



GENOCIDE IN GAZA (VIII)



Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza: **Death** - Destruction - **Displacement**

Gaza is the real-world embodiment of hell on earth for its one million children.
Gaza's children are trapped in a cycle of suffering.

October 18, 2024, James Elder (UNICEF Spokesperson)



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**THEMATIC REPORT
2026**

**GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TÜRKİYE
OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION**

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Warning: Sensitive Content

This report contains images depicting the destructive and brutal nature of war.



Our Institution's work on the "Gaza Genocide" is based on reports from United Nations (UN) agencies, resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, statements by UN officials and representatives of UN agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNRWA, Human Rights Council, the report of the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry, the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice where Israel is being tried for genocide, the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant, reports published by the UN on independent UN special rapporteurs, Reports by international human rights organizations, including Israeli civil society organizations and newspapers, Research reports and photographs by national press organizations such as Anadolu Agency and international press organizations and human rights organizations, including the Guardian, BBC, CNN, and Al Jazeera, as well as health organizations, press organizations, and journalists, Testimonies of doctors and humanitarian aid workers working in Gaza, news reports supported by satellite imagery, video footage shared with the international community, interviews conducted by our Institution and other human rights organizations with individuals living in Gaza, statements by the President of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and statements shared with the international public by Israeli officials themselves.

Since October 7, 2023, numerous international organizations, including United Nations bodies, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and the Committee to Protect Journalists, have documented through reports that Israel has committed the crime of genocide. By 2025, even institutions such as the Council of Europe and the European Union, which had previously remained silent in the face of ethnic cleansing practices and the crime of genocide, could no longer deny this reality and began to issue statements. Israel's own civil society organizations and newspapers have also openly acknowledged that the acts committed against Palestinians constitute genocide.

Our Institution's special report on the 'Gaza Genocide,' published in February 2024 under the auspices of the Presidency of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, was entitled 'From the World's Largest Open-Air Prison to the World's Largest Children's Cemetery'. Already in the fifth month of the attacks, the report declared that Gaza was the target of occupation and that the atrocities constituted genocide. This special report was shared with all relevant stakeholders, including the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Since February 2024, as acts of genocide have continued, the crimes that must be subject to criminal investigation have been categorized according to their nature and published as thematic reports. Through the ongoing thematic reports, the Ombudsman Institution — a constitutional body for the protection of rights and an Institution active in many fields — aims both to fulfill its duty to legally confront genocide and to record in history in order to safeguard the rights of Palestinian babies, children, women, the elderly, the sick, the disabled, and all innocent civilians who are victims of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide

I say to the residents of Gaza: Leave now because we will operate forcefully everywhere.

October 7, 2023, Benjamin Netanyahu (Prime Minister of Israel)

*Now we all have one common goal - **erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the Earth.***

October 7, 2023, Nissim Vaturi (Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Member of the Likud Party)

At the end of this war, not only will Hamas no longer be in Gaza, but the territory of Gaza will also decrease.

October 18, 2023, Eli Cohen (Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs)

I am calling for the occupation of the Gaza Strip now.

November 11, 2023, Ben Gvir (Israeli Minister of National Security)

The year 2025 will be the “year of annexation” of the occupied West Bank.

November 11, 2024, Bezalel Smotrich (Israeli Finance Minister)

We are occupying Gaza to stay, no more in and out. This is a war of victory, and it is time to stop fearing the word occupation.

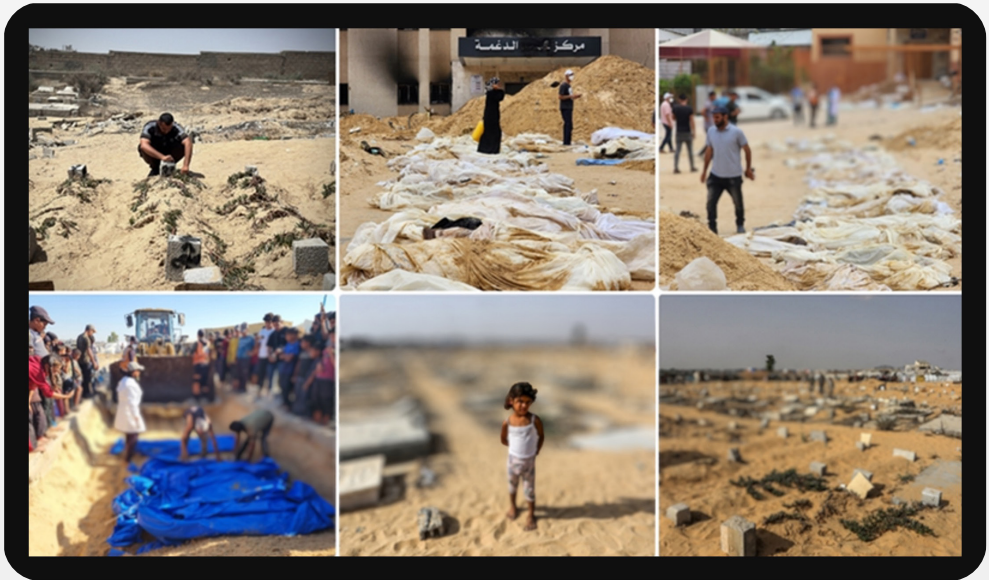
May 2025, Ben Gvir (Israeli Minister of National Security)

I want to open the gates of hell on Gaza and force its people to flee.

Mayis 2025, Ben Gvir (İsrail Ulusal Güvenlik Bakanı)

They always ask us, “Are you going to occupy it?” Yes, we will occupy all of Gaza and liberate it. Gaza will be ours.

August 4, 2025, Benjamin Netanyahu (Prime Minister of Israel)



Ethnic cleansing refers to the removal of an ethnic group from the territory in which it lives through policies based on violence and intimidation. In its resolution dated April 7, 1993, the UN General Assembly defined ethnic cleansing as a hateful form of genocide.

While the concept of genocide means the destruction of a group, ethnic cleansing refers to the removal of a group from its territory. Behind the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes that have been committed in the Palestinian territories for a century, there are ethnic cleansing policies and practices aimed at completely removing the Palestinian people from their homeland.

Gaza is a strip of land 41 km long and between 6 and 12 km wide. Its population of 2.3 million, half of whom are under the age of 25, lives in a total area of 365 km². It therefore has one of the highest population densities in the world. Even before October 7, it had been under siege for 16 years and was described as “the world’s largest open-air prison.” Since October 7, more than 63,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including approximately 20,000 children, as of September 1, 2025. This number does not include those whose bodies could not be recovered or identified because they were trapped in the rubble. Between 80 and 85 percent of those killed were civilians.

The United Nations-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) officially declared a famine in Gaza on August 22, 2025. Since humanitarian aid access has been restricted in Gaza since October 9, 2023, the famine in Gaza is entirely man-made and is only the fifth time famine has been declared in the world. As of September 1, 2025, more than **300 Palestinians have died of starvation** in Gaza.



Israel has continued its attacks relentlessly without pause over the past two years. The routes it forced civilians onto under the pretext of “**humanitarian corridors**” have turned into “**death corridors**” for Gazans. The “safe corridors” opened by Israel, which rained bombs on civilians migrating from north to south, were filled with lifeless bodies and decaying body parts eaten by animals.

A July 21, 2025 statement by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) shows that the population has been squeezed into just 12% of the already very narrow Gaza Strip. On August 4, 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that they would completely occupy Gaza. On August 8, 2025, the Israeli Security Cabinet approved a plan to take over the whole of Gaza. A new plan to occupy the northern Gaza city, where one million people live in tents amid the rubble, was also approved. By this date, 88% of Gaza had been effectively occupied, and more than 85% of its buildings and facilities had been destroyed.



The annexation of Gaza territory constitutes a serious violation of the fundamental principle that “the acquisition of territory by war or military force is unacceptable,” a principle repeatedly affirmed in the relevant articles of the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Convention, and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s statements on February 2, 2025, and April 27, 2025, indicate that “the maps of the Middle East will change.” On April 9, 2025, the Israeli Jerusalem Post reported that Netanyahu told the Cabinet that they were in communication with two countries that would take Gaza.

The fact that Israeli officials openly declared in August 2025 that they would completely occupy Gaza is not the result of a two-year process. Statements made as early as October 2023 indicate that a systematic and comprehensive effort has been underway since the very first days to erase and destroy Palestinian life in Gaza. Civilian settlements were targeted from the outset. From the second day, starvation has been used as a weapon of war. In the first week, evacuation orders were issued for 1.1 million people to move from the north to the south.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated on November 14, 2023, on Facebook that the voluntary emigration of Gazans to other countries was “the only solution.”

In November 2023, Education Minister Yoav Kisch of the Likud Party indicated that Jewish settlements could be rebuilt in the Gaza Strip, stating, “Of course, it is possible to rebuild settlements in the Gaza Strip.”

Just four months after October 7, at a conference on January 29, 2024, attended by fourteen Israeli ministers, the settlement areas to be built in Gaza for Israelis were shown on a map. It was announced at the conference that priority would be given to soldiers fighting in Gaza and that Gazans would be able to go wherever they wanted. From day one, statements by Israeli officials indicated that the goal was to rid Gaza of Gazans. During the process, Gaza was bombed in a manner unprecedented anywhere else in the world to make way for the settlements, and the people targeted for displacement were collectively starved from the second day onwards.

In January 2024, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir stated, “It is time to return to Israeli territory. If we do not want another October 7, we need to return home and take control of our land.”

In Gaza, Israel has been implementing ethnic cleansing policies, especially since October 7, by seeking to eliminate the entire Palestinian population, indiscriminately targeting civilians, including children and infants. The primary objective of these policies is the ruthless annihilation of the Palestinian people under more than 100,000 tons of bombs.



Those who survived the bombings have been denied access to humanitarian aid since the second day of October 7, condemning them to death by starvation and epidemic diseases. After two years, famine has been declared in Gaza, with over three hundred people officially starved to death, the critical threshold exceeded, and thousands more on the brink. Israel still refuses to allow thousands of humanitarian aid trucks waiting at the border to enter.

Israel is implementing its policy of purging Gazans from Palestine, violating all rules of humanitarian law against the entire Palestinian people, without distinction between children, women, the elderly, the disabled, or the sick.

According to UN data, 160,000 homes in Gaza have been destroyed due to Israeli attacks. Another 276,000 have been largely or partially damaged. This means that 92 percent of homes in Gaza have either been destroyed or damaged. Palestinians, displaced from their homes and deprived of the most basic necessities of life, are trying to survive in makeshift tents or in overcrowded schools that are constantly bombed and where infectious diseases are spreading. Numerous Israeli soldiers have frequently shared moments on social media since October 7 of demolishing Palestinian structures with heavy machinery in Gaza. There have even been clerics, such as Avraham Zerbib, who stated that he demolishes an average of 50 multi-story buildings per week and that even two-story houses are not enough for him.



As stated by UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Ilze Brands Kehris on January 12, 2024, the current conditions in Gaza are not merely a byproduct of the conflict, but a direct result of the manner in which hostilities are being conducted. While mandatory evacuations may constitute forced transfer and a war crime under international law, the mass displacement in the region began on October 12, 2023, when Israel ordered Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza Valley to vacate their homes and move south.

What is happening in Gaza has surpassed all definitions of a humanitarian catastrophe. It is a systematic death trap aimed at emptying the region of its population through killing, starvation, and mass displacement.

Francesca Albanese
UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights
in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967

On February 28, 2025, Israel's Environment Minister Idit Silman and several coalition lawmakers called for the "occupation, expulsion, and settlement" of the Gaza Strip at a rally in Jerusalem. Addressing the crowd gathered under the slogan "Occupy, Expel, Settle," Silman said that Palestinians in Gaza should be encouraged to leave the area. Her speeches included demands that Gaza be completely filled with Israeli civilians. Banners advocating the forced displacement of Palestinians were carried, while speakers arguing that this was both a moral and strategic necessity.

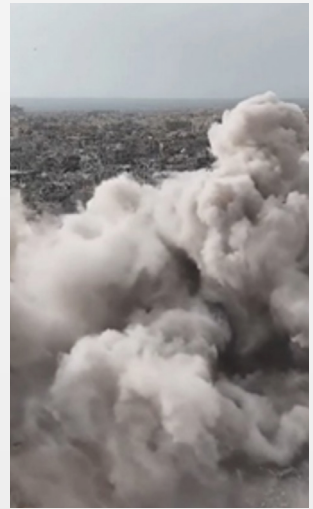


On April 17, 2025, Israeli Minister Katz stated that Israel's policy was clear, that no humanitarian aid would enter Gaza, where all aid deliveries had been suspended since March 2, 2025, and that there were no plans to do so. He also said that since the resumption of operations in March, Israeli forces had taken control of 30% of the Gaza Strip and that, regardless of any agreement reached, as in the past, Israel will not evacuate the buffer zones it occupies in Gaza, as well as the cleared and captured areas in neighboring Syria and Lebanon, and that Israeli soldiers will continue to maintain the situation, whether temporary or permanent.

On May 19, 2025, Israeli newspapers reported that Netanyahu stated in his testimony to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, "We are demolishing more and more homes. They have nowhere to return to." The only inevitable outcome will be the desire of Gazans to emigrate from the Gaza Strip. At this point, the only problem remains finding countries willing to accept them.



July 21, 2025 Satellite images featured on the BBC reveal the massive scale of planned destruction in some areas that the Israeli military claims to have “under operational control.”

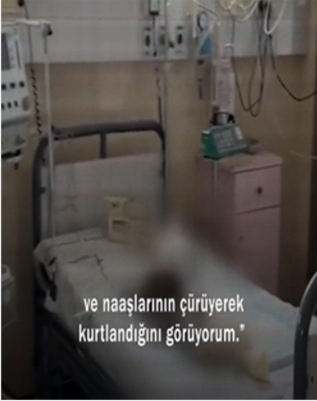


Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu, in a speech to a local radio station on January 5, 2024, called for encouraging Palestinians to emigrate from Gaza. He said that Israel must shatter the Palestinians’ “national dream” and that this is what must be done.

On July 24, 2025, Eliyahu said that the Tel Aviv administration was working to destroy the Gaza Strip, expel Palestinians from the area, fill it with settlers, and “completely Judaize Gaza.”

Most recently, on July 16, 2025, as stated by UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher, there are no words left to adequately describe the conditions on the ground. Food is running out. Those searching for food are at risk of being shot. People are dying while trying to feed their families. In June, hunger rates among children reached their highest level.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, meanwhile, states that “the idea is quite simple.” According to him, **“those who do not want to live in Gaza can leave.”**



After Gaza was completely destroyed, the occupation and annexation statements made explicit in 2025 shed light on why Israeli soldiers did not hand over the babies in the hospital to the authorities in November 2023. Indeed, Al-Nasr Children's Hospital was bombed on November 4, 2023. Ten days later, Israeli soldiers raided the hospital and forced doctors and accompanying families to evacuate. The doctors obtained assurances from the Israelis that they would hand over the babies who required continued intensive care treatment. However, on November 27, 2023, Al Mashhad reporter Muhammad Baluşa, who went to the hospital to take pictures, encountered the **decomposing bodies of five babies left to die in their beds.**

The events that have unfolded during the two-year process aimed at cleansing Gaza of Palestinians point to the fact that the ethnic cleansing taking place is a deliberate and systematic policy, incomparable with any humanitarian principle and beyond the limits of international law.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such". Accordingly, the crime of genocide consists of two interrelated elements:

The commission of one or more of the following specific acts against a protected group:

- (i) killing members of the group;
- (ii) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (iii) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (iv) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (v) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The commission of any of these acts with a specific intent. For special intent (*dolus specialis*), it must be established that the perpetrator, by committing one or more of the prohibited acts, intended to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. This intent must be demonstrated by direct or indirect evidence.

Indicators of Ethnic Cleansing and Genocidal Intent in Palestinian Territories



Genocide is an organized crime that always points to a collective dimension. Therefore, identifying a state plan through the statements and declarations of state officials is often decisive in proving the intent of genocide. It is possible to identify the intent of ethnic cleansing, genocide and to completely displace the people of Gaza, from the statements of Israel's leading officials since day one.

"I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly."

October 9, 2023, Yoav Gallant (Israeli Defense Minister)

*It's an **entire nation out there that is responsible**. This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true. ... We will fight until we break their backbone.*

October 12, 2023, Isaac Herzog (President of Israel)

*All the civilian population in Gaza is ordered to leave immediately. We will win. They will not receive a drop of water or a single battery **until they leave the world**.*

October 13, 2023, Israel Katz (Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure)

This is a struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle.

