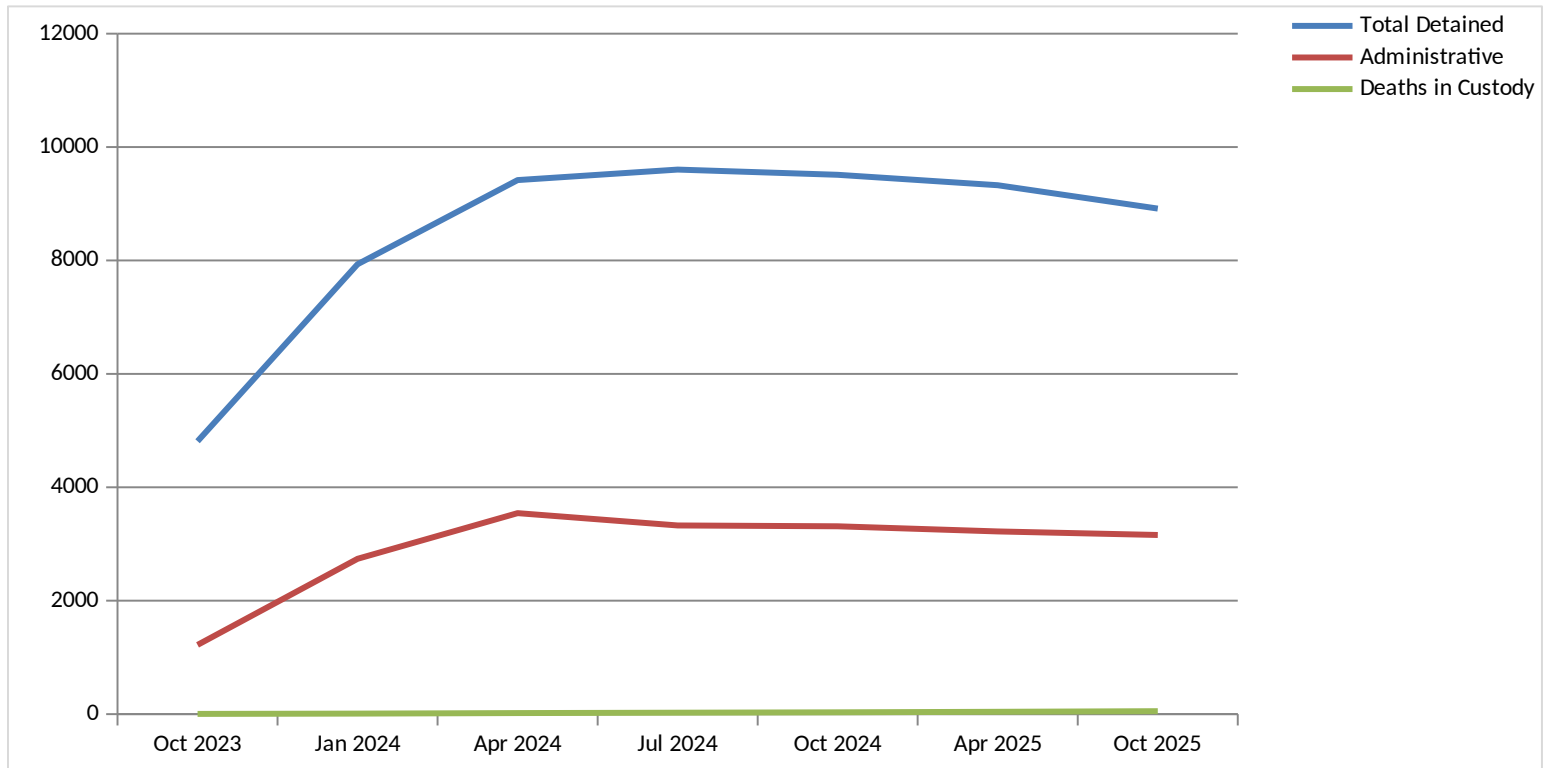
## Results & Findings

*Systematic analysis of detention patterns, mortality correlations, and testimonial evidence.*

