

"La prossima volta ti tatueremo una Stella di David sul viso"

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Dopo il suo arresto, le guardie carcerarie israeliane hanno costretto un attivista ebreo contrario alla guerra a indossare una maglietta filo-israeliana, una pratica degradante spesso usata contro i prigionieri palestinesi.



DiOren Ziv 2 giugno 2025



Agenti di polizia israeliani arrestano l'attivista Itamar Greenberg durante una protesta contro la guerra a Tel Aviv, 24 maggio 2025. (Oren Ziv)

In collaborazione con

LOCAL CALL —
שיחה מקומית

A febbraio, i prigionieri palestinesi rilasciati nell'ambito dell'accordo di cessate il fuoco di Gaza sono stati costretti a indossare magliette con la Stella di David, il logo dell'Israel Prison Service (IPS) e la frase "Non dimenticheremo e non perdoneremo" in arabo.

Ora, anche un detenuto ebreo-israeliano in custodia dell'IPS è stato sottoposto a questa pratica umiliante: gli agenti dell'IPS hanno costretto l'attivista di sinistra Itamar Greenberg, arrestato domenica scorsa, 24 maggio, durante una protesta contro la guerra, a indossare una maglietta con la scritta "Am Yisrael Chai" ("La Nazione di Israele vive"). Durante la sua detenzione, lo hanno anche insultato, minacciandolo di tatuargli la prossima volta una Stella di David sul volto, come era già accaduto a un detenuto palestinese di Gerusalemme Est.

Il 24 maggio, manifestanti contro la guerra hanno bloccato brevemente una strada a Tel Aviv; durante la protesta, Greenberg, un obiettore di coscienza diciannovenne che aveva scontato quasi 200 giorni di carcere militare, è stato arrestato. È stato portato alla stazione di polizia di Lev Tel Aviv, dove è stato interrogato per "disturbo della quiete pubblica e dell'ordine pubblico". È stato poi trasferito per alcune ore alla stazione di Glilot, riportato a Lev Tel Aviv e da lì condotto dagli agenti della polizia di Tel Aviv al tribunale di Tel Aviv per un'udienza.

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"Dal momento in cui sono sceso dal veicolo dell'IPS al tribunale, non riesco nemmeno a descrivere quanto fossero crudeli", ha raccontato Greenberg. "Continuavano a dire: 'Siete i peggiori terroristi, gente di sinistra, vi metteremo in una cella con gli arabi, con gli immigrati clandestini'".

Gli agenti dell'IPS hanno notato la maglietta "Peace Partnership" che Greenberg indossava al momento dell'arresto, con lo slogan "No alla guerra, sì alla pace" in ebraico e arabo. "Questo li ha davvero colpiti. Non è nemmeno una maglietta radicale", ha spiegato Greenberg.

"Mi hanno portato a fare una perquisizione corporale e mi hanno portato una pesante camicia grigia. Dopo la perquisizione, mi hanno costretto a indossarla e ho visto che c'era scritto 'Am Yisrael Chai!' con un pennarello blu, con un disegno della bandiera israeliana. Ho sentito il tizio che l'aveva disegnata vantarsene con i suoi amici."

From the basement cell in the courthouse, Greenberg was brought up for a hearing before Judge Ravit Peleg Bar-Dayana. Only toward the end of the hearing did his lawyer and others notice the IPS shirt. According to Greenberg, "The IPS tried to get me out of there quickly, saying, 'Come on, you're not staying, the hearing's over.' [When] my lawyer insisted on saying a few words, the IPS officers started yelling, 'That's your country's flag! What's wrong with the Israeli flag? Go draw a Palestinian flag instead.'"



Palestinian prisoners set for release in IPS shirts featuring its logo, a Star of David and the sentence in Arabic: 'We will not forget or forgive,' Feb. 15, 2025. (Israel Prison Service)

During the hearing, Greenberg's lawyer, Ramzi Ktilat, called the Hebrew inscription on his client's shirt "an attempt to make a statement and to harm the dignity of the detainee." He explained that the practice is part of a larger pattern. "Since October 7 and during the war, the IPS has been using this slogan ["Am Yisrael Chai"] to humiliate detainees they believe do not support the war."

The judge ruled that the matter be brought to the attention of an Israel Prison Service (IPS) official. She rejected the police's request to extend Greenberg's detention by three days, and released him with a one-month ban on participating in protests declared illegal by the Israel police, under penalty of a NIS 5,500 fine.