October 16, 2023, Benjamin Netanyahu (Prime Minister of Israel)

“I have released all restraints... You saw what we are fighting against. We are fighting human animals. We will eliminate everything. If it doesn’t take one day, it will take a week; it will take weeks or even months; we will reach all places.”

October 2023, Yoav Gallant (Israeli Defense Minister)

There is only one solution, and that is to completely destroy Gaza before invading it... I am talking about destruction like what happened in Dresden and Hiroshima without the use of nuclear weapons... Burning everything, dropping bombs to destroy defenses, piercing through Al-Shifa Hospital, and destroying the ground beneath it, without any consequences.

October 26, 2023, Moshe Feiglin, (leader of the Zebur political party)

In an article published in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper on November 19, 2023, which Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich tweeted in full and stated he “agrees with every word,” Giora Eiland, former head of the National Security Council and current advisor to the Defense Minister, stated that creating a humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a necessary method to achieve the goal, and that it is precisely the civilian collapse of this system that will bring the war to an end.



Eiland’s plan, which he first articulated in writing in 2023 and later implemented verbatim, states: “The way to win the war faster and at lower cost requires a systemic collapse on the other side, not the killing of more Hamas fighters. The international community is warning us about a humanitarian catastrophe and serious epidemics in Gaza. However difficult it may be, we must not avoid this. Ultimately, serious epidemics in the southern Gaza Strip will bring victory closer and reduce the losses of Israeli Defense Forces soldiers.”



The full-scale siege following the October 7 attack began two weeks after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's September 22, 2023 speech at the UN General Assembly, in which he held up a map purportedly belonging to Israel that excluded Palestine and outlined a "New Middle East." On September 27, 2024, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu showed a map at the UN General Assembly that defined East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip—which are Palestinian territories under international law—as "Israel."

Israeli Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich referred to the narrative of the "promised land" in Chapter 15 of Genesis, the holy book of the Jews, in the documentary "Israel: Extremists in Power" broadcast on the French-German joint production Arte TV in September 2024. When asked by the journalist interviewing Smotrich, "The sovereignty of the State of Israel begins at the sea and ends at the river. Are you implying more than that?" the Israeli minister replied, "Yes. Step by step." "It is written that Israel will expand from Jerusalem to Damascus in the future. Only from Jerusalem to Damascus." In the documentary produced by Jerome Sesquin, Smotrich's vision of the promised land encompasses not only all of Palestine, but also Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's stated on Channel 12 television in October 2023 and subsequently shared on his social media account, "We must speak plainly. When we say Hamas must be destroyed, we mean everyone who sings its praises, supports it, or hands out candy. Hamas and all of them must be destroyed."



With this perspective, Israeli officials have targeted the entire civilian population in Gaza from day one. On February 23, 2025, Nissim Vaturi, Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset), called for the execution of all Palestinian men and the destruction of the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank. Vaturi stated, “We need to separate the children and women in Gaza and kill the adults; we are being too thoughtful. No one in the world wants the civilians in Gaza; everyone is pushing them towards Israel, knowing that they are scum and subhuman creatures.” Vaturi’s social media post on November 17, 2023, reads, “We are too humane, Gaza must be burned now.” Vaturi later stated that he saw nothing wrong with his calls to burn Gaza. According to Vaturi, “I don’t think there are innocent civilians there, neither now nor when I said those words.”

In a post made in October 2023 on the social media account of the Israeli Army Spokesperson and the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), which is affiliated with the Israeli army, COGAT President Major General Ghassan Alian stated:

“Animals should be treated this way. There will be no electricity or water, only destruction. You wanted hell, you will see hell. Gaza will become a place where no human can exist.”

In April 2024, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated, “No half measures—total destruction of Rafah, Deir al-Balah, and Nuseirat. Erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”



Starting in 2023, ministers, politicians, and opinion leaders frequently voiced the goal that had been clearly articulated after two years of unprecedented and horrific genocide. According to this goal, an occupation with no end in sight would continue until Gaza was cleansed of Gazans.

In an interview with Reshet Bet state radio on March 11, 2025, Idit Silman, Israel's Minister of Environmental Protection from Netanyahu's Likud party, stated, "God is clearly telling us it is time to inherit the land. Gush Katif will return, there is no doubt about that," and "The only solution for Gaza is to evacuate the Gazans."

In order to understand how, since October 7, 2.3 million people in Gaza have been subjected every single day, before the eyes of the entire world, to systematic and deliberate 'policies of death, destruction, and displacement' amounting to ethnic cleansing; how such an unparalleled genocide and unprecedented brutality in modern times could be allowed to continue for so long; and why it could not be stopped despite the reaction of the entire international community, it is sufficient to look back at the hundred-year history of Palestine.

As stated in the report titled "Anatomy of a Genocide," dated March 25, 2024, prepared by UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967:

Genocidal intent and practices are integral to the ideology and processes of settler-colonialism, as illustrated by the experience of Native Americans in the United States of America, the First Nations in Australia and the Herero in Namibia. Since it is the aim of settler-colonialism to acquire Indigenous land and resources, the mere existence of Indigenous Peoples poses an existential threat to settler societies. The destruction and replacement of Indigenous Peoples therefore become "unavoidable" and take place through different methods depending on the perceived threat to the settler group. Such methods include removal (forcible transfer, ethnic cleansing), movement restrictions (segregation, large-scale carceralization), mass killings (murder, disease, starvation), assimilation (cultural erasure, child removal) and birth prevention. Settler-colonialism comprises a dynamic, structural process and a confluence of acts aimed at displacing and eliminating Indigenous groups, of which genocidal annihilation represents the peak. Historical patterns of genocide demonstrate that persecution, discrimination and other preliminary stages prepare the ground for the annihilation stage of genocide.



The provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice, where Israel is being tried for the crime of genocide, on 26 January 2024, 28 March 2024, and 25 May 2024; the report of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry dated 19 June 2024; and the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court on 21 November 2024 against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and then-Defense Minister Gallant demonstrate that Israel's actions constitute the crime of genocide under the provisions of international law.



The genocide and war crimes committed in Gaza are based on a systematic and persistent policy. In Israel, regardless of changes in governments or political currents, the expansionist policy based on occupation and annexation of land remains unchanged. The suffering endured for generations remains the same.

The Historical Background and Intellectual Foundations of Ethnic Cleansing in Palestine

With the establishment of Israel on 14 May 1948 over a territory of approximately 27,000 square kilometers, more than 85% of which consisted of historic Palestinian lands, Palestinians were subjected to forced displacement and massacres — an event that became known to them as the Nakba, the 'Great Catastrophe'. On this date, nearly one million Palestinians were displaced and expelled, approximately 15,000 people were killed, and 675 villages and towns were destroyed. The result was more than 6 million Palestinians, some of whom have been forced to live in refugee camps for seventy years, displaced from their homes and lands, scattered across different countries around the world.



Subsequently, Palestinians were never allowed the possibility of living peacefully in their ancestral homeland, Palestine, with the minimum rights enjoyed by individuals elsewhere in the world. This was rooted in the fundamental outlook expressed by Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in a speech delivered on 31 August 1949, in which he declared:

“Although we have realized our dream of establishing a Jewish State, we are still only at the beginning. A large part of the Jewish people remains outside; today there are only 900,000 Jews in Israel. In the future, all Jews must be gathered in Israel.”

To this end, the Israeli Knesset adopted the Law of Return on 5 July 1950, which granted every Jew the right to immigrate to Israel for permanent settlement, followed by the Citizenship Law of 1952, which provided automatic Israeli citizenship. In this way, the so-called ‘Ingathering of the Exiles’ was enacted into law.

According to the Israeli Prime Minister, it is the birthright of every Zionist Jew around the world to live on the land belonging to the Palestinian people. The problem is that Palestine is not a “land without a people.” Palestinians have also lived in Palestine for four thousand years. Israel, however, does not recognize the existence of Palestinians in Palestine. Therefore, ethnic cleansing, the result of 75 years of policies of death, destruction, and displacement, has become the fate of the Palestinians.

Israel, one of the world’s top destinations for immigration, has laws that encourage Jews from all over the world to immigrate to Israel. These laws are aimed at bringing all Jews together in Israel. At the same time, they prevent displaced Palestinian refugees from returning to their property and real estate. With the “Absentee Property Law” enacted in 1950, the properties of Palestinians who fled their homes during the 1948 war began to be expropriated, and Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes in the territories that became Israel after the 1948 war were definitively prevented from reclaiming these properties. There are numerous UN General Assembly resolutions confirming the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their lands. However, even during the most moderate periods of negotiations between Israel and Palestine, return has never been on the agenda.

Therefore, the occupation of Palestine and the systematic forced displacement and massacres of Palestinians living there are not new phenomena; the process of ethnic cleansing has been ongoing for a century. Throughout this process, settlers have continuously been brought to Palestinian lands, and the population balance has been deliberately disrupted by displacing Palestinians from their homes.

Under international law, the territories occupied after the 1967 war are not part of the State of Israel. International law envisions a two-state solution in the Palestinian territories. Israel, however, rejects the two-state solution envisaged by international law and the existence of the Palestinians.

As early as 1940, Joseph Weitz, Director of the Jewish Colonization Agency, stated: “There is no place for both peoples in this country. The only solution is a Palestine without Arabs, and there is no other way than to transfer them all: not a single village, not a single tribe should be left.” These statements reveal the continuing nature of this understanding. With this perspective, Israeli officials can today proudly declare in the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, that they are proud of the genocide and that this genocide will be remembered for centuries.

The only thing that remains unchanged in the 21st century is change itself. Israel’s perspective on Palestinians, however, has not changed. As repeated by many different officials in order to normalize the deaths, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated on March 19, 2023, that “there is no such thing as Palestinians, because there is no such thing as a people of Palestine.”

The decades-long conditioning that paved the way for the Israeli genocide includes legal discrimination against Palestinians, political dehumanization, ideological demonization, and racist policies and strategies. The result is an apartheid reality reinforced by Israeli political leaders and military officials and endorsed by Israeli legal institutions.

The 1948 Nakba was the first state-directed attempt to erase the national-collective and political existence of Palestinians. Following Israel’s 1967 occupation of the rest of historic Palestine, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have been collectively and individually classified as threats. Those arrested, imprisoned, or held in administrative detention without trial have been classified as security prisoners on racist grounds due to their Palestinian identity, and the charges against them have always been characterized as security offenses.

As noted in Dr. Luigi Daniele's article titled "Global collapse of moral order: Israel kills Palestinian children" from Nottingham Trent University's Faculty of Law, the ideology of the Israeli administration is based on the claim that Palestinians deserve to be exterminated and that they themselves are responsible for their own demise. This is a conceptual genocide ideology common to all genocides throughout history, which views the existence of the victim group as unjust, their survival as an intolerable threat, considers violence against them justified and natural, and presents the elimination of this group as the establishment of the natural order that should exist. The words of some Israeli ministers, "There is no such thing as a Palestinian people," directly express this ideology. By declaring the non-existence of a people, the groundwork is laid for their destruction.

So much so that it is even stated that this situation should not be newsworthy. Israel's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), Dan Gillerman, stated on Sky News television: "I was very surprised by the constant attention the world has shown to the Palestinian people and, in fact, to these terrible, inhuman animals who have committed the worst atrocities this century has seen."

Israel's top officials do not shy away from using expressions such as "Unhuman, Subhuman, Human Animal" or "Kill the children and nursing mothers mercilessly" in their constant emphasis on the Amalek people, which reflects this thinking. The term "Amalek" is a reference to a people mentioned in Jewish sacred texts who were commanded to be completely destroyed, and this term is used for Palestinians.

In a letter written to all Israeli soldiers on November 3, 2023, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated, "Remember what Amalek did to you." Subsequently, Netanyahu himself stated in front of the press, "Our holy book says you must remember what Amalek did to you. We remember, we fight. In Gaza, around Gaza, and in all other regions of Israel, our brave troops and fighters are joining this chain of Jewish heroes. Our heroic troops have one main goal: to completely destroy the bloodthirsty enemy and guarantee our existence in this country."



The passage in question refers to a command in the Hebrew Bible that is interpreted as an order to commit genocide. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and other officials have repeatedly invoked the verse, “*Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey*” (Tanakh, 1 Samuel 15:3), making reference to the people of Amalek in order to frame the killing of Gazans as religiously sanctioned.



In a video shared on X by Israeli journalist Yinon Magal in December 2023, Israeli soldiers are seen celebrating the occupation of Gaza while singing and chanting slogans about “*eradicating the Amalekites,*” saying, “*I’m coming to occupy Gaza and beat Hezbollah. I stick by one mitzvah, to wipe off the seed of Amalek. I left home behind me, won’t come back until victory. We know our slogan, there are no uninvolved civilians.*”

The phrase “there are no uninvolved civilians in Gaza” is used to legitimize the complete destruction of Gaza, where one million children live. In June 2024, the Israeli government’s main account @Israel and other accounts posted an official video on social media showing a released hostage saying “There are no innocent civilians in Gaza” based solely on the gaze of the children who approached him, not their words or behavior. This is a simple demonstration of the extent to which genocide has been internalized. This understanding is not limited to the period after October 7. On August 5, 2018, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman also stated that “there are no innocent people in the Gaza Strip.”



The result is more children killed every day. So much so that even the killing of 27 children every day for twenty-two months has not stopped the attacks. All that remains of twenty thousand children are their old photographs.

Since the perception that “there are no innocent people in the Gaza Strip” is widespread, the general public believes that Gaza should be destroyed and its people expelled. According to a public opinion poll published on June 3, 2024, in Haaretz, Israel’s oldest newspaper, and conducted by Professor Tamir Sorek of Pennsylvania State University and Professor Shay Hazkani of the University of Maryland, 82 percent of Israeli Jews said they supported the transfer of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip to other countries. Within this percentage, 54% strongly supported this view. In addition, 56% of Jewish Israelis who participated in the survey stated that they also support sending Israeli Arab citizens to other countries.

In another question posed to participants, 47 percent supported the statement that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) should kill all residents when conquering enemy cities, as described in the siege of Jericho in the Torah. The survey was conducted by the research company Geocartography and involved over a thousand participants. The survey sample was weighted to be consistent with Israel Central Bureau of Statistics data in terms of age, level of religiosity, and political leanings. The findings are consistent with other studies conducted in the past on similar topics. Surveys conducted by sources such as Channel 13, Channel 12, and Tel Aviv University have also measured similar levels of support for the forced removal of Palestinians from Gaza.

The fact that Israeli leaders have continued to advocate genocide for many years is fueled by the settler-colonialist logic of expulsion.

As early as 2014, during one of Israel's "mowing the lawn" attacks on Gaza, in which approximately 2,200 Palestinians were killed, including 551 children, then-Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, while still a member of parliament, posted on social media: *"Who is the enemy? The Palestinian people. Why? Ask them, they started it [...] Behind every terrorist are dozens of men and women; without them, terrorism would not exist. The actors in this war are those who incite in mosques, those who write murderous curricula for schools, those who provide shelter, those who supply vehicles, and everyone who honors and gives moral support to them. They are all enemy combatants, and their blood will be on their heads. Now this includes the mothers of the martyrs who send them to hell with flowers and kisses. They should follow their sons; nothing could be more just. They should go, just like the physical homes where they raised snakes. Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there."*



Along the same lines, statements made by Moshe Feiglin, leader of Manhigut Yehudit, in May 2025:



“We must not leave a single child in Gaza. I will tell you more than that. Every child and every baby in Gaza is our enemy. The enemy is not just Hamas or its military wing. Our military prosecutor says we can only intervene against Hamas members if they are part of the military structure. But in my opinion, every child living in Gaza should be considered an enemy. We must conquer Gaza, take complete control of it, and not leave a single Gazan child behind. Only then can true victory be possible.” This view is not merely the personal opinion of politicians. A survey conducted at Hebrew University in Jerusalem shows that an overwhelming majority of Israelis, 75%, agree with the idea that “there are no innocent people in Gaza.”



Ethnic Cleansing Practices in Palestine

The tragedy of the people of Palestine is that their country was “given” by a foreign Power to another people for the creation of a new State. The result was that many hundreds of thousands of innocent people were made permanently homeless. With every new conflict their number have increased. How much longer is the world willing to endure this spectacle of wanton cruelty? It is abundantly clear that the refugees have every right to the homeland from which they were driven, and the denial of this right is at the heart of the continuing conflict. No people anywhere in the world would accept being expelled in masse from their own country; how can anyone require the people of Palestine to accept a punishment which nobody else would tolerate?