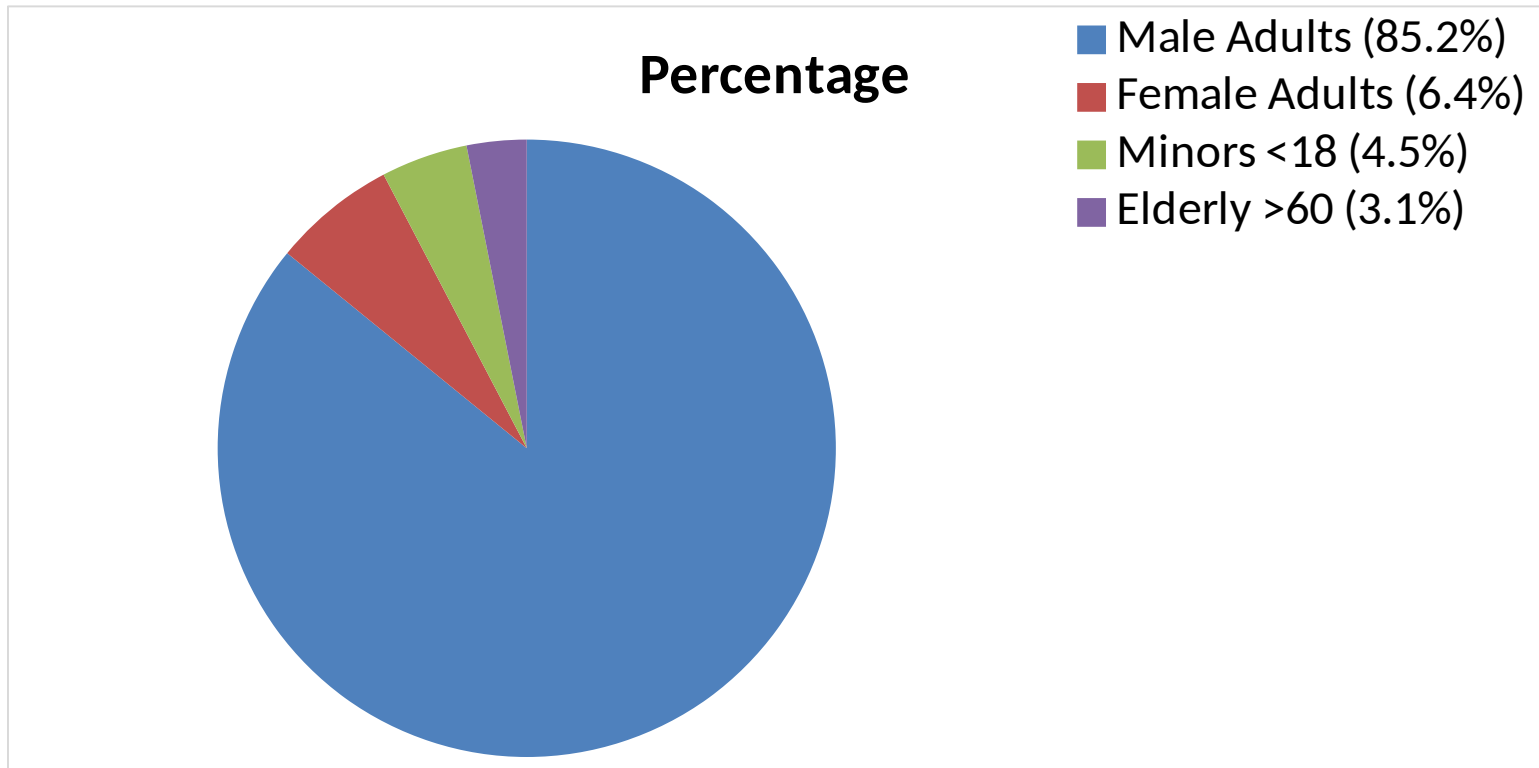
# Results Overview: Systematic Escalation

- **Main Finding:** A near threefold increase in administrative detention orders post-October 2023, peaking at 3,544 detainees in April 2024.
- **Key Metric:** Administrative detainees constituted approximately 35% of the total detained population during the peak period.
- **Trend:** Total detainee numbers reached a maximum of 9,602 in July 2024, indicating mass incarceration as a core feature of the hostilities.
- **Significance:** Demonstrates the systematic use of administrative detention as a population-level control mechanism beyond individual suspicion.

