

IDF unit escapes sanctions

Washington has concluded that Israel has adequately punished soldiers and officers in the IDF's Netzah Yehuda Battalion – accused of human rights abuses against Palestinians



■ **1997, Leahy Law:** U.S. law prohibits military aid being sent to foreign forces found to have committed **gross violation of human rights (GVHR)**. Law crafted by now-retired Senator **Patrick Leahy** (left)

■ **GVHR:** Violations include extrajudicial killing, torture, enforced disappearance, or rape by security forces



■ **1999: 97th Netzah Yehuda** “Eternal Judea” is established with just 30 soldiers.

Battalion accommodates ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Battalion now has more than 1,000 troops



■ **Oct 7, 2022:** Israel agrees to pay compensation of NIS 500,000 (\$140,000) to As'ad's family.

Netzah Yehuda commander reprimanded, two soldiers barred from senior positions for two years – but not prosecuted

■ **Jan 12, 2022:** 78-year-old **Omar As'ad** (above right), Palestinian with American citizenship – who lived in U.S. for decades – dies after being detained, handcuffed, blindfolded, and later abandoned in near-freezing conditions by Netzah Yehuda troops during search of West Bank village of Jiljilya.

U.S. Department of State calls for “thorough criminal investigation and full accountability”

■ **Dec:** IDF moves unit out of West Bank, away from contact with Palestinians

■ **May 3, 2024:** U.S. Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** (inset) says punishment of Netzah Yehuda soldiers is adequate