January 31, 1970, Bertrand Russell

Following Israel’s unprecedented attacks and the systematic use of man-made famine as a weapon of war, the situation today is that Palestinians, who have lived on the same land for over four thousand years, and the entire population living in the Gaza Strip today, face the complete denial of their right to exist as a result of the systematic and planned perpetration of war crimes and genocide.

Under the Geneva Conventions, the transfer by an occupying power of part of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, or the transfer or deportation of all or part of the population of the occupied territory within or outside that territory, constitutes a grave breach of the Convention and its Protocols. The annexation of occupied territories is a serious violation of the fundamental rule that “the acquisition of territory by war or military force is inadmissible,” a rule repeatedly affirmed in the relevant articles of the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Convention, and the decisions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly.

The forced displacement or transfer of the population is defined as a crime against humanity in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The widespread destruction or appropriation of property without military necessity, unlawfully and arbitrarily, constitutes a war crime. In contrast, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel for nearly a century, numerous wars and conflicts have taken place to date, and a state of conflict, whether low or high intensity, has always persisted. So much so that even 2022, before October 7, has been determined by UN data to be the “bloodiest year,” with more than 220 Palestinians killed, including 48 children, and more than 9,000 Palestinians wounded.

From 1948 to October 7, 2023, approximately 134,000 Palestinians and Arabs were killed (both inside and outside Palestine). From 1967 to October 7, 2023, a significant portion of approximately 1 million Palestinians were detained without charge by administrative order.



On October 7, 2023, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that Gaza would pay an “unprecedented price.” There is no parallel to the genocide that took place over the two-year period in any respect.

From the first day of its attacks after October 7, Israel targeted the entire civilian population, including women and children, in order to carry out its occupation and annexation. Israel’s top officials have carried out collective punishment actions, putting into practice their rhetoric about Gazans being subhuman, amalek, the 2023 nakba, exile to the desert, no rules in the attacks, the entire nation being responsible for what happened, and the narrative that civilians were not involved isn’t true.

From day one, the main target of the attacks has been the civilian population. The words of Mali Yeshiva, founder and president of the “Shirat Moshe” Hesder Yeshiva in Jaffa, who said at a conference, “Today’s terrorists are the children you left alive in the previous operation. It is actually women who raise terrorists,” have been put into practice over the past two years.



The number of children killed by Israel in Gaza in just the first six months after October 7 exceeds the number of children killed in conflict zones around the world in four years. Many foreign doctors who have worked in Gaza have testified that toddlers were shot by Israeli snipers.

The number of journalists killed by Israel in just the first two months exceeds the number killed during the six-year Second World War. Gaza is recorded as the deadliest environment for the press in modern history. As of April 2025, according to a report prepared by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) based on combined data from Al Jazeera and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, at least 232 journalists and media workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023. Repeated attacks have been carried out on their families. Israel has killed more journalists in Gaza than the combined total of the US Civil War, World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Yugoslav Wars, and the post-9/11 war in Afghanistan. As stated in the report, “On average, one journalist or media worker was killed every four days in 2023. In 2024, this number has dropped to one every three days.” Journalists are being deliberately targeted. The report found that Israel has waged a “war on the press” by banning foreign correspondents from entering the area, not only using lethal force but also making systematic efforts to silence, discredit, and obstruct journalism in Gaza. Israel has destroyed nearly 90 media offices and press facilities, while also severely restricting internet access. More than 380 journalists have been injured, dozens have been detained or harassed, and their families have been specifically targeted.

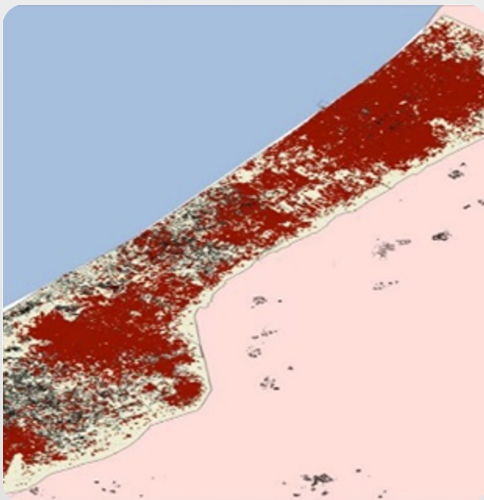


No one in Gaza is safe, even those who should be under international protection. On December 26, 2024, Israel did not hesitate to bomb a live broadcast vehicle marked “Press” carrying five journalists. The five journalists were burned to death. The same applies to UN workers, health workers, or humanitarian aid workers killed in Gaza.

The attacks carried out on October 7, 2023, following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that day, "we will turn that city into rubble. I say to the residents of Gaza: Leave now because we will operate forcefully everywhere" aimed to render Gaza completely uninhabitable for its residents after October 7. In a speech to Israeli soldiers on October 10, 2023, then-Defense Minister Gallant stated that all rules had been lifted in the army, that soldiers fighting would not be held responsible for anything, that they were fighting human animals, that Gaza would never be the same again, and that they would wipe everything out.

Thus, the intention to carry out ethnic cleansing through the occupation and annexation of Gaza was made clear in statements made during the first week of October 7, 2023. Palestinians were labeled as "human animals," legitimizing any behavior that completely disregarded international humanitarian law for the attacks to be carried out. Just two days later, on October 9, 2023, Defense Minister Gallant's statement, "There will be no electricity, food, water, or fuel. Everything will be off," marked the beginning of a blockade that resulted in deaths from starvation and deprivation.

Just six days later, on October 13, 2023, Israel issued an evacuation order requiring 1.1 million Palestinians to move from northern Gaza to the south within 24 hours. This was followed by one of the fastest mass displacements in history. Israel bombed northern Gaza and the roads used by people fleeing the city. On October 30, 2023, Israel granted 12 licenses to six companies to explore for natural gas off the coast of Gaza, effectively recognizing the Palestinian state as non-existent.



From the first week onwards, Israel targeted water sources, infrastructure, and hospitals. A UN map dated August 12, 2024, shows that even before a year had passed, there was hardly any place left in Gaza that had not been bombed, completely removing Gaza as a homeland for Palestinians. In 2024 alone, nearly the entire population of 2.3 million has been displaced, and the refugee camps and UN facilities where they sought shelter have also been targeted by bombs.



“... The Gaza we knew no longer exists. This is an annihilation, this is a genocide. The world is watching. Churches are watching. The people of Gaza are sending live images of their own execution. We will be fine. Despite this enormous blow we have endured, we Palestinians will heal. As Palestinians, we will rise again from the rubble, as we always have. But I feel sorry for those who are accomplices. Will you ever be able to escape this? Let me tell you this: we will not accept your apologies after the genocide. I want you to look in the mirror and ask yourself, ‘Where was I when Gaza was being subjected to genocide?’”

Palestinian Priest Munzir Ishaq

On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) announced its first provisional measures ruling in the genocide case brought by South Africa against Israel. The court ruled that Israel must take all necessary measures to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. It also emphasized that Israel must ensure its military forces do not engage in any actions that encourage genocide and must take urgent steps to improve humanitarian conditions in the region.



Despite this, Israel has disregarded the precautionary measures from the outset. Immediately following the International Court of Justice's January 26 precautionary measures ruling, on January 29, 2024, a grand conference titled "Return to Gaza Conference" was held, attended by fourteen Israeli ministers and members of parliament.

Just four months after October 7, new settlements to be built in Gaza had already been mapped out. The statements announced publicly to the world in February 2025, such as "Gaza could be the Riviera of the Middle East," "long-term ownership of Gaza is being considered," and "Gaza will be taken over," are now, a year and a half later, the sharing of this plan publicly to the world. For this, "the entire population of Gaza" must leave their homeland.

At the Conference on January 29, 2024, Ben Gvir, then Israel's National Security Minister, stated, "We need to encourage emigration from Gaza." Settlement Leader Daniella Weiss stated, "Israel's southern gate is open, and the people of Gaza can go anywhere in the world." Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich promised that "soldiers fighting in Gaza will be given priority for settlement." To encourage emigration, bombs with an impact greater than seven atomic bombs were dropped on Gaza. From the second day onwards, humanitarian aid to Gaza was restricted, deliberately creating a man-made famine.

As recently as October 24, 2024, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated, "With God's help, next year we will celebrate in Gush Katif (the former Israeli settlements in Gaza)." In October 2024, at an event organized by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, announced plans to establish new settlements after the occupation of Gaza. Israel has completely destroyed Gaza to make way for new settlements.



The statement by Daniela Weiss, former mayor of Kedumim and godmother of the Israeli settler movement, is as follows: "The Palestinians will leave... We are not giving them food... They will leave and the world will accept them." In an interview with CNN at her home in the Kedumim settlement in the West Bank, Weiss said, "I'm talking about more than two million Arabs. They won't stay there, we Jews will be in Gaza."



Weiss stated in an interview with the BBC on March 25, 2025, that 500 families had already applied to resettle in Gaza through the organization Nachala, which means “Heritage/Homeland.” Daniella Weiss clearly expressed her view that Gaza, which is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, most of whom are starving today, will one day become a Jewish city. “The Arabs will not remain in the Gaza Strip. Who will remain? The Jews. You can call it ethnic cleansing. You can call it apartheid. I repeat, normal Arabs don’t want to live in Gaza. If you want to call it cleansing, call it that. My priority is the future of the State of Israel.” Weiss made similar statements on October 23, 2024, and even in January 2024 just four months after October 7, 2023.

Her speech on October 23, 2024: “I came here with a very clear proposal. My proposal is this: Let us settle in the Gaza Strip completely. Not just part of it, not just a few settlements. We must settle in all of Gaza, from north to south. Representatives of more than 700 families and 6 groups are here. Thousands of people are now ready to move to Gaza. As a result of October 7, Gazan Arabs have now lost their right to be here. They will go to any country in the world. They cannot stay here. Even if the world is still hesitant, we will convince them in different ways. We will convince the world.”



To this end, 2.3 million people, including one million children, in Gaza have faced an extraordinary genocide from the very beginning. No war in history has seen more than 80% of settlements destroyed, more than 90% of people displaced, and 40% of those killed being children. Israel has dropped over 100,000 tons of bombs on the 365 km² of Gaza and its 2.3 million people. This figure exceeds the amount of bombs dropped on London, Hamburg, and Dresden during World War II. Similarly, it is 20 times more than the amount of bombs used by the United States during its six-year occupation of Iraq.



Israel has used forced displacement as a constant and systematic weapon of death and destruction in Gaza since the first week. The Israeli army has repeatedly displaced the population of Gaza through forced displacement practices, which it calls evacuation orders, immediately after October 7, 2023. Nine out of every ten people in Gaza have been forcibly displaced multiple times.



Just six days after October 7, on October 13, 2023, the Israeli administration issued an evacuation order for northern Gaza, home to 1.1 million people, to leave within 24 hours. Palestinians took refuge in hospitals and schools. Israel's intensive bombing of northern Gaza, targeting hospitals and schools in the area, forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee. Israel separated northern Gaza from the south, bombing the roads used by civilians fleeing with their children after leaving their homes.

The vast majority of Palestinians displaced from the north have taken refuge in Khan Yunis. Israel has continued to bomb people who left their homes and fled south toward the Egyptian border, taking whatever belongings they could carry with them to the city of Khan Yunis. Israel first closed the city's exits, then issued an evacuation order, and then carried out mass killings.

As a result, Palestinians headed for Rafah, the last city on the Egyptian border, which previously had a population of only 280,000. In October 2023, Israeli officials called on the residents of Gaza City to “move south for your own safety and that of your families.” When the people fleeing the Israeli bombardment were completely squeezed into the south at the Egyptian border, Israel continued to bomb the Palestinians in Rafah, who could not leave the country because Egypt did not open its gates.



The International Court of Justice, where Israel is being tried for accusations of genocide, ruled that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s administration must immediately cease its operations in the southern city of Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians had taken refuge before it was occupied on May 6. Israel ignored all international reactions and the International Court of Justice’s provisional measures ordering an immediate halt to attacks in Rafah. It invaded Rafah by land on May 7, deliberately targeting women and children.



The Israeli army dropped at least eight bombs weighing 900 kilograms each on tents sheltering displaced Palestinians belonging to the UN in the city of Rafah on May 26. Babies and children were burned alive. At least 45 Palestinians, including 23 women, children, and elderly people, were burned beyond recognition in the attack and the resulting fires, and 249 Palestinians were injured. United Nations (UN) experts published reports stating that “people were trapped inside the tents and burned alive” as a result of the attacks. Survivors were forced to leave the city of Rafah and were forced to return to the completely destroyed city of Khan Yunis. Israel then continued to issue evacuation orders repeatedly, over and over again, in the 41-kilometer-long strip.

In July, Israel launched intensive attacks on the eastern areas of Khan Yunis again. A statement made on July 24 reported that 129 people were killed, 416 were injured, and 44 were missing in attacks carried out for three consecutive days in eastern Khan Yunis. Following the ground attacks on Rafah and Khan Yunis, Israel called on civilians to “go to the Safe Zone of Mevasi,” forcing them to migrate to Mevasi, a coastal area with no infrastructure.



As a result, Mevasi has become a refuge for over 1.5 million Palestinians. However, Mevasi is not a settlement area. It is very small and lacks any infrastructure for living. Located on the Mediterranean coast, approximately 28 kilometers southwest of the Gaza Strip, Mevasi is a narrow area 12 kilometers long and approximately one kilometer wide, stretching from Deir al-Balah in the north through Khan Yunis to Rafah in the southeast of the Gaza Valley.

As stated by UNICEF spokesperson James Elder on October 18, 2024, El-Mevasi constitutes approximately 3% of Gaza's total area. Its population was 9,000 before October 7, 2023. If El-Mevasi were a city, it would be the most densely populated city in the world. However, El-Mevasi is not a city. It has no high-rise buildings or infrastructure. It does not have the capacity to accommodate such a large population. Most of its land consists of sand dunes. The darkest irony of forcibly relocating families to these so-called 'humanitarian zones' once again is that, in addition to the lack of food, water, and medicine, they have also been bombed repeatedly. There have been numerous mass killings in El-Mavasi. The frequency of attacks on schools has reached unimaginable levels. In October 2024 alone, there were thirty attacks in two weeks, more than half of which took place in Jabaliya. According to UN figures as of August 2024, there were 30,000 people per square kilometer in Mevasi, where approximately 1.5 million Palestinians had fled from Israeli attacks.



Moreover, by claiming it is a “humanitarian zone,” Israel has confined Palestinians to a tiny area, leaving them no living space in Mevasi either. Massacres have been carried out repeatedly in Mevasi since May 2024, killing 217 people and injuring 635 in the first five massacres.

Israel has continued to issue fragmentary evacuation orders for some areas of Mevasi, where there is hardly even a single tent left due to the ongoing influx of refugees into the region. It subsequently announced that it would launch attacks on some parts of the region and forced the population to migrate again to occupied areas that have been completely destroyed and have no access to water or food.



Following this, Palestinians returned to the city of Deir al-Balah in the central part of the already devastated Gaza Strip. In August 2024, the Israeli army announced that it would launch an attack on the eastern part of Deir al-Balah, which it had previously declared a “safe zone,” and demanded that Palestinians there migrate westward.



Israel has carried out numerous attacks on Deir al-Balah in 2024 and beyond, specifically targeting the market. In July, Israel bombed the field hospital at the Hadice School, which was located within the safe zone boundaries and sheltered displaced civilians.



In August 2024 alone, Israel issued 12 evacuation orders repeatedly ordered Gazans to vacate their area by sharing new maps and dropping leaflets from the air. Subsequently, Gazans were subjected to endless displacement in a tiny, narrow strip. Israel has continuously pushed Palestinians into areas it calls “humanitarian zones.” Targeting Palestinians pushed into these so-called “humanitarian zones,” the Israeli army has killed tens of thousands of civilians under the pretext of “safe zones.” The Israeli army has used “forced displacement” as a weapon against Palestinians displaced by dozens of ‘evacuation’ orders issued since October 7, 2023. Families in Gaza have been constantly displaced because new evacuation orders are issued almost every day.

According to UN data, the vast majority of Palestinians in Gaza have been forced to migrate at least once a month. There are Palestinians who have been forced to relocate twenty-eight times until the brief ceasefire in January, who have nothing left, even resorting to using water pipes in place of their severed legs.