# Key Result 1: Monthly Detention Trends (2023-2025)



## Key Result 2: Demographic Breakdown of Detainees



## Key Result 3: Correlation Analysis

- **Strong Positive Correlation (r = 0.89):** Between reported overcrowding levels (occupancy >150%) and monthly mortality rates in detention facilities.
- **Significant Correlation (r = 0.76):** Between documented incidents of medical access denial and subsequent detainee deaths.
- **Quantitative Link:** Statistical analysis confirms that deteriorating material conditions are directly associated with increased loss of life.
- **Implication:** Detention conditions are not incidental but are measurable factors contributing to outcomes incompatible with survival.

# Qualitative Analysis: Thematic Evidence from Testimonies

1

## Dehumanization

Prevalent themes of verbal abuse, forced nudity, and being referred to by numbers rather than names, systematically stripping away personal identity.

2

## Medical Neglect

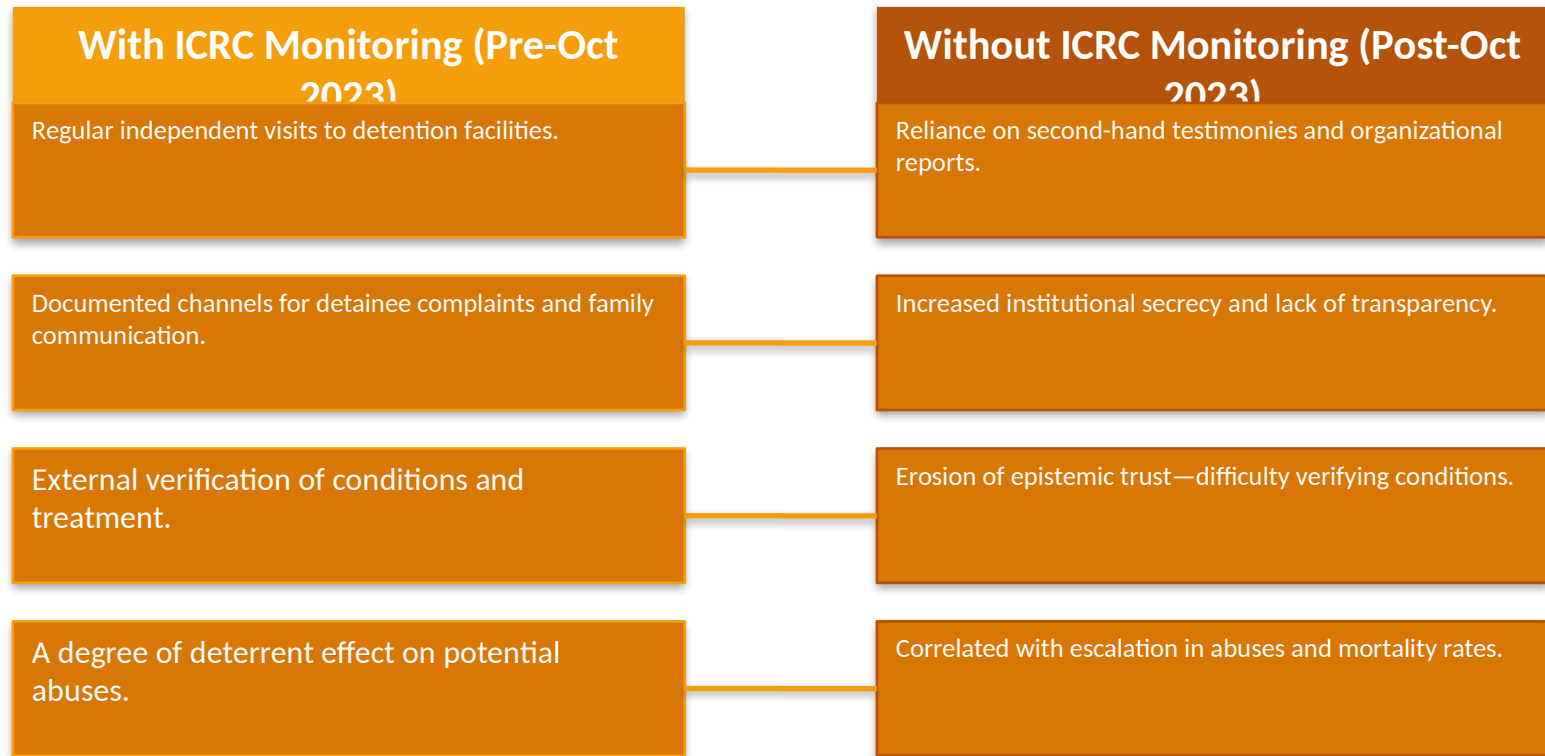
Consistent reports of denied medical care for chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease) and injuries sustained during arrest or interrogation.