'Have fun in the tunnels'

After the hearing, IPS officers brought Greenberg back down to a basement cell, where he waited for about two hours. "When we went down in the elevator — which is small — they threatened me again," Greenberg recounted. "One of [the officers] said: 'I'll turn you into a far-right winger [who wears] a *kippa* [yarmulke] with a Star of David. Come put on tefillin [small black leather boxes worn by Jewish adults for weekday and Sunday morning prayers]. Are you a Jew who is circumcised?' It was really unpleasant."

Before he was released, a senior IPS officer arrived with “platoon commander” written on her uniform, according to Greenberg. “She photographed me with her phone. I thought she was doing it to investigate the matter because she had heard what happened during the hearing.”

Later, when Greenberg was about to be released, another IPS officer asked him: “What is that shirt? You’re not leaving in it.” Greenberg replied that he would indeed leave in the shirt the officers had forced him to wear. “I told [the officer]: ‘Of course I am. You embarrassed me, tried to humiliate me, and I demand documentation of it.’”



Conscientious objectors Oryan Mueller, Itamar Greenberg, Yuval Moav. (Oren Ziv)

According to Greenberg, the officer responded with an insult: “I hope you get kidnapped.” The senior officer present chimed in as well. “Amen, go to Gaza. Have fun in the tunnels.”

“They said, ‘Amen, may an Iranian missile fall on your head.’ and ‘Next time you’re arrested, we’ll tattoo a Star of David on your face’ — I assume like what was done to a Palestinian detainee. In the middle of all this talk, I realized that if I refused, they’d beat me, so I took off the shirt.”

This was Greenberg’s fourth arrest since being released from military prison. The most significant take away, he says, is that “for Palestinians this [abuse] is the standard practice, and now it’s being directed at activists too.”

The Israel Prison Service responded to +972’s request for comment with the following statement: “The detainee in question arrived at the IPS’s Nachshon escort unit wearing a shirt with Arabic writing. For his own safety and to prevent friction with other detainees, he

was asked to change into clothing provided by the IPS.

“As for the claim regarding writing on the clothing – the matter will be thoroughly examined, and if it is found to have occurred, disciplinary measures will be taken accordingly. The IPS emphasizes that its personnel act according to the law, equally and without bias, while safeguarding the rights and safety of every detainee and prisoner.”

The IPS chose not to respond to allegations regarding cursing, photographing, and threats.

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On Tuesday, May 27, the Israel Prison Service reported that the IPS Commissioner had instructed the appointment of an investigating officer to look into the circumstances of the incident and also ordered the immediate removal of the guard from his position “until the investigation process is completed.”

A version of this article was first published in Hebrew on Local Call. Read it [here](#).

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Oren Ziv is a photojournalist, reporter for Local Call, and a founding member of the Activestills photography collective.

Our team has been devastated by the horrific events of this latest war. The world is reeling from Israel’s unprecedented onslaught on Gaza, inflicting mass devastation and death upon besieged Palestinians, as well as the atrocious attack and kidnappings by Hamas in Israel on October 7. Our hearts are with all the people and communities facing this violence.

We are in an extraordinarily dangerous era in Israel-Palestine. The bloodshed has reached extreme levels of brutality and threatens to engulf the entire region. Emboldened settlers in the West Bank, backed by the army, are seizing the opportunity to intensify their attacks on Palestinians. The most far-right government in Israel’s history is ramping up its policing of dissent, using the cover of war to silence Palestinian citizens and left-wing Jews who object to its policies.

Questa escalation ha un contesto molto chiaro, un contesto che +972 ha dedicato agli ultimi 14 anni: il crescente razzismo e militarismo della società israeliana, l'occupazione radicata e l'apartheid, nonché l'assedio normalizzato di Gaza.

Siamo ben posizionati per affrontare questo momento pericoloso, ma abbiamo bisogno del vostro aiuto. Questo periodo terribile metterà a dura prova l'umanità di tutti coloro che lavorano per un futuro migliore in questa terra. Palestinesi e israeliani si stanno già organizzando e elaborando strategie per combattere la battaglia della loro vita.

Possiamo contare sul tuo sostegno ? +972 Magazine è una delle principali voci mediatiche di questo movimento, una piattaforma disperatamente necessaria dove giornalisti, attivisti e pensatori palestinesi e israeliani possono raccontare e analizzare ciò che sta accadendo, guidati da umanesimo, uguaglianza e giustizia. Unisciti a noi.

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Walid and I shared a political, personal, and philosophical correspondence for two decades. Even in death, he accompanies me on the path of truth.

By Anat Matar April 24, 2024