According to satellite images from August 2025, the rates of destruction in Gaza are as follows:

- 📍 Rafah – 100%
- 📍 Beit Hanoun – 100%
- 📍 Al-Mughraqa & Juhr al-Dik – 100%
- 📍 Khan Younis – 90%
- 📍 Beit Lahia – 90%
- 📍 Jabalia – 80%
- 📍 East Gaza – 80%
- 📍 Sheikh Ajleen, Al-Zahraa, Tel Al-Hawa – 80%
- 📍 West Gaza & Al-Shati Camp – 40%
- 📍 Nuseirat – 20%
- 📍 Al-Bureij – 30%
- 📍 Al-Maghazi – 20%
- 📍 Deir al-Balah – 5%



Footage taken from an aircraft dropping aid over Gaza on August 27, 2025, shows that almost no buildings remain standing in the Beyt Hanun and Beyt Lahiya areas in northern Gaza. The images also show the severe destruction in the northern area of Jabaliya. Jabaliya has been reduced to a gray expanse, with no sign of life. Upon reaching Gaza City center, hundreds of tents where Palestinians forcibly displaced by Israeli attacks have taken shelter are visible alongside heavily damaged buildings.

Before Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that he would completely occupy Gaza, tanks began operations in Deir al-Balah for the first time. Deir al-Balah was one of the few places where Israel had not launched a major ground operation. At the end of July 2025, Israeli tanks advanced into Deir al-Balah in central Gaza for the first time, leading to the displacement of civilians once again. On July 20, 2025, the Israeli Army immediately evacuated seven neighborhoods south of Deir al-Balah, forcing thousands of families to flee their homes. There are dozens of camps, aid warehouses, health facilities, and critical water infrastructure in these neighborhoods where displaced families live. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in July 2025 that Israel had attacked its facilities during its operation in Deir al-Balah.



The city of Gaza, where a million people who had already been displaced countless times without any possessions took refuge amid the rubble, has been declared a conflict zone. Israeli state television KAN reported that, in the first phase, the city of Gaza would be occupied, approximately one million Palestinians living among the ruins would be relocated to the south, and the city would be besieged and subjected to intense attacks. In the second phase, the occupation of refugee camps in the center of Gaza, which has been largely reduced to ruins, is anticipated. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has warned that the attack on Gaza City carries the risk of triggering an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that threatens lives. Despite this, as of September 1, 2025, Gaza City, where one million people live amid the rubble, has been declared a “Dangerous Conflict Zone.”

Nevertheless, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that in Gaza—where by January 2025, before the ceasefire, 90% of the territory had been destroyed, humanitarian aid and medical supplies were blocked, 38,000 children had lost one or both parents, thousands had their arms or legs amputated, often without anesthesia, nearly 20,000 bodies remained under the rubble, two million people had been displaced dozens of times, tents were repeatedly bombed burning civilians alive, infants froze to death, children and the elderly died of hunger, and although more than 2,500 children required urgent medical evacuation after the occupation of Rafah in May 2024, not even one sick child per day was permitted to leave—there were still “many Gazans who actually wished to emigrate voluntarily.” He further remarked that discussions were being held with other countries on the possibility of accepting large numbers of Gazans, adding that “this is the direction things should go.”

The phrase “voluntary migration” is used by Israel, specifically by Israeli Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi, on his social media account, in reference to the Talmud, a religious text covering Jewish civil law, ceremonial rules, and legends, to mean “force until they say I want to.”

On August 28, 2025, Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich announced at a press conference that Israel must annex a part of Gaza every week for four weeks. He said that Palestinians would first be told to move towards southern Gaza, then Israel would surround the northern and central parts of the region, and finally annex them, adding that these measures were part of a plan to “win in Gaza by the end of the year.”



Footage taken from an aid plane in August 2025 shows how Gaza is being left in ruins to force Gazans to migrate.

Massacres Etched in Memory in Gaza



Since Israel settled in Palestinian territories, it has carried out mass killings against the Palestinian people for nearly a century. After October 7, 2023, Israel left no place in the Gaza Strip untouched by bombing and carried out hundreds of massacres against displaced Palestinians. Some of the massacres that stand out in 2023-2024 can be listed as follows.

Baptist Hospital Massacre: On October 17, 2023, i.e. just ten days after October 7, Israel ordered the evacuation of 22 of the 34 existing hospitals in Gaza. On the same day, it struck the Baptist Hospital, which it had also ordered to evacuate, killing 470 Palestinians.

St. Porphyrius Church massacre: On October 20, 2023, the Israeli army bombed the St. Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza, killing Christians who had taken refuge there.

Jabaliya Massacre: On October 31, 2023, Israeli warplanes targeted a densely populated residential area in the Jabaliya Refugee Camp, home to more than 113,000 refugees in the northern Gaza Strip. They killed and injured thousands of Palestinians, most of them children and women. Over 70% of the camp was destroyed. A statement by UNICEF on child deaths and injuries in the Jabalia Camp reported that during the intense attacks on October 31 and November 1, 2023, homes were razed to the ground, and hundreds of people, mostly children, were injured and killed. The last two attacks are a continuation of the bombings that have been going on for 25 days, resulting in the deaths of more than 3,500 children and injuries to more than 6,800 children. In other words, these figures mean that more than 400 children have been killed or injured every day for 25 days.

El Fahura Massacre: On November 18, 2023, the Israeli army bombed the El-Fahura School in the northern Gaza Strip, killing more than 200 Palestinians in the Israeli attack.

Mevasi Massacre: On September 10, 2024, the Israeli army launched a major attack on the El-Mevasi area in the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, which had been declared a safe zone. Forty Palestinians were killed and 60 were injured in the attack.

Tabiin School Massacre: Israeli warplanes attacked a school housing displaced persons on August 10, 2024. At least 100 people, mostly women and children, were killed in the attack, and dozens were injured.

Mevasi Massacre: On July 13, 2024, the Israeli army attacked the El-Mevasi area of the city of Khan Yunis, which had been declared a safe zone. At least 90 people were killed and 300 were injured in the attack.

Nusayrat Refugee Camp Massacre: In the massacre carried out by the Israeli army on June 8, 2024, at the Nusayrat Refugee Camp in Deir El-Balah, Israeli soldiers dressed like Palestinians and used two civilian vehicles. In the massacre, 274 Palestinians were killed and 698 Palestinians were injured.

Rafah Massacre: On May 26, 2024, the Israeli army attacked the tents of displaced Palestinians in the city of Rafah, burning 45 Palestinians alive.

Shifa Hospital Massacre: Israeli forces killed 400 Palestinians at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City between March 8 and April 1, 2024. Mass graves show the presence of doctors in their uniforms, as well as women and children executed with their hands tied behind their backs.

Nablusi Junction Massacre: On February 29, 2024, the Israeli army opened fire on Palestinians at the Nablusi Junction in southern Gaza City. The massacre left 118 people dead and 760 wounded.

Nasser Hospital Massacre: In February 2024, Israel again besieged Nasser Hospital and subjected it to heavy bombardment. More than 400 patients and medical staff inside were forced to evacuate, and some were killed by Israeli tanks. According to MSF (Doctors Without Borders) reports, the bodies of civilians killed at the hospital entrance were buried by bulldozers. It has also been reported that many civilians were killed and buried in mass graves during clashes around the hospital. Following the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, the number of bodies exhumed from three mass graves on the grounds of Nasser Hospital reached 392 as of April 25, 2024.



On October 24, 2024, Israel killed at least 150 people in its attack on Jabaliya. In an attack on the city of Khan Yunis, 38 Palestinians, including 10 children, were killed and 40 others were injured. Images shared on social media show three children placed in a body bag. Thousands of similar images showing the lifeless bodies of children in Israel's attacks on Gaza have been shared with the public. Israel has carried out hundreds of massacres in Gaza. However, with the attacks continuing unabated and independent journalists and organizations being denied access, it is impossible to even locate mass graves in Gaza.



Israeli Knesset member Tzippy Scott Vizzet said on Israeli television Channel 12 on May 17, 2025, "We killed about 100 people in Gaza tonight, and nobody cares. Because everyone has become accustomed to the fact that 100 Palestinians can be killed in one night during the war, and the world doesn't care." These statements show how killing a hundred Palestinian civilians a day and ethnic cleansing have become commonplace for Israeli officials.

The Extent of the Destruction in Gaza

As of the ceasefire on January 19, 2025, which was unilaterally terminated by Israel on March 18, 2025, the remains of 47,498 Palestinians, 69% of whom were children and women, have been recovered. In the first 471 days, Israel killed 130 Palestinians in Gaza every day, 40 of whom were children. To date, Israel has injured 111,592 people in its unprecedented attacks. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in four people injured in Israel's attacks has suffered life-altering injuries.

On February 3, 2025, the Media Office of the government in Gaza reported that 61,709 Palestinians had lost their lives in the genocide committed by Israel in Gaza, including 17,881 children and more than 14,000 people buried under the rubble. Another 14,222 people are missing under the rubble of buildings destroyed by Israel.

Surgeries were performed without anesthesia in Gaza, and more than 4,500 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, had their arms and legs amputated.



As of September 1, 2025, the figures are much higher than those on January 19, 2025;

- The Israeli army has killed 17,881 children in Gaza, 214 of whom were born after October 7.
- The number of women killed in Gaza is 12,316.
- Israel has orphaned 38,495 children.
- 205 journalists have been killed.
- 194 civil defense personnel have lost their lives.

- Israel has detained more than 6,000 Palestinians in Gaza, dozens of whom have died under torture in prisons.
- Due to Israeli attacks, 2 million people have been displaced in Gaza, which has a population of approximately 2.3 million. Some have been displaced at least 25 times and have struggled to survive in conditions where no services are available.
- Israel has carried out 9,268 massacres against Palestinian families.
- The records of 2,092 families whose entire members were killed have been erased from the population registry.
- Only one member remains of 4,889 families targeted by Israeli attacks.
- 736 people distributing humanitarian aid and 3,500 civil servants were killed in Israeli attacks.
- 450,000 homes were damaged in Israeli attacks. 170,000 homes were completely destroyed, 80,000 homes were largely destroyed, and 200,000 homes were partially destroyed.
- Israel has rendered 34 hospitals, 80 health centers, and 212 health facilities in Gaza inoperable.
- 191 ambulances have been rendered unusable in Israeli attacks.
- 1,155 healthcare workers have lost their lives.
- 1,661 universities, schools, and educational centers have been damaged, 927 of which have been completely destroyed. 734 buildings used for education have been partially damaged.
- Approximately 12,800 students and 800 education workers have lost their lives.
- An electricity network equivalent to 3,680 kilometers in length and 16,266 solar panels have been damaged.
- In the Gaza Strip, where access to clean water was already difficult even before October 7, 2023, Israeli attacks damaged 335 kilometers of water networks, 496 seawater desalination plants, 111 water tanks, 120 water tankers, and 1,698 water wells, 717 of which were rendered unusable.
- A sewage network equivalent to 665 kilometers in length was damaged.
- 65 treatment plants and 3,916 kilometers of roads and streets were damaged.
- 185,000 square meters of agricultural land were damaged.

- 3,725 industrial structures were damaged, 2,000 of which were completely destroyed. In the transportation sector, 30,000 vehicles were damaged, including 25,000 cars, 1,000 fishing boats, and 1,000 municipal and civil defense vehicles.
- In attacks that also targeted hospitals, homes, and schools sheltering displaced Palestinians, 88 percent of Gaza's infrastructure was destroyed.
- Communication and telecommunications networks, equivalent to 579 kilometers in length, were damaged.
- 1,129 mosques were damaged, 983 of which were completely destroyed. Three churches were damaged, one of which was completely destroyed.
- 1,062 cultural and sports centers were damaged, 488 of which were completely destroyed.
- In the media sector, 262 organizations, including all channels, radio stations, and production companies, have been damaged, 182 of their buildings have been completely destroyed.
- More than 330 aid workers have lost their lives.
- It has been reported that the Israeli army destroyed 19 graves in Gaza and stole the bodies of hundreds of people.
- While Israel has torn tens of thousands from life, it has turned Gaza into an uninhabitable ghost zone for its own settlement units, which it has announced will be newly built.
- According to a January 2025 statement by the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Israeli attacks have left more than two million Gazans homeless, without income, and completely dependent on food aid to survive.

When a short-term ceasefire took effect in January 2025, lasting approximately two months, Gazans returned en masse to their homes in northern Gaza, only to find that neither homes nor living spaces remained.



Gazze'deki Filistinlilerin yüzde 10'u İsrail saldırılarında hayatını kaybetti veya yaralandı

Hava, kara ve denizden Gazze'yi bombalayan İsrail, kadın, çocuk, sivil, gazeteci, sağlık çalışanı gözetmeksizin Filistinlilere karşı katliamlarını 692 gündür sürdürüyor

7 Ekim 2023'ten bu yana İsrail saldırılarında Gazze'de

62.966

Filistinli hayatını kaybetti

%83'ü sivil

50 bin+ bebek ve çocuk

920+ sağlık çalışanı

246'sı gazeteci

5-10 bin Filistinlinin cenazeleri hala enkaz altında

Yaralı sayısı
159.266

7 Ekim 2023 öncesi Nüfus: 2,3 milyon

34 hastane hasar gördü

125 sağlık tesisi etkilendi

500+ okul İsrail tarafından hedef alındı

Konutların **%92'si** yıkıldı veya hasar gördü

Gazze'nin **%88'i** İsrail'in işgali veya sözde "tahliye emirleri" altında



0 6 km

Aktif tahliye emirleri kapsamındaki bölgeler

29.08.2025 Kaynak: UNOCHA



Samah shaheen

The Gaza Strip has become a humanitarian disaster zone where all basic necessities to survive have been wiped out as a result of Israeli attacks. Mira Hasan, who suffers from one of the skin diseases causing unimaginable pain in children in Gaza due to war and displacement, is an example of this.

Israel's relentless attacks on the entire population of Gaza, half of whom are children, have led to the displacement of its entire population, nearly all hospitals out of service, and made living conditions, already extremely difficult due to Gaza's 16-year land, sea, and air blockade and dependent on humanitarian aid, completely unsustainable under conditions of hunger, thirst, and epidemic disease.



Israel struck Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza twice on August 25, 2025, killing five journalists who had come to report on the attack on the hospital. The first strike hit the upper floor of the hospital, killing a Reuters cameraman. The second attack, carried out approximately 17 minutes later, targeted medical personnel, journalists, and civilians responding to the first strike, resulting in numerous deaths. Among the dead were five journalists from international media organizations such as AP, Reuters, Al Jazeera, and Middle East Eye.

There are 38 hospitals in Gaza. Israel has repeatedly attacked all 38 of them. 16 are operating under extremely difficult conditions, while 22 are completely out of commission. There are 157 primary healthcare centers in Gaza, all of which have been attacked. 61 are partially operational. A total of 96 are completely out of service. Israel has struck 197 ambulances. It has killed 1,890 health workers. It has detained 361 health workers. Al-Aqsa Hospital alone has been struck fourteen times. Nevertheless, health workers, patients, and the wounded continue to go there because there is nowhere else to go.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) May 2025 Emergency Report states that the health infrastructure in Gaza is on the verge of collapse due to Israeli attacks, with more than 880 people killed and more than 1,300 civilians wounded in Israel's deliberate attacks on the health system since October 7. The World Health Organization has stated that Israel has targeted healthcare facilities in Gaza 697 times. At least 94% of the 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are damaged or destroyed.

Israel's Violation of the Ceasefire and Continuation of the Occupation with Heavy Attacks

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office announced on March 2, 2025, that it had halted the entry of all humanitarian aid supplies into the Gaza Strip. Israel also halted fuel deliveries to power plants and the supply of other essential materials starting March 9, 2025. Israel also blocked the entry of heavy machinery and vehicles that could be used by civil defense teams, as well as 260,000 container homes and tents.

On March 18, 2025, Israel unilaterally broke the ceasefire. From nighttime until the early hours of the morning, it struck northern, central, and southern Gaza. At least 330 Palestinians were killed in a single day of attacks. Israel ordered Gazans to evacuate their homes. Despite this, clashes and casualties continue in Gaza even after the ceasefire. In just one week, from March 18 to March 24, as the Israeli army intensified its attacks, the number of Palestinians killed reached 673, and the number of wounded reached 1,233. Due to the intensity of the attacks, 124,000 people were displaced in just one week. Israel even attacked the Red Cross office in Rafah. On March 2, 2025, Israel cut off all food supplies, which were already very limited, and then cut off electricity. Due to food and medical supplies shortages, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are struggling to meet their basic needs. On March 21, 2025, Israel entered the city of Beit Lahiya with tanks and carried out intense attacks.