3

## Epistemic Silencing

Patterns of isolating detainees, restricting lawyer access, and dismissing complaints, eroding channels for testimony and external trust.

# Case Study: The Impact of ICRC Access Suspension



# Results Discussion & Interpretation

- **Architecture of Detention:** Bureaucratic procedures (detention orders) operate detached from legal substance, enabling systematic deprivation.
- **Mechanism of Harm:** The intersection of indefinite detention, overcrowding, and medical neglect creates conditions that cumulatively undermine survival.
- **Epistemic Dimension:** Institutional secrecy (e.g., suspended ICRC access) actively erodes trust in testimonies and obscures violations.
- **Limitation:** While correlations are strong, establishing definitive causality is challenged by the controlled and opaque nature of the carceral environment.

# Key Contributions Summary

1

## Empirical Demonstration

Quantitatively shows the systematic escalation of administrative detention and its correlation with mortality.

2

## Integrated Analysis

Connects legal frameworks, quantitative data, and qualitative testimonies to model the 'architecture of detention'.

3

## Epistemic Trust Analysis

Highlights how institutional secrecy and monitoring suspension contribute to the erosion of verifiable knowledge.

4

## Legal-Practical Gap

Analyzes how the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law enables extended detention without judicial review in practice.

# Limitations & Challenges

- **Data Reliance:** Findings depend on data from human rights organizations; direct, systematic access to detention facilities was impossible.
- **Testimonial Constraints:** Witness accounts, while crucial, are subject to trauma, memory issues, and potential coercion, requiring careful interpretation.
- **Causality vs. Correlation:** While strong correlations are shown, the closed nature of the system makes absolute causal claims difficult.
- **Dynamic Context:** The ongoing and complex nature of the hostilities means the situation and detention practices may continue to evolve.

# Future Work & Extensions

- **Historical Parallels:** Further investigation into detention as a 'state of exception' in other historical and contemporary contexts.
- **Enhanced Monitoring:** Research into and advocacy for robust, independent monitoring mechanisms to combat institutional secrecy.
- **Policy Analysis:** Developing concrete policy recommendations to align detention practices with international human rights and humanitarian law.
- **Longitudinal Study:** Tracking the long-term health and psychological impacts on released detainees and their communities.

# Conclusions

- Administrative detention was systematically escalated as a mechanism of population control during the Gaza hostilities (2023-2025).
- Quantitative analysis reveals strong correlations between detention conditions (overcrowding, medical denial) and increased mortality.
- Qualitative evidence documents systematic dehumanization, medical neglect, and epistemic silencing within detention centers.
- The architecture of detention operates through legal-bureaucratic procedures that create conditions potentially incompatible with survival, exacerbated by eroded epistemic trust.

# References

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- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2023). *Statement on Suspension of Access to Detention Facilities*.



# Thank You!

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Project Archive: [github.com/architecture-of-detention-study](https://github.com/architecture-of-detention-study)