

# The Hidden War on Palestinian Women: Israeli Checkpoints as Sites of Systematic Gender-Based Violence Against Palestinian Women

For over 77 years, **Palestinian women have endured a double system of violence; Israel's domination is intertwined with patriarchal control.** Across the occupied West Bank, Israeli military checkpoints have always functioned as sites of gendered power and humiliation, despite being presented as “security measures”.

However, notably post October 7, 2023, the number of checkpoints in the West Bank has increased to reach **1,200**, which has resulted in an alarming surge of violence against Palestinian women, thus exposing Israel's military checkpoints as a structure of daily, gendered violence, targeting Palestinian women both as Palestinians and as women. As such, the **female body becomes a battlefield, where control over movement mirrors control over land, identity, and sovereignty.**



## Types of Violation

### Physical Violence

Beatings and physical assaults

**“He laughed, then forced me to kneel and hit my leg with his weapon.”**

### Psychological Violence

Fear, anxiety, humiliation, and mockery in public

**“The physical injuries healed; the humiliation did not.”**

### Sexualized Humiliation

Strip searches, hijab removal, sexual harassment, and invasive touching

**“This is a full search; you must take your clothes off [...] I do not remember what happened afterwards...”**

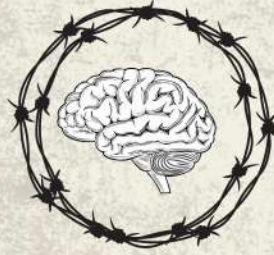
### Denial of Movement/Access

Delays, forced waiting, and arbitrary searches

**“I was carrying out humanitarian work, yet I was subjected to humiliation and violence”**

## Psychological Trauma

PTSD, anxiety and chronic fear



## Women's Health Issues

Miscarriages, menstrual infections, and chronic pain due to prolonged waiting



## Physical Injuries

Concussions, bruising, and fractures



## CONSEQUENCES

## Educational/Economic Impact

Women drop out of work or studies to avoid checkpoints.



## Intergenerational Trauma

Children internalize fear and helplessness.



## Erosion of Dignity

Public humiliation used to fracture communal morale



The violence Palestinian women face at Israeli checkpoints is neither random nor exceptional; it is a **structural manifestation of patriarchy**, where militarized power, gendered domination, and racialized control intersect to maintain occupation over both **land and body**.