Dr. Mervan al-Hums, Director of Field Hospitals in the Gaza Strip, reported that since Israel violated the ceasefire on March 18, the intensity of the bombings and the weapons used have reached unprecedented levels. He noted that the most common injuries among the wounded are dismemberment and severe burns. He indicated that many injuries resulted in "amputation without bleeding" due to burned limbs. He noted that the Gaza Ministry of Health does not have laboratories to test chemical weapons but has evidence for international analysis.

*The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza can only be described **as hell on earth.***
Philippe Lazzarini (UNRWA Commissioner-General)



Israeli Defense Minister Yisrael Katz announced in a press statement on April 13, 2025, that he had ordered the Israeli army to “seize new areas in Gaza, forcibly displace Palestinians, and expand the buffer zones around the Gaza Strip.” Katz stated that “the Israeli army will establish permanent control over the areas it has seized through land occupation by expelling Palestinians.” Subsequently, the occupation of Gaza has expanded every day.

After March, the occupation was openly declared and the situation deteriorated significantly, making it impossible to determine the actual numbers. On July 11, 2025, UNICEF stated that Israel had killed a thousand children after the ceasefire.

After Israel violated the ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement and resumed its military operations on March 18, killed 10,975 more Palestinians and injured 46,588 by August. From May 27 to the end of August, 2,140 Palestinians were killed near humanitarian aid centers, and more than 15,737 people were injured.

Moreover, research indicates that the actual number is much higher than reported due to the destruction and the inability to reach the bodies. Independent sources state that thousands of bodies remain under the rubble or in the streets, inaccessible to emergency teams due to ongoing Israeli attacks. Research reports published in the international media state that Israeli soldiers have said that the bodies are lying in the open, being eaten by dogs, and are only moved aside by bulldozers when humanitarian aid trucks pass by.

A report published on June 18, 2024, in *The Lancet*, one of the world's oldest peer-reviewed medical journals, suggests that the total number of direct and indirect deaths in Israel's attacks on Gaza in 2024 could exceed 186,000. Due to the destruction in the region, it is extremely difficult for the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza to collect data. The Ministry reports the number of dead separately from the number of dead whose identities have been determined. The identities of approximately 30% of those who lost their lives in Gaza cannot be determined. As of 2024, there are more than 10,000 bodies still under the rubble.

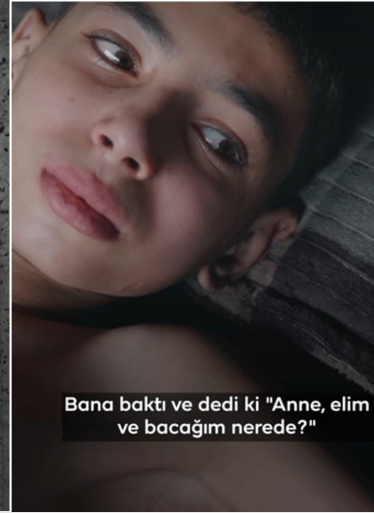
Israeli attacks cause not only sudden deaths and injuries but also health problems. Indirect deaths are very high due to the destruction of health facilities, lack of water, food, and shelter, and the absence of safe living areas. Even if the attacks end, their negative effects will continue in the years to come. Accordingly, indirect deaths caused by the attacks and deliberate starvation are 3 to 15 times higher than direct deaths. In Gaza, where famine was declared in August 2025, the effects of deaths and diseases caused by starvation, used as a weapon of war, will continue for years to come.

A report published by Harvard University in June 2025, authored by Israeli professor Yaakov Garb, states that approximately 377,000 Palestinians, half of whom were children, have lost their lives in Israel's attacks on Gaza over the past 20 months. Data-driven analysis and spatial mapping methods were used in the study to highlight the sharp decline in Gaza's population. According to this, the actual number is much higher than the official figures because the bodies cannot be reached due to the severe destruction in Gaza.

Indeed, while Gaza's population, which has been under siege for 16 years, was reported to be 2.3 million in 2023, this population estimate was later updated to 2,375,259. Not only do the people of Gaza not have the right to live at even the minimum standards enjoyed by people living in other parts of the world, but they have also often been unable to register their dead. After October 7, most bodies were deprived of the right to be buried in accordance with religious rites.



The images shown on the left depict a Palestinian man killed by an Israeli drone while carrying flour on his back. Beyond the killing of an unarmed civilian for no reason other than being Palestinian, his family is unaware of what happened to their father, who had gone out to buy food. With his body completely destroyed by the drone, the Palestinian man cannot be buried in accordance with religious rites. The remaining body parts will likely be eaten by dogs, like other corpses. Moreover, since it is not even known that he was killed, his execution will not be recorded in official death records. If the images had not surfaced later, there would be no way to know about his death. Therefore, there is no way to record how many people have been executed and whose bodies have not been found.



Israeli drones have not limited themselves to killing hundreds of Palestinians outside. They also enter homes and shoot children. Samir is one of them, who lost his arm and leg in an Israeli kamikaze drone attack while playing in his room and continues to live with shrapnel marks on his body.

Evidence of Ethnic Cleansing: Mass Graves, Destruction of Historical Sites and Cemeteries

As a result of Israel's unprecedented attacks, numerous mass graves have had to be opened in Gaza. Since Israel does not allow international organizations to enter Gaza, it is impossible to locate the hundreds of mass graves in Gaza. Tens of thousands of Palestinian bodies remain buried under the rubble and have not even been recorded as dead, and it is not known how many have died and been buried.



There are dozens of mass graves in Gaza that cannot be identified, and their locations cannot even be found. Even health workers have been subjected to mass killings repeatedly. UN data indicates that at least 1,060 health workers have lost their lives in Israeli attacks as of March 2025. On March 31, 2025, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced that 15 health and humanitarian aid workers in the Tal Al-Sultan area of the southern Gaza city of Rafah were “targeted one by one” and killed by the Israeli army and buried in a mass grave.



Among the dead are 8 Red Crescent workers, 6 civil defense personnel, and 1 UN staff member. It has been determined that the bodies were piled on top of each other, some had their hands tied, and they were shot dead. Ambulances arriving at the scene were also targeted, and a UNRWA vehicle was buried with a bulldozer. According to statements made, some of the people targeted in Rafah whose bodies were recovered were found with their hands tied, shot in the head and chest, and buried in a deep pit. In its statement regarding the attacks, Israel said, "Shots were fired at vehicles moving suspiciously without headlights or emergency signals." Later, footage from a health worker's cell phone, published by The New York Times, proved the exact opposite.



Israel has deliberately destroyed not only residential areas but also historical artifacts in Gaza in order to eradicate all traces of Palestinians in Gaza. From the very beginning, Israel sought to wipe out all Palestinian presence, destroying not only buildings but also archaeological artifacts, all historical structures, and even cemeteries from the first months onward. Israel bombed archaeological sites and historical places, which are an important part of the Palestinian people's national identity and proof of the Palestinians' history on these lands, in order to erase the history of the Palestinian people. Israel, seeking to leave no sign of life belonging to Palestinians in Gaza, partially or completely destroyed 206 of 325 archaeological sites. Israel has even bombed Palestine's third largest mosque, "Al-Omar Mosque," dating back 1,400 years, and Gaza's oldest church, "St. Porphyrius," built in the 5th century, which is the third oldest church in the world. A museum housing many historical artifacts has also been subjected to Israeli attacks. Palestinian Tourism Minister Hayik stated that Israel is trying to change the demographic and historical structure of Gaza, saying, "Israel's goal is to destroy everything Palestinian, starting with the people and ending with the stones."

From the very first months, Israel has aimed to eliminate not only the residents of Gaza but also all traces of Palestinians. Satellite images and videos dated January 21, 2024, reveal that Israel has destroyed at least 16 cemeteries in Gaza.



CNN's report on the destruction of the cemetery in Gaza by Israel shared satellite images and videos showing the destruction carried out by Israel in the cemeteries in question and stated that the Israeli army bulldozed numerous cemeteries during its ground operation in Gaza, destroyed gravestones and burial grounds, and exhumed some bodies.

The deliberate destruction of religious sites such as cemeteries and turning them into military targets constitutes a “war crime.” While the Israeli army confirmed that it had opened graves in Gaza, it claimed that this was done to determine whether Israeli prisoners had been buried there, but it continued to destroy cemeteries afterwards. The Israeli army, which intensively continued its attacks on the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, targeted cemeteries. Israeli forces entered a cemetery near Nasser Hospital with construction machinery, dug up graves, and removed the bodies. Although Israel claimed in its statement that the operation was carried out with respect, the images and photographs taken at the cemetery reveal the extensive damage they caused.

Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide in Gaza According to International Reports and News Content

Since October 7, numerous international organizations such as United Nations agencies, Amnesty, HRW, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and the Committee to Protect Journalists have documented Israel's commission of genocide in their reports. Even the Council of Europe and the European Union, which had previously failed to respond to ethnic cleansing practices and the crime of genocide, have reached a point by 2025 where they can no longer deny this reality.

Israel's very own newspapers and civil society organizations explicitly state that the actions carried out against Palestinians constitute genocide. For example, on July 27, 2025, the Israeli civil society organizations B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI) released reports sharing the findings of their investigations into the practices of the Israeli government and army in the Gaza Strip. The July 2025 report, *Our Genocide*, clearly states that Israel's policy in Gaza is a coordinated action aimed at destroying Palestinian society. The report highlights that high-level Israeli politicians and military leaders' statements, the systematic destruction of infrastructure in Gaza, mass deaths, forced displacement, the collapse of the health system, and the destruction of educational and cultural institutions are all part of a coordinated effort to eliminate Palestinian society. In this context, B'Tselem has concluded that "it is clear and indisputable that Israel is carrying out genocidal acts aimed at eliminating the Palestinian community in the Gaza Strip." At a press conference introducing the two reports, B'Tselem's executive director, Yuli Novak, stated, "As Israelis and Palestinians who live here and see the reality every day, we have a responsibility to state the truth as clearly as possible. Israel is committing the crime of genocide against the Palestinians."

Human rights organizations have drawn attention to the fact that Gazans are being forcibly displaced en masse, that there are attempts at ethnic cleansing against Palestinians, and that this has been officially declared a war objective by Israel. The report emphasizes that the government, which claims to be fighting only Hamas, has pursued a policy of "mass murder" that has led to collective deaths, both through direct attacks and by bringing living conditions to catastrophic levels. The report also states that Israeli forces inflicted "serious physical and mental harm" throughout the Gaza Strip, carried out "extensive destruction of infrastructure," and engaged in practices such as "the destruction of the social fabric, including Palestinian educational institutions and cultural sites."

A report by Israeli civil society organizations states that thousands of Palestinians are being held en masse without trial in Israeli prisons, which have effectively become torture camps, and that the ill-treatment of detainees is widespread. Israeli officials are accused in the report of carrying out an attack on Palestinian identity through deliberate attempts to destroy refugee camps and weaken the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which assists Palestinian refugees.

The report states that, based on evidence on the ground and statements by Israeli officials, genocide has been committed in Gaza and that “morally and legally, genocide cannot be justified under any circumstances, not even for reasons such as self-defense.”

Israel’s actions have been identified in numerous reports by international organizations as constituting deliberate and systematic acts of genocide. As revealed by the +972 Magazine and Local Call research published as early as December 1, 2023, the use of airstrikes targeting non-military objectives and the deployment of artificial intelligence systems have enabled the Israeli military to wage its deadliest war against Gaza. The research in question is based on interviews with seven current and former members of the Israeli intelligence community, including military intelligence and air force personnel involved in Israeli operations in besieged Gaza, as well as statements from Palestinians, data and documents from the Gaza Strip, and official statements from the IDF Spokesperson and other Israeli state institutions.

In a comprehensive compilation and analysis by Yuval Abraham, published in +972 Magazine, which involved consulting numerous informants, including seven current and former members of the Israeli intelligence agency, Israel’s military strategy in Gaza is examined. According to the analysis, the Israeli army has significantly expanded the range of targets it chooses to bomb. The army now targets many places that are not military in nature, including private residences, public buildings, infrastructure, and tall buildings defined as “power targets.” The bombing of such targets is primarily intended to harm Palestinian civil society.

An element that further exacerbates the massacre is the use of an artificial intelligence system called Habsora (Bible) to quickly select targets. As a former intelligence officer explained, this system enables the army to operate a “mass murder factory” that prioritizes “quality over quantity.”

The expansion of the Israeli military's authority to bomb non-military targets, the relaxation of restrictions on expected civilian casualties, and the use of artificial intelligence systems to identify more potential targets than ever before contribute to the destructive nature of Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip, as revealed by research conducted by +972 Magazine and Local Call.

Several of the sources, who spoke to +972 and Local Call on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that the Israeli army has files on the vast majority of potential targets in Gaza — including homes — which stipulate the number of civilians who are likely to be killed in an attack on a particular target. This number is calculated and known in advance to the army's intelligence units, which also know shortly before carrying out an attack roughly how many civilians are certain to be killed.

One source stated, "The numbers increased from dozens of civilian deaths [permitted] as collateral damage as part of an attack on a senior official in previous operations, to hundreds of civilian deaths as collateral damage," The result of these policies is the staggering scale of human loss in Gaza since October 7. In just two months, more than 300 families have lost 10 or more family members in Israeli bombardments. This figure is 15 times the death rate of Israel's deadliest war on Gaza in 2014. Israeli Defense Forces Spokesperson Daniel Hagari stated on October 9 that "What matters is not accuracy, but damage," and the Israeli Army quickly translated these statements into action.

Massive attacks on energy targets and private homes coincided with the Israeli army's call on October 13 for 1.1 million people in the northern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and move to the south of the Strip. Numerous energy targets were bombed in the first week, killing more than a thousand Palestinians, including hundreds of children. According to the Israeli military, it dropped 6,000 bombs with a total weight of approximately 4,000 tons on the Gaza Strip in the first five days of the conflict. Media outlets reported that the military razed neighborhoods to the ground. According to the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, these attacks led to "the complete destruction of residential areas, the destruction of infrastructure, and the mass slaughter of the region's inhabitants."

On the fifth day of clashes following October 7, the Israeli Defense Forces Spokesperson distributed “before and after” satellite images of neighborhoods in the northern Gaza Strip, such as Shujaiya and Al-Furqan in Gaza City, to military correspondents in Israel. The images show dozens of destroyed homes and buildings. The Israeli army stated that it had struck 182 targets in Shujaiya and 312 in Al-Furqan. Israeli Air Force Commander Omer Tishler told military correspondents that all these attacks were legitimate military targets, but also that entire neighborhoods were attacked “not on a large scale and not surgically.” The Israeli Defense Forces Spokesperson, who stated that half of the military targets were force targets until October 11, and that attacks were carried out on “neighborhoods serving as terrorist nests for Hamas,” and that damage was inflicted on “operational headquarters,” “operational assets,” and “assets used by terrorist organizations within residential buildings.”

According to the doctrine developed by Gadi Eisenkot , former Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces and currently a member of the Knesset and part of the current war cabinet, in a war against guerrilla groups such as Hamas or Hezbollah, Israel should use disproportionate and overwhelming force while targeting civilians and government infrastructure in order to deter and pressure these groups to stop their attacks on the civilian population.

Such attacks often result in the killing of entire families, as has been seen in previous attacks. According to a 2014 study by the AP following the war, approximately 89 percent of those killed in airstrikes on family homes were unarmed civilians, most of whom were children and women.

For example, on October 25, 2023, the 12-story Al-Taj residential building in Gaza City was bombed without warning, killing the families living there. According to witnesses, approximately 120 people were trapped under the rubble of their apartment building. Six days later, on October 31, the eight-story Al-Muhandisin residential building was bombed without warning. It was reported that 30 to 45 bodies were pulled from the rubble on the first day, and a baby was found alive without its family. It is believed that more than 150 people were killed in the attack, and most of them were trapped under the rubble. According to witnesses, the building was located in the Nuseriat Refugee Camp in the southern Gaza Valley. This camp is within a so-called safe zone where Israel is believed to have directed Palestinians fleeing their homes in northern and central Gaza.

According to a research by Amnesty International, on October 9, Israel bombed at least three multi-story buildings and an open market on a crowded street in the Jabalia Refugee Camp, killing at least 69 people. The father of one of the children killed said, “The bodies were burned... I didn’t want to look, I was afraid to look at Imad’s face. The bodies were scattered on the ground. Everyone was searching for their children among the piles. I only recognized my son by his pants.” According to Amnesty International’s investigation, the army stated that the attack on the market area targeted a mosque where “ Hamas militants were present.” However, the same investigation shows that satellite images do not indicate a mosque in the vicinity.

