

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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HUMAN
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WATCH

www.hrw.org

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Mrs. Liron Tuvia
Officer of the Public Complaints & Freedom of Information Section
Israel Police

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Dear Mrs. Tuvia,

I write to request your assistance in obtaining information pertaining to the killing of a Palestinian man, Ahmed Erekat, at the Container checkpoint on June 23, 2020 by Israeli security forces, and the subsequent withholding of his body.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to understand your perspectives on this incident, so they can be reflected in a forthcoming Human Rights Watch publication on them. For this to happen, we would need to receive your responses by September 7, 2020.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an international human rights organization, whose head office is located in New York City. The organization publishes reports on the state of human rights in nearly 100 countries worldwide, with the objective of defending human rights and promoting respect for international humanitarian law. Human Rights Watch has covered human rights issues in Israel and Palestine for nearly three decades and, in that time, has regularly met and corresponded with Israeli officials.

Our investigation has focused on the incident that led to the killing of Ahmed Erekat and subsequent withholding of his body by Israeli authorities and the legality of these actions under international law.

To better understand and reflect the perspective of the Israeli police on these issues, we would appreciate answers to the following questions:

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director*

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Dinah PoKempner, *General Counsel*
Tom Porteous, *Deputy Program Director*
James Ross, *Legal and Policy Director*
Joe Saunders, *Deputy Program Director*

1. Did authorities provide Ahmed Erekat with medical attention immediately after he was shot?
 - a. If so, what exactly was done and by whom?
 - b. If not, why not?
2. At what time did Mr. Erekat die and what was the cause of death?
 - a. How was that determination made and by whom?
3. What time did the first ambulance arrive on the scene?
 - a. What type of ambulance was it?
 - b. Was an army medic available at the scene prior to the arrival of the ambulance?
 - c. Was Mr. Erakat still alive when the ambulance arrived?
 - d. Were medics who arrived on that ambulance, or other medics at the scene permitted to approach Erekat? If not, why not?
4. Human Rights Watch and other rights groups have documented that another ambulance, a Palestinian one, arrived at the Container checkpoint at 4:15pm, shortly after the Israeli one, and that Israeli authorities blocked the ambulance and its staff from accessing Erekat. Can you confirm that authorities on the scene prevented their approach? If so, why?
 - a. Does the Israeli army have a policy regarding Palestinian ambulances providing medical care to Palestinians wounded in incidents deemed to be security incidents in the West Bank?
5. Have authorities opened an investigation into the killing?
 - a. If so, which authorities? Who is responsible for the investigation?
 - b. If so, have authorities reached a determination on whether the killing adhered to Israel's rules of engagement? If so, what was its determination? On what basis did soldiers fire on Mr. Erakat, fatally injuring him?
 - c. If not, why?
6. Mr. Erakat's family has stated that it does not believe Mr. Erakat intended to attack Israeli personnel with his automobile, and that the crash was caused by vehicle malfunction that caused Mr. Erakat to lose control. Have authorities inspected the vehicle?
 - a. If so, what were the results? If not, why?
 - b. Have authorities conducted an autopsy on the body? If so, what are the results?

7. Why have authorities not provided Erekat's body to his family for burial? Why have authorities also withheld the bodies of other Palestinians who have been killed in security incidents?

We also request access to the unedited video footage from when Erekat appears at the checkpoint that day until authorities removed his body from the scene.

We will reflect any pertinent information you provide us by Monday, September 7, 2020, in our publication on this issue and weigh that information in formulating our conclusions.

My contact information follows my signature information, below.

For any query, please contact my colleague Khulood Badawi at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Eric Goldstein
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