ISRAEL™ TRUTH NETWORK

The Myth of Sexual Torture by Israeli Forces

THE LIE

Israeli soldiers routinely engage in sexual abuse and rape of Palestinians.

THE TRUTH

Other than unverified Palestinian hearsay, there is no credible evidence of systematic sexual abuse by Israeli soldiers. Even some pro-Palestinian activists acknowledge such incidents are extremely rare.

BACKGROUND

- ➔ On May 11, 2026, Nicholas Kristof published a New York Times article accusing Israel of carrying out systematic rape, sexual torture, and abuse against Palestinian detainees, including men, women, and children. (New York Times)
- ➔ The article described allegations involving batons, vegetables, genital beatings, and even dogs, framing them as routine features of Israeli detention policy.
- ➔ The article appeared in the Opinion section rather than as reported news.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- ➔ Kristof's case relies heavily on hearsay from just 14 Palestinians, many anonymous and many connected in some way to Hamas — a terrorist organization with a documented history of propaganda and disinformation. His sources include Sami al-Sai, a self-described freelance journalist known for promoting Hamas narratives who publicly celebrated the October 7 massacre and mass rape of Israelis. (Honest Reporting)
- ➔ Kristof concedes that many of the allegations are difficult or impossible to verify because of "shame" and missing evidence, yet still presents them as evidence of a broader pattern of systemic abuse. (New York Times)
- ➔ Incredibly, the argument is often inverted: activists and academics have claimed Israeli soldiers are "racist" precisely because they do *not* engage in widespread sexual violence against Palestinians, implying this reflects a view of Palestinians as "beneath" such abuse. (Israel National News), (Israel National News), (FrontPage Mag)
- ➔ The claim that Israel "trains dogs to rape prisoners" traces back to pro-Palestinian activist Shaiel Ben Ephraim, himself an accused sexual abuser who has admitted the claim could not be verified. The same allegation was previously promoted by Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, an organization with documented Hamas ties and a history of unverified accusations against Israel. No credible evidence has been produced supporting the existence of any such program. (X), (Daily Bruin), (Honest Reporting)
- ➔ Many of the stories are inconsistent. Kristof relies heavily on Palestinian activist Issa Amro, for example, whose story changed over time. In February 2024, Amro said he was threatened with sexual assault during detention. In Kristof's piece, however, Amro is presented as an established victim of sexual assault. (Honest Reporting)
- ➔ Kristof also cites a UN report alleging systematic rape against Palestinians despite that report having been widely challenged and debunked. (Israel Truth Network)
- ➔ Kristof presents no forensic evidence, independently verifiable documentation, or physical proof to substantiate claims of a systematic Israeli policy of rape or sexual torture.
- ➔ Kristof frames Palestinian victims as ignored while contrasting their treatment with the international response to October 7. In reality, Palestinian allegations already receive extensive amplification across major international outlets, UN institutions, and activist networks, while Hamas's documented rapes, sexual mutilations, and use of civilians as human shields are frequently minimized, disputed, softened, or ignored outright. (Daniel Friedman), (The Spectator), (NCRI)
- ➔ Sexual violence and failures of law enforcement remain serious internal problems within Palestinian society itself. Neither Hamas in Gaza nor the Palestinian Authority in Judea and Samaria effectively enforces rape laws. Women reporting abuse are often blamed for provoking the behavior. Hamas in particular sexually exploits and abuses women and children as a matter of routine. (US State Department), (Daily Mail), (Daily Mail), (Ynet News)

For more information on this topic, visit: theisraeltruthnetwork.org

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QUOTES

“Today, the New York Times chose to publish one of the worst blood libels ever to appear in the modern press. In an unfathomable inversion of reality, and through an endless stream of baseless lies, propagandist Nicholas Kristof turns the victim into the accused.” — Israel Foreign Ministry

“The Western media has become so good at lying about this country. And again, I'm very, very pro-Israel. I'm an evangelical Christian. I'm a conservative. I'm a Trump supporter. I'm a Republican. All the good things. For my whole life, I have defended Israel. But even with that, I was programmed by the Western media to have certain lies programmed into my head.” — Charlie Kirk

TAKEAWAY

While Hamas stands accused of sexually exploiting women and children, the international media remains fixated on false accusations against Israel. That is the propaganda strategy: accuse Israel of the very depravity Hamas is accused of committing, flood the information space with unverifiable horror stories, and rely on sympathetic activists, NGOs, and journalists to amplify them unquestioningly. In that ecosystem, Hamas’s own victims disappear from view while Israel is forced to answer for allegations built on hearsay and propaganda. Nicholas Kristof may present himself as a moral crusader, but he is no more than a willing amplifier for a disinformation campaign that obscures Hamas’s documented brutality by projecting it onto Israel.