According to the Israeli Defense Forces spokesperson, as of November 10, 2023, Israel had struck a total of 15,000 targets in Gaza during the first 35 days of the conflict. This figure is significantly higher than in the previous four major operations in the Gaza Strip. During the 2021 Operation Guardian of the Walls, Israel struck 1,500 targets in 11 days. During the 51-day 2014 Operation Protective Edge, Israel struck between 5,266 and 6,231 targets. During the 2012 Pillar of Defense operation, approximately 1,500 targets were hit over eight days. In the 2008 Cast Lead Operation, Israel struck 3,400 targets over 22 days.

The Israeli military has reportedly established a new center in 2019 aimed at accelerating target creation using artificial intelligence. Former Israeli Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi stated in an interview with Ynet earlier this year, “The Targeting Directorate is a unit consisting of hundreds of officers and soldiers and based on artificial intelligence capabilities. This is a machine that, with the help of artificial intelligence, processes a lot of data better and faster than any human and turns it into targets for attack. As a result, in Operation Guardian of the Walls [in 2021], this machine produced a hundred new targets every day from the moment it was activated. You know, in the past, there were times when we created fifty targets a year in Gaza.”

Israel’s ability to generate targets using artificial intelligence reveals how it was able to directly target the homes and families of so many journalists and health workers. For example, on October 22, 2023, the Israeli Air Force bombed the home of Palestinian journalist Ahmed El-Nauk in the city of Deir al-Balah. Concrete blocks collapsed on Ahmed’s entire family, killing his father, brothers, and all his children, including his babies. A total of twenty-one members of Ahmed’s family were killed and buried under their home. None of them were armed. The youngest was 2 years old, and his father was 75.

Similarly, on October 10, 2023, the Israeli Air Force bombed an apartment building in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, killing 40 people, most of whom were women and children. In one of the shocking videos taken after the attack, people can be seen screaming and holding what appears to be a doll pulled from the rubble of the house. When the camera zooms in, it becomes clear that this is not a doll, but the body of a baby. A neighborhood resident said that 19 members of his family were killed in the attack. Another survivor wrote on social media that he only found his son's shoulder under the rubble. An Amnesty International investigation stated that a Hamas member lived on one of the upper floors of the building but was not there during the attack.

According to a detailed list of victims' identities, including their ages, published by the Gaza Ministry of Health on October 26, 2023, 286 babies aged 1 year and under were killed in Gaza in just 20 days.

The Israeli press reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted everything in Gaza to be bombed during a security cabinet meeting a few days after October 7. An analysis published in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper stated that Netanyahu scolded former Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, who said they had attacked 1,500 targets in Gaza in the first 48 hours, asking, "Why not 5,000?" The newspaper reported that Halevi replied, "We don't have 5,000 approved targets," to which Netanyahu responded, "I don't care about targets," and ordered, "Destroy the houses, bomb with everything you have."



The families of healthcare workers who witnessed the genocide are also specific targets of Israel, just like journalists. Ala Al-Najjar, who worked as a doctor at Nasser Hospital in May 2025, is an example of this. Nine children, the youngest being six months old, were killed in an attack by the Israeli army on his home. Words cannot describe the pain. In Gaza, not only healthcare workers are targeted, but their entire families are being wiped out. Dr. Hamdi's niece, Suheir Al-Najjar, said that the Israeli army hit their house with a missile and did not give those inside a chance to evacuate. The Israeli army knew, thanks to the technology it used, that there were 10 children in the house, the oldest aged 12 and the youngest 6 months old, and a doctor providing humanitarian services to Palestinians. The children were brought to the hospital after the attack, charred, decapitated, and dismembered; one survived with injuries.

An investigation conducted by the Tel Aviv-based website “+972” in collaboration with media organization Local Call and The Guardian newspaper has revealed that telephone call recordings stored on the Microsoft platform by Israeli military intelligence unit ‘8200’ were used as intelligence for deadly air and ground attacks. Three Israeli intelligence sources interviewed for the research report stated that Unit 8200’s cloud-based intelligence data had been used over the past two years to plan deadly airstrikes in Gaza and that this information paved the way for detentions and attacks in the West Bank. The investigation indicates that the then-commander of Unit 8200, Brigadier General Yossi Sariel, approached Microsoft on the grounds that they could not store all the conversations of millions of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza on servers belonging to military intelligence. A meeting was held in 2021 between Brigadier General Sariel and Satya Nadella, CEO of the US-based IT company, at Microsoft’s headquarters in Seattle, USA. Following the meeting, a special team of Microsoft engineers reportedly began working with Israeli military intelligence to develop a model that would allow Unit 8200 to use the company’s cloud storage service.

Israeli sources stated that Microsoft’s high storage and computing power has enabled the Israeli military intelligence unit to store “one million calls per hour.” Documents leaked from Microsoft show that as of July 2025, most of the 11,500 terabytes of Israeli military data is stored on Microsoft servers in the Netherlands, with some stored in Ireland and Israel. The 11,500 terabytes of data correspond to approximately 200 million hours of audio recordings of Palestinians’ phone calls. It is unknown how much of this data is stored directly by Unit 8200. The investigation also revealed that numerous units within the army purchased cloud computing services from Microsoft and that the company left its mark on all major military infrastructure in Israel.

Testimonies of Israeli Soldiers Published in International Newspapers



I abolished all rules in the army. While fighting, they will not be responsible for anything militarily. There is no military court.

October 10, 2023,
Yoav Gallant
(Israeli Defense Minister)

In his May 1, 2024 work, journalist David Keys compiled in open-source materials the existing evidence of war crimes committed by Israeli soldiers in Gaza. These include mass executions of prisoners, systematic killings on a massive scale, the release of prisoners followed by their shooting, and the systematic killing of unarmed civilians by sniper fire and drones.

Evidence shows that 80-85% of Palestinians killed were civilians. This is one of the highest civilian death rates in military history. According to UN data, 70% of those killed by Israel in the first year and a half were women and children.

A Guardian article dated August 22, 2025, reported that data obtained from the Israeli army's secret database showed that 83 percent of the people killed by Israeli forces in Gaza, or five out of every six people, were civilians.

Therese Pettersson of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), a Sweden-based organization that tracks civilian casualties worldwide, said the proportion of civilians killed in Gaza was "exceptionally high."

Mary Kaldor, Director of Conflict Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), stated that Israel deliberately carried out a campaign of assassinations in Gaza, disregarding civilian lives. According to Kaldor, "For Israel, the situation is the same: it is a war model about subjugating the population in Gaza and controlling the territory. Perhaps the goal has always been forced displacement."



As stated in the study in question, news bulletins around the world report on the rising death toll, the destruction of entire neighborhoods, the demolition of hospitals, and relentless aerial bombardment. However, the full extent of Israel's actions against the people of Gaza is far more shocking than imagined.

Increasingly horrific evidence in journalist David Keys' research strongly suggests that some Israeli military units carried out mass executions of prisoners and systematic killings on a massive scale. There is growing evidence that some sections of the Israeli army released prisoners, but then shot them as they were leaving, so that senior officers could be told that the prisoners had been shot due to potentially chaotic internal military communications or possibly while attempting to escape.

Numerous unarmed civilians were also systematically killed by Israeli snipers and drones. David Keys stated using open-source material, in 2024 that he was able to identify at least six major incidents in which a total of at least one hundred Palestinian prisoners were executed, with the actual number likely much higher. Video footage alone irrefutably demonstrates that hundreds of massacres took place.



As stated in the study;

Open source research indicates that some Israeli military units used at least three different methods of execution. These are execution by shooting, execution by suffocation (burial alive), and execution by crushing (deliberately crushed by tank or bulldozer tracks).

The highest number of killings identified by the journalist involved the killing of unarmed civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, who were typically shot one by one in the street by snipers.

Indeed, doctors examining head and chest wounds of children in Gaza state that a significant number of children were deliberately targeted by Israeli snipers.

Three mechanisms are responsible for at least sixty men, women, and children being systematically killed in 25 separate incidents, which appear to be only the tip of the iceberg.

The first is individual discretion. In practice, soldiers, military unit commanders, and snipers have a great deal of individual discretion in deciding whom to kill and whom not to kill, when to pull the trigger and when not to.

Three videos have been cited showing how snipers could target anyone they wanted to shoot, even children or an unarmed elderly woman holding a white flag. Here, people from any demographic group appear to have been systematically killed.

The video shows how
Palestinians waving
white flags were
killed.



İddia The second type of alleged execution is the killing zones. For the Israeli army has unofficially launched a mass killing system known as 'Killing Zones'. These zones are also known as 'Combat Zones'. They are important areas sometimes designated by local unit commanders around their own military unit operational bases. Anyone entering these unmarked zones is shot by snipers, even if they are clearly unarmed. Soldier testimonies to journalists show executions with bodies piled up in killing zones, and video footage proves the unlimited brutality beyond dispute.

It has been stated that the third system used in the executions is artificial intelligence, referred to as Lavender and Bible. According to this, the Israeli army is operating one of the most horrific mass murder systems ever designed, and 'Lavender' is the name of an algorithmic killing device. Thus, thousands of people are being exterminated without any Israeli soldier being individually and solely responsible.

The artificial intelligence operating as a mass killing machine is a massive database of approximately 37,000 Palestinians. According to AI assessments, these individuals are considered to be associated in some way with Hamas' military wing. The system can be set up to target these individuals in their homes, and depending on their importance or insignificance, different levels of collateral damage can be deemed acceptable. Accordingly, even if the system means the killing of twenty civilians, it is set up to allow the killing of young fighters. It is stated that it is set up to allow the killing of up to a hundred innocent civilians in order to kill a senior Hamas officer.

Lavender obtains most of its data from another Israeli military AI system known as "The Bible." This second system uses drone imagery, intercepted communications, surveillance data, and movement and behavioral pattern data to categorize individuals and target the densely populated apartment blocks where they live. It is stated that these artificial intelligence systems allow for a seven thousand-fold increase in the number of targets that Israeli military intelligence can generate.

For more detailed information, see: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/analiz/gorus-israilin-yapay-zeka-destekli-katliam-aygiti-lavender/3187112>, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/teyithatti/blog/israilin-hedeflerini-yapay-zekanin-sectigi-ortaya-cikti/1817606> <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/israilin-gazdedeki-saldirilar-icin-kullandigi-yapay-zeka-fabrikasinin-gecmisi-eskiye-uzaniyor/3438033>

It is claimed that artificial intelligence systems are Israel's "Angels of Death." The data collected indicates that 80 to 85 percent of Palestinians killed by Israelis were civilians. This is one of the highest civilian death rates in all of military history.

The Israeli army acknowledges the intensity of its bombardment of the Gaza Strip. In the early days of the attack, the air force commander reported that they were conducting non-stop "24-hour" air strikes. Although he said that his forces were only hitting military targets, he stated that they were "not performing surgical operations."

Nahid Adel Barbakh and her brother Ramiz, shot by a sniper in the city of Khan Yunis on January 24, 2024.



In the report published on July 21, 2024, by Local Call—an Israeli-Palestinian publication affiliated with +972 Magazine—the testimonies of six Israeli soldiers who had been recently discharged after serving active duty in Gaza were found to align with the statements of Palestinian eyewitnesses and doctors.



The soldiers' statements include: "If you feel threatened, you don't need to explain, you just shoot," "It's forbidden to walk around, everyone who goes outside is a suspect," "People were just shooting to relieve their boredom," "A building is collapsing and you feel like, 'Wow, how fun,'" "If we destroy a house unnecessarily, if we shoot someone unnecessarily, no one will shed a tear," "That's why you sometimes see dogs walking around with rotten body parts. There's a terrible smell of death."

Another soldier, B., who served for months in the regular forces in Gaza, said, “There was complete freedom of movement.” “If you feel threatened, there’s no need to explain; you just shoot.” When soldiers saw someone approaching, “it’s permissible to shoot at the center of mass [their bodies], not in the air,” B. continued. “It’s permissible to shoot everyone, from a young girl to an old woman.”

B. recounted an incident, in which soldiers killed several civilians in November during the evacuation of a school near the Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza City, which was serving as a shelter for displaced Palestinians. The army ordered those being evacuated to head left, toward the sea, not right, where the soldiers were stationed. When a clash broke out inside the school, those who turned in the opposite direction amid the chaos were immediately shot. Some fled to the left, toward the sea, [but] some, including children, fled to the right. Everyone who fled to the right was killed. Fifteen to twenty people. There was a pile of bodies.

“It is forbidden to walk around, and everyone outside is a suspect,” B. continued. “If we see someone looking at us from the window, they are a suspect. You shoot them. The [army’s] perception is that any contact [with the public] puts the forces at risk and that a situation must be created where it is not allowed to approach [soldiers] under any circumstances. [The Palestinians] learned that they had to flee when we entered.”

A letter signed by 41 reserve soldiers who served in the 55th Paratroopers Brigade last November and December and refused to serve in Gaza after the army’s invasion of Rafah was also published. Yuval Green, a 26-year-old Jerusalemite reserve soldier who signed the letter, told +972 and Local Call, “There were no restrictions on ammunition. People were shooting just to relieve boredom.” When Green arrived in Khan Yunis at the end of December, he said, “We saw an indistinct mass outside a house. We realized it was a corpse; we saw a leg. At night, cats ate it. Then someone came and moved it.”

Soldiers said that the bodies of Palestinians in civilian clothes were scattered along roads and in open areas throughout Gaza. Reserve soldier S. said, “The whole area was full of bodies,” adding, “There are also dogs, cows, and horses that survived the bombings and have nowhere to go. We can’t feed them, and we don’t want them to get too close. That’s why you sometimes see dogs wandering around with rotting body parts.”

S. noted that the bodies were removed before the humanitarian aid convoys arrived. He said, “A D-9 [Caterpillar bulldozer] goes down with a tank and cleans the area of bodies, burying them under rubble and turning them aside so the convoys don’t see them; [so] the images of highly decomposed people don’t come out.”

“I saw many [Palestinian] civilians; families, women, children,” S. continued. “There are more deaths than reported. We were in a small area. Every day, at least one or two [civilians] were killed for walking in a restricted area. I don’t know who is a terrorist and who isn’t, but most of them weren’t carrying weapons.”

After visiting northern Gaza, a non-military source speaking to +972 and Local Call also reported seeing bodies scattered across the area. “Near the army headquarters between the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip, we saw about 10 bodies that appeared to have been shot in the head by a sniper while trying to turn north,” they said. “The bodies were decomposing; there were dogs and cats around them.” B. said of Israeli soldiers in Gaza, “They don’t care about the bodies. If they’re in the way, they move them aside. The dead aren’t being buried. Soldiers accidentally step on the bodies.”

In June 2024, soldier Guy Zaken, who operated D-9 bulldozers in Gaza, testified before a Knesset committee that he and his team “crushed hundreds of terrorists, dead or alive.” Another soldier who served with Zaken reportedly committed suicide later.

“Before leaving, you burn the house, every house,” B. repeated. “This is supported even at the battalion commander level. So [the Palestinians] can’t come back, and even if we leave ammunition or food behind, the terrorists can’t use it.” Before leaving, the soldiers would pile up mattresses, furniture, and blankets, and B. said that “with a little fuel or a gas cylinder, the house would burn easily, like an oven.” At the start of the ground operation, the unit would occupy the houses for a few days, then move on; according to B., “they burned hundreds of houses.”

In an article published in Haaretz on December 18, 2024, 200 bodies were examined in one area and “only 10 were confirmed to be Hamas members.” Soldiers serving in Gaza told Haaretz that anyone crossing an imaginary line in the disputed Netzarim corridor was shot dead, and that every Palestinian casualty, even children, was counted as a terrorist. Although this line does not appear on any map, is not part of any official military order, and its existence is denied by senior Israeli Defense Forces officials, it is located in the heart of the Gaza Strip, north of the Netzarim corridor.

A commander from the 252nd Brigade told Haaretz, “The forces on the ground call it the ‘line of the dead.’ After the shooting, the bodies are not collected, which attracts packs of dogs that come to eat them. People in Gaza know that wherever they see these dogs, they should not go there.”

The Netzarim corridor, seven kilometers wide, stretches from near Kibbutz Be’eri to the Mediterranean coast. The Israeli Defense Forces evacuated Palestinian residents from this area and demolished their homes to build military roads and military positions. Although Palestinians are officially prohibited from entering there, the reality is far worse than a simple no-go zone. A senior officer from the 252nd Brigade, who served three terms of reserve duty in Gaza, calls it “military whitewashing.” “The brigade commander designated this area a ‘kill zone’. Anyone who enters is shot.” A recently discharged officer from the 252nd Brigade described the arbitrary nature of this border: “The killing zone for the brigade extends as far as a sniper can see.” “The IDF spokesperson’s statements about casualties have turned this into a competition between units. If the 99th Division kills 150 [people], the next unit aims to kill 200.” This indiscriminate killing and routine classification of civilian casualties as terrorists has been repeatedly mentioned in recent interviews with soldiers who fought in Gaza, conducted by Haaretz, Israel’s oldest newspaper.

A senior reserve commander who recently returned from the Netzarim corridor said, “Calling ourselves the most ethical army in the world means whitewashing soldiers who know exactly what we are doing. It means ignoring the fact that for over a year we have been operating in a lawless area where human life has no value. Yes, we commanders and fighters are participating in the atrocities in Gaza. Now everyone must face this reality.”

Haaretz has collected statements from active-duty soldiers, career officers, and reserve soldiers revealing the unprecedented level of authority granted to commanders. According to these, since the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are operating on multiple fronts, division commanders have been given broader powers. Whereas previously the IDF Chief of Staff’s approval was required to bomb buildings or carry out airstrikes, after October 7 such decisions began to be made by lower-ranking officers. A senior officer in the 252nd Division explains that division commanders now have almost unlimited firepower authority in combat zones. “A battalion commander can order drone strikes, and a division commander can launch conquest operations.”

A soldier from the 252nd Division recalls, “The order was clear: ‘Anyone who crosses the bridge and enters the [Netzarim] corridor will be shot in the head.’ Once, the guards spotted someone approaching from the south. We responded as if it were a major militant attack. We took up positions and opened fire. I’m talking about dozens, maybe more bullets. We kept shooting at the body for a minute or two. The people around me were shooting and laughing.” But it didn’t end there. “We approached the bloody body, took a photo, and took the phone. He was just a 16-year-old boy.” “An intelligence officer collected the belongings, and hours later, the fighters learned that the boy was not a Hamas member, just a civilian. That evening, our battalion commander congratulated us for killing a terrorist and said he hoped we would kill ten more tomorrow. When someone said he was unarmed and looked like a civilian, everyone shouted him down. The commander said, ‘Anyone who crosses the line is a terrorist, without exception, there are no civilians. Everyone is a terrorist,’ This deeply disturbed me. Did I leave my home to sleep in a building full of rats? To shoot unarmed people?”

An officer at the 252nd Division headquarters stated that an Israeli Defense Forces spokesperson announced that over 200 militants had been killed. “Standard procedure requires photographing the bodies and, if possible, collecting details, then sending evidence to intelligence to verify militant status or at least confirm they were killed by the IDF. Only ten of these two hundred casualties were confirmed to be known Hamas members. Yet no one questioned the public announcement that hundreds of militants had been killed.”

Another soldier recounted how four unarmed individuals were spotted by a surveillance drone while walking normally. Despite not looking like militants, a tank advanced and opened fire with its machine gun. “Hundreds of bullets.” Three died instantly, while the fourth survived and raised his hands to surrender. “We put him in a cage we had set up near our positions, stripped him of his clothes, and left him there. Passing soldiers spat on him. It was disgusting. Eventually, a military interrogator came, held a gun to his head, conducted a brief interrogation, and then ordered him to be released.” The man was just trying to reach his uncles in northern Gaza. “Later, the authorities praised us for killing the terrorists. A couple of days later, the bodies were buried in the sand with a bulldozer.”

A reserve soldier from the 99th Division recounts watching a drone image showing “an adult with two children crossing the forbidden line.” They were walking unarmed, apparently looking for something. “We kept them completely under surveillance with the drone and weapons pointed at them; they couldn’t do anything,” he said. “Suddenly, we heard a huge explosion. A combat helicopter had fired a missile at them. Who would think it’s justified to fire a missile at children from a helicopter?”

As of August 18, 2025, a report in the Israeli press stated that 42 Israeli soldiers had committed suicide, 3,769 had persistent psychological disorders (PSD), and more than 10,000 had received psychological treatment for disorders. The way to normalize Palestinian deaths is to portray there are no innocents in Gaza and to define Palestinians as human animals.



The 6-year-old Hind (355 bullets were in the car she was in) and the ambulance drivers who risked their lives to rescue her after hours of her pleading, “Come get me, hurry!”



A report contains testimony and photographs too graphic to share, detailing dogs attacking Gazans and even eating human remains.

In a press statement made on March 12, 2025, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Tom Fletcher said, “One of the first shocking things I saw when I entered was dogs roaming among the rubble,” and “I asked my colleague who was with me why the dogs were so fat. He replied, ‘Because the dogs are searching for bodies...’” This statement illustrates the indescribable scale of what is happening in Gaza.



Children Directly Targeted by Israel's Ethnic Cleansing Policies



The Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child. Every day, numerous children are reported killed and injured. The neighborhoods where children play and go to school have been reduced to lifeless piles of rubble. UNICEF and other humanitarian actors have been on high alert for weeks. Our team on the ground describes encountering children with severed limbs, third-degree burns, and in shock due to the violence surrounding them.

Adele Khodr
(UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa)

One of the most fundamental rules of international law regarding armed conflicts is the protection of civilians, especially children and women. The collective punishment of civilians is strictly prohibited under international law. This means that deliberately targeting civilians is forbidden and that, however possible, parties to the conflict must minimize civilian casualties. As of January 2025, women and children account for 69% of the identified individuals killed by Israel.



Israeli parliament member Michal Waldiger made the following statements in the Parliament in May 2025:

“Children in Gaza will have to be killed; no one in Gaza is innocent. Because they are the children of those who want to harm us. They are all enemies, like Nazis.”

During the first four months of the conflict in Gaza, 100 children and 70 women were killed every day. There are over a million children in Gaza. Children are the most affected by the attacks. According to a statement by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in August 2025, more than 18,000 children have been killed in Gaza in 22 months. For nearly two years, 27 children have been killed by Israel every day without interruption. This means that for two years, every 52 minutes, a child has been killed in Gaza. This equates to an average of a classroom full of children being killed every day in Gaza.

As of August 27, 2025, Israel has killed 983 babies under the age of one. 370 babies died immediately after birth. 4,832 children under the age of five have been killed without even living five years in this world. There is nothing parallel to this in the modern world.

Israel has bombed civilian settlements, homes, schools where people took refuge, hospitals, and even children’s parks. Therefore, from day one, children have been killed by bombs. Some suffocated to death because they could not escape the rubble. Images and doctors’ testimonies show that snipers killed children by shooting them in the head and heart. Similarly, footage shows drones dropping bombs on children carrying water. Children burned alive in tents as Israel dropped 900-kilogram bombs on them. Children froze to death in tents because two million people were displaced. They were shot and killed in humanitarian aid queues. They died of starvation as their organs failed.



The enemy is not Hamas, nor is it Hamas' military wing. Every child in Gaza is the enemy. We must occupy and settle Gaza, and not a single Gazan child will remain there. There is no other victory."

Statement by Moshe Feiglin, former member of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset), on Israeli television Channel 14 on May 21, 2025

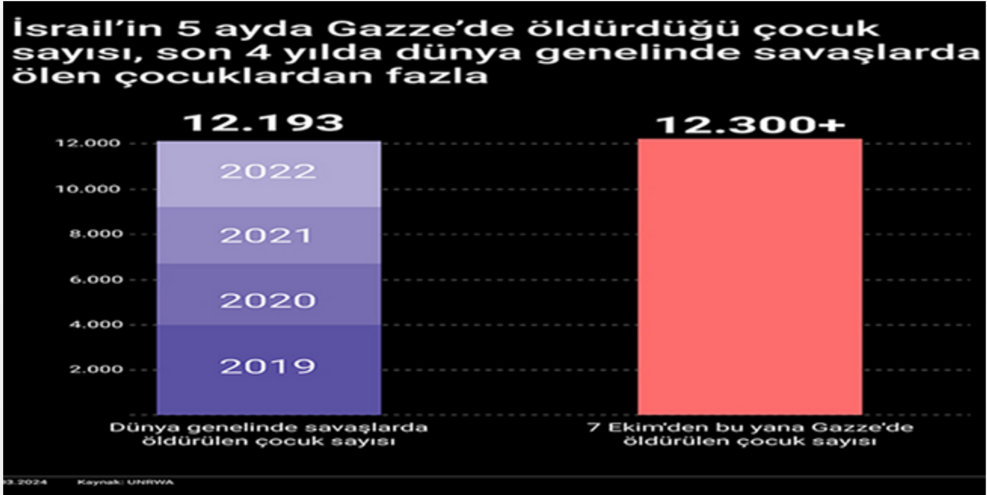


Israeli officials' claim that there are no innocent civilians in Gaza rationalizes indiscriminate violence and collective punishment, legitimizing the multiple traumas suffered by children. This results in the disregard of war crimes, including ethnic cleansing against Palestinians.

In Gaza, a child is killed every 10 minutes. I believe we are approaching humanity's darkest hour.

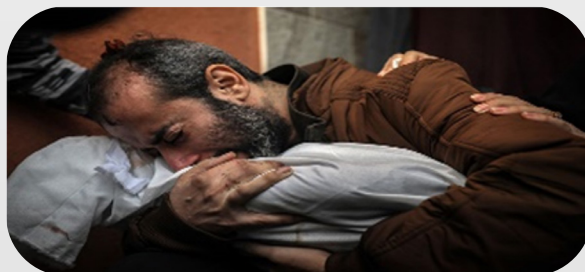
Rik Peepkorn
(WHO Representative in Palestine)





The number of children killed by Israel in the first five months up to February 29, 2024, exceeds the total number of children killed in all wars around the world over the past four years.

On July 31, 2025, The Washington Post published some of the names of 18,500 Palestinian children identified as killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, 2023. The newspaper published the full list of names on its website, sharing the children's photos and stories. It was stated that more than 900 of the children whose names appear on the list on the site were killed before celebrating their first birthday. Before even reaching the middle of the list, there is a warning stating, "The names given so far represent less than 1% of the children killed since October 2023."



If condolences were paid to the families of every child killed by Israel every day for 365 days a year, it would take more than fifty years to complete the visits.

The destruction of the perception of civilians leads to unprecedented executions that the world would not be aware of without satellite imagery, such as the targeting and killing of children carrying water with drones.



Video footage shows two children carrying water containers in Gaza being killed by Israel using drones.

A normal state does not wage war against civilians, does not kill children as a pastime, does not set the displacement of a people as its goal. Israel is moving towards becoming a pariah state among nations.

*May 20, 2025, Yair Golan
(Chairman of the Israeli Democrats Party, Former Deputy Chief of Staff)*

Gaza is turning into a graveyard for children. Hundreds of girls and boys are reported killed or wounded every day.

Antonio Guterres (UN Secretary-General)



As stated by the heads of UN agencies, the killing, wounding, or maiming of a child every 10 minutes in Israeli attacks has turned Gaza into a children's cemetery. As a result of Israeli attacks, Gaza has become the most dangerous place in the world to be a child or a woman. In Gaza, mothers have been forced to write their children's names on their hands and feet so that their bodies can be identified if they are buried under the rubble of Israeli attacks.

Rami Abdu, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Organization (Euro-Med), recalled that the number of children killed by Israel is “an unprecedentedly horrific number in modern warfare history.” As Abdu stated, “As a result of Israel targeting civilians by bombing homes, buildings, residential areas, shelters, and tents where forcibly displaced people had taken refuge in an extremely destructive manner, many children had their heads and body parts severed.” The Israeli army possesses advanced technology. They know that when they target a house or shelter, there are civilians, including children and women, inside, yet they still target them with missiles and bombs. Israel’s repeated, systematic, and widespread targeting of civilians in Gaza, and its use of extremely destructive weapons, particularly in areas with a high concentration of civilian population, proves that the army’s attacks deliberately aim to cause the greatest possible number of civilian casualties and serious injuries.



The remains of people, packed into bags as a result of bomb attacks on tent cities, are being given to their families in sacks. The statements of the father of a child killed in the massacre carried out by Israel after bombing the Al-Tabi'in School in Gaza on August 11, 2024: “We couldn’t find my son’s body. I told them my son Ali was six years old. They gave me a bag containing 18 kilograms of body parts. I am burying these body parts, but I don’t know if any of them belong to Ali.” In a video of a father carrying body parts belonging to his 10-year-old son Rayan in a rice bag, the father says, “In this bag are approximately 3 kilograms of parts from my son, who weighed 20 kilograms before he was killed. We could only find his parts.”



After Israel's warplanes fired a missile at the Fahmi Al-Jarhawi girls' school in Gaza on March 23, 2025, where displaced people had taken refuge, 5-year-old Ward Jalal Al-Sheikh Khalil, who escaped by walking through the flames to safety, said, "They killed my mother, my sister Amal, and my brothers Abdurrahman and Muhammad. My father is alive but injured. I was in class, we were sleeping. When I woke up, the flames were rising. I got out of the flames. My father's face was burned." Ward's uncle, Basil Sheikh Khalil, reported that when he arrived at the hospital, he found the bodies of the martyrs completely burned beyond recognition. He said that his other brother, Abdurrahman, had lost his life, and that the bodies of Ward's other brother, 13-year-old Muhammad, his sisters, 13-year-old Silvan, 11-year-old Maria, and 2.5-year-old Amal, were completely burned. In the massacre carried out by Israel that night, 31 Palestinians, most of them children, were burned to death. This is just one example.

Children in Gaza have died not only from burning but also from freezing in the 21st century. On January 7, 2025, a 35-day-old baby named Yusuf Ahmed Anwar Kloub lost his life due to the harsh climatic conditions and extreme cold experienced in the Gaza Strip. In the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, a 2-month-old baby named Sham Yusuf Al-Shambari, who was living in a tent with his homeless family, died after being unable to withstand the freezing cold. As Israel demolished settlements and issued constant evacuation orders, forcing families from their homes, 945,000 people were still living in tents and temporary shelters in January 2025. As of February 28, 2025, the number of babies who have frozen to death in Gaza has exceeded 14, as the tents, which offer no means of survival, do not protect against the winter cold.



The foot of two-month-old Yusuf Al-Shambari, who lived in a tent after becoming homeless and froze to death in the city of Khan Yunis...



Babies and children trapped in the rubble are evidence of deaths that occurred after prolonged suffering. The humanitarian aid organization Save the Children reported that more than 20,000 children went missing in Gaza in June 2024. It is thought that the children whose fate is unknown may be under the rubble, in mass graves, or in detention. It is impossible to determine how many children died in the rubble in Gaza. Doctors testified that when the attack occurred, they first received calls for help from homes, but could not go because they did not have enough equipment to rescue those trapped in the rubble, and a few days later, the calls from the rubble were stopped.



Children in Gaza are not only dying in bomb attacks, in the rubble, from cold, hunger, or indiscriminate fire. They are being deliberately targeted by snipers or drones. International press organizations and international human rights organizations have compiled analysis reports on how children were targeted in the head and chest. Dozens of doctors have stated that children were shot at and targeted. The BBC report, which interviewed thirty doctors and nurses and examined hundreds of photos and videos they shared, as well as scans, medical notes, and daily records, included some of their testimonies.

In August 2024, Prof. Nizam Mamode, an NHS consultant and transplant surgeon who worked in Gaza for a month, stated, "We saw numerous armed attacks involving bullets hitting the head or chest, including children." He reported that most head injuries were treated by neurosurgeons, that X-rays showed "a bullet lodged in the brain of a three-year-old child," and that he no longer knew the exact number of children injured in the armed attack he personally witnessed, but that it was more than twenty.

Research conducted by the BBC on August 1, 2025, under the headline "Children killed by bullets to the head and chest in Gaza," which collected information on more than 160 children, revealed that medical images showed bullets lodged in the heads of children aged 12 years, 8 months, and 4 years.



In a video aired on Al Araby television in December 2023, Muhammad and his daughter Layan are seen lying side by side on the street. The related BBC news report, dated November 9, 2023, was about the father and young child being shot by Israeli snipers. Her sister Shahd stated: “We were walking together. We were in front of our father. He was playing with Layan and singing songs. As we passed a street branching off to the left, we saw a tank and started running. My father was moving slower because he was carrying Layan. When we looked back, he was lying on the ground. We ran back to help him. I reached out to grab my sister, then I was shot in the arm.” The bodies of little Layan and her father Muhammad remained on Hamid Street for days. Their funerals were held two weeks later, during a brief ceasefire, and they were buried by their neighbors.

The statements of the 30 doctors and nurses interviewed for the report, along with the hundreds of photos and videos they shared, as well as scans, medical notes, and daily records, detail at least 168 children, 90 of whom died. There are 95 cases of children being shot in the head or chest, and 67% of these children were under the age of 12.

Another armed attack under investigation involves the shooting of six-year-old Mira Tanboursa in the back on November 18, 2023. Her father Saaed stated, “The army told us they had established a safe corridor. Early that day, we fled from northern Gaza and passed through an Israeli army checkpoint. About a kilometer after that point, I was talking to a bus driver while Mira and other relatives were standing a few meters away. I turned around and a sniper shot my daughter Mira in the heart. I am sure it was a sniper because a single bullet hit her heart. Blood was flowing from her nose and mouth.” Indeed, as stated in the investigation reports, the statements of Israeli soldiers themselves indicate that children were deliberately targeted not only with weapons, but also with drones or missiles. Video footage shows that even a baby in its mother’s arms was bombed by a drone.

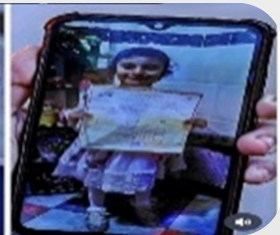


“The world cannot accept this kind of war, this kind of impact on children. Children were killed and injured in their homes, in tents, or while walking in the streets.”

Matthew Morris (Spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross)



The acronym WCNSF (Wounded Child, No Surviving Family), used to describe the large number of unaccompanied wounded children in Gaza who have lost their entire families, highlights the indescribable situation Gazan children find themselves in. As of August 2025, 40,176 children have been injured in Gaza as a result of Israeli attacks. 49,270 children have lost one or both parents. 990 children have been amputated. Over a million children are all deprived of food. 914,102 children have been deprived of education for two years. Their teachers have been killed, their schools destroyed. 4,912 children are waiting for medical evacuation but are not being allowed.



As Israeli attacks were generally carried out with indiscriminate, high-impact bombs, innocent civilians have lost their lives in horrific ways. Those who survived have suffered severe injuries, burns, and amputations. Tens of thousands of children in Gaza are now facing “permanent disabilities such as limb loss, paralysis, head trauma, and sensory loss.”





In December 2024, the United Nations announced that Gaza had “the highest number of child amputees per capita in the world.”

Israel’s blockade, evacuation orders that included hospitals, and the targeting of hospitals from the beginning rendered hospitals inoperable. A significant portion of surgeries, including amputations of limbs, were performed without anesthesia. Some casualties died because they could not receive treatment. Children are affected by the attacks the most, because Israel uses special particle beam weapons and ammunition.





A Palestinian baby, Misk Muhammad Al-Ahras, was brought to the Kuwait Special Desert Hospital covered in blood, along with many other wounded, after an airstrike targeted the tents of displaced persons in Al-Mawasi, near Khan Yunis, Israel, on the third day of Eid al-Adha. Misk has known pain even when he was just a baby. In Gaza, it is no longer just children but also babies who are enduring unbearable suffering.



The most tragic cases are babies who were amputated before they even learned to crawl. In Gaza, even babies who have not yet learned to crawl or speak have lost their arms and legs. In Gaza, babies have learned the harshest form of pain before they have even learned to speak.

Gaza has the highest number of amputee children per capita in the world. Many of these children underwent surgery without anesthesia and lost their limbs. There is no safe place in Gaza; a dignified human life is almost impossible. There are bodies left on the road; people showing signs of starvation are stopping trucks to look for anything they can take to survive. Even if people could return to their homes, most of them no longer have a home to go to.

Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General

Dünya Sağlık Örgütü, henüz Eylül 2024 itibarıyla Gazze’de 22.500 kişinin, 7 Ekim 2023’ten bu yana ağır uzuv yaralanmaları, amputasyonlar, omurilik travması, travmatik beyin yaralanmaları ve büyük yanıklar dahil olmak üzere yaşamı değiştiren yaralanmalar geçirdiğini açıklamıştır.



The World Health Organization has stated that, as of September 2024, 22,500 people in Gaza have suffered life-altering injuries since October 7, 2023, including severe limb injuries, amputations, spinal cord trauma, traumatic brain injuries, and extensive burns. Aid organizations and health institutions state that more than 10 children lose one or two limbs every day in Gaza, that many undergo surgery without anesthesia, and that most of these limbs could have been saved if the health system had not been completely destroyed.



UNRWA Secretary-Commissioner Philippe Lazzarini stated in his statement on December 3, 2024, that there is an “epidemic of disability” in Gaza. The attacks are also causing an “epidemic of traumatic injuries” with no rehabilitation services available.



In an environment where everyone has been displaced, the healthcare system has been rendered inoperable, aid organizations are not permitted to operate, support mechanisms have collapsed, and even adults cannot find anything to eat for days on end, it is highly unlikely that children without parents can cope with injuries, hunger, disease, and cold.



A photo shared by journalist Nahed Hajjaj on her social media account on August 25, 2025, illustrates the deafening silence surrounding children in Gaza: “Today I sat next to this beautiful girl whose home had been bombed. She wasn’t even crying. She is such a broken child that even her tears have dried up. The saddest sound is no sound at all; a child too hurt to cry. Now the real question comes: how will we tell her that her mother has been killed?”

For the past two years, children in Gaza have been experiencing the most severe events that no child in the world should ever witness.

As journalist Chris Hedges, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2002, wrote in his letter to the children, “You see your friends’ lifeless bodies. I am a reporter; it is my job to see this. You are a child, and you should never have to see this.”



Maha Al Ararir, whose face and neck were burned, lost almost her entire family after the Israeli attacks.

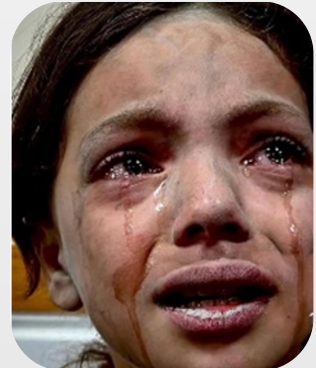




Journalists who have been war correspondents for twenty years say that their experiences cannot be compared even to a tenth of the atrocities witnessed by children living in Gaza. The testimonies reveal that what the children have experienced is beyond imagination. In February 2024, Hamza Abu Halima was stripped of his clothes, tortured, and photographed in northern Gaza. However, his brother Bilal's statements reveal something far worse than the photograph. Bilal's statement to Al Jazeera television is as follows: "They shot my father even though he was carrying a white flag, they shot my brother's wife, and the children stood next to their martyred mother for two days and cried. The occupation soldiers returned two days later and killed the children lying next to their dead mother."

*Children are not political actors.
They do not start conflicts, nor do
they have the power to stop them.
But they suffer greatly and wonder
why the world has let them down.
And without a doubt, we have let
them down.*

Catherine Russell,
UNICEF Executive Director



Tom Fletcher, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, stated on January 24, 2025, that over a period of 15 months, Palestinian children were killed, starved, and froze to death, and that, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), one million children needed mental health and psychosocial support due to depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

Children who have waited for hours in soup lines, been pulled from bombed-out ruins, and witnessed the deaths of their parents have no way of coping with this. A relief worker providing psychological support explains the devastating effect this has on children with the following words: “The children say they want to go to heaven with their parents, because at least there is food in heaven.”



The children have become unable to respond physically to the shock of the level of violence they have been exposed to, even to medical interventions performed without painkillers. The image of a little girl whose eyes did not close while a very deep cut was being stitched is an example of this.

Videos showing young children helplessly going into crisis every day for two years, while bombs exploded in the Gaza Strip demonstrate the helplessness children face.





In the video of a Palestinian girl asking her mother to run in the opposite direction because she was afraid of Israeli soldiers, just looking into the child's eyes is enough to understand the horror she will live with for the rest of her life.

As stated by UNICEF spokesperson James Elder in his statement dated October 18, 2024, the children of Gaza are “trapped in a cycle of suffering.” Palestinian children are witnessing the horrific effects of daily airstrikes and military operations, and the situation is worsening day by day. “Despite the intensive efforts of all aid agencies, children continue to suffer unspeakable pain every day. A year after the first forced evacuations, we see the international community watching history repeat itself. Let’s take another little girl I met earlier this month. When her family home was raided, her brother and sister lost their lives. The little girl suffered devastating injuries to her face; her face was almost torn off. Surgeons managed to hold the remaining structure together. However, she urgently needs a medical evacuation vehicle for specialized care. This request has been denied. Repeatedly. She is just one of more than 15,000 patients awaiting urgent medical evacuation, each with a similarly tragic story. If horror on this scale does not move our humanity and spur us into action, what else will? In December 2024, UNICEF stated that “the Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child.” For over a year now, this brutal reality, backed by evidence, has only grown stronger with each passing day. Yet, despite all these statements, concrete data, the hellish fires of burning tents, heart-wrenching cries, dozens of conversations I’ve had with helpless children missing limbs, doctors’ desperate pleas for medicine, and the rejection and delay of aid, no steps have been taken to alleviate the suffering. As the scenes unfolding in the north repeat themselves, the situation worsens. With each recurrence of last year’s events, the painful truth resurfaces: More Gazan children will be killed.”



As repeatedly complained by UN agencies, Israel generally does not allow even sick and injured children to leave the country, except in rare cases. On February 5, 2025, when it was announced that Gazans had no alternative but to leave permanently as part of a plan to turn Gaza into the Switzerland of the Middle East, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated on his social media account on February 6, 2025, “I have instructed the Israeli forces to prepare a plan that will allow anyone who wants to leave Gaza to do so to any country that is willing to accept them.” Katz said that the people of Gaza should have the freedom of movement and migration, just like anywhere else in the world. In reality, Palestinians do not have freedom of movement within their own country, and even medical evacuations are not permitted.

After Israel launched a ground operation in the city of Rafah in 2024, it completely cut off Gaza from the outside world via the Philadelphia Corridor. It did not allow humanitarian aid to enter, nor did it allow the wounded to leave. On October 25, 2024, James Elder, spokesperson for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), reported that children whose lives could have been saved by emergency medical care died because Israel did not allow medical evacuations in Gaza. It has been reported that under Israel’s intense attacks, on average less than one child per day can be medically evacuated from Gaza. Elder said, “At this deadly slow pace, it will take more than seven years to evacuate 2,500 children in need of urgent medical care.” As of August 2025, this number has reached 4,912.



On July 16, 2025, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell stated on her account that many children were “shot while queuing for life-saving humanitarian aid.” In Gaza, where hundreds of people have starved to death since the famine was declared, children are being killed in the queues while trying to receive humanitarian aid. If Palestinians do not go to humanitarian aid centers, where nearly two thousand people have been killed, their families will starve to death. As of August 27, 2025, the number of children who have died from starvation and lack of medicine in Gaza is 117. This number is increasing exponentially every day.

Children are the most affected by the famine in Gaza. Acute malnutrition and intestinal diseases have become widespread. The situation has worsened with the ban on nutritional supplements, vaccines, and special foods. Doctors report that the situation is particularly dire for infants and children under the age of five, who are at risk of long-term physical and cognitive damage. Deficiencies in critical nutrients such as protein, iron, zinc, and iodine lead to delayed growth and mental, linguistic, and motor development. Weakened immune systems leave children more vulnerable to infectious diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia. Without infrastructure and sewage systems, the bodies of people who cannot be buried are rapidly causing painful infectious diseases.

Thirst is as big a problem as hunger in Gaza. In November 2023, UNICEF warned that if children's access to water and sanitation in Gaza remained limited and inadequate, there would be a "tragic but entirely preventable increase in child deaths." This prediction has come true in 2025. Children face the threat of mass disease outbreaks. Even in the year 2024, there were cases of polio in Gaza. Due to the 16-year siege in Gaza, there has been a water problem before, with 84.6 liters of water available per person for drinking and use, but this rate is now 5 liters.



Abdullah Abu Zarqa, a five-year-old boy living in a tent in Khan Yunis, whose cries of "I'm hungry" broke the hearts of the entire world, died in hospital after suffering from organ failure following his evacuation from the Gaza Strip. Even if he is gone, no one with a conscience can forget his voice. Prolonged hunger and untreated illness are the norm for all children in Gaza. Even if they are saved, they will not have a long, healthy life.



Since ethnic cleansing has been the goal in Gaza from the very beginning, it is impossible to capture in a single report the suffering that a million Gazan children have endured for two years. The videos and photographs of the children reveal the medieval darkness that has been unfolding before the world's eyes for two years, leaving no room for further comment.

Women Severely Affected by the Consequences of Israel's Ethnic Cleansing Policies



A Palestinian mother carrying her dismembered child wrapped in her headscarf for hours

As of August 27, 2025, Israel has killed at least 8,990 women whose names have been identified. 21,700 women have been injured. 3,313 women have been confirmed to have miscarried. 350 women have been amputated.

UN population data shows that there were 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza on October 7, 2023. The reference to the “Amelek” people, who must be destroyed, repeatedly made by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and other officials, relates to the merciless killing of children and women breastfeeding their children.

A report released on January 29, 2025, by Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, revealed that Israel's attacks on Palestinian women are part of a systematic strategy of genocide. The killing of women and violence against reproductive health are being used as tools of genocide. Killing them because they are Palestinian and women constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity.



The UN Genocide Convention also prohibits actions that serve to prevent births within a group. As Reem Alsalem stated, Israel's actions, particularly its attacks on the reproductive capacity of Palestinians, serve this purpose. Accordingly, when the destruction of the health sector, the abandonment of newborn babies, and the horrific conditions deliberately created for pregnant and breastfeeding women are taken together, genocidal violence targeting the continuation of the generation has been deliberately instrumentalized to completely or partially destroy Palestinians.

According to UNFPA data, 800,000 women in Gaza have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Approximately 1 million women and girls are experiencing severe food insecurity. 700,000 women of reproductive age do not have access to even the most basic hygiene products. Due to inadequate medical care, psychological trauma, and constant bombardment, there has been a 300% increase in miscarriage rates. The maternal mortality rate in Gaza was 17.4 per 100,000 in 2022, but this rate rose to 145 per 100,000 in 2024.

As of January 2025, at least 1,410 Palestinian families have been completely erased from population records due to Israeli attacks. Alsalem states that 138 members of a single family in Gaza were killed, 35 of whom were women and 62 were children.

The bombing of Gaza's only IVF clinic, the inability of pregnant women to access emergency services, the destruction of health infrastructure, and the cutting off of water, fuel, electricity, and medical supplies are evidence of Israel's systematic attacks targeting Palestinian women's reproductive capacity and the source of life and continuity for Palestinians.

What is happening in Gaza surpasses any violence seen in recent modern history. Academics state that crimes such as "genocide" and "crimes against humanity" and the current legal terminology are insufficient to describe the tragedy unfolding in Gaza.



This is not just about genocide. It also means legicide and the complete elimination of the concept of legal boundaries in war.

Rob Howse, Professor of Law

Israel's actions in Gaza over many months have rendered the obligations to "protect civilians in conflict," particularly women and children, and other "red lines" meaningless. As stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, the term "femicide" (the killing of women) used to describe violence against women is insufficient to describe the situation in Gaza. Instead of defining it as femicide, it is more accurate to describe it as femi-genocide, as some academics have pointed out. This is because Palestinian women are being killed both because they are Palestinian and because they are women. This aims to partially or completely eliminating Palestinians as a group.

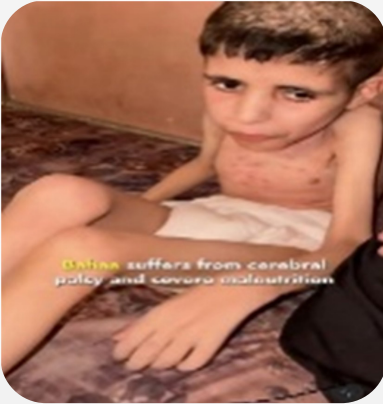


The same applies to “violence directed at reproduction.” One way of discriminating against women in times of conflict and war is to use war, violence, and subjugation as a means of control. Israel’s systematic, large-scale, and deliberate violence against the civilian population in Gaza, especially children and women, is unprecedented. Under international law and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Israel must not discriminate against any women, including Palestinians, in the territories it controls. Therefore, it is more accurate to describe this situation as “genocidal reproductive violence.”



Indeed, international data shows that women in Gaza, where life had already been turned into a living hell, face multiple problems. As UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell stated on July 16, 2025, Gaza’s health system is “fragmented.” Only 17 of 36 hospitals and 63 of 170 primary health centers are partially functioning. Due to shortages of medical supplies, five babies share the same incubator. Seventy percent of essential medicines are depleted. Half of all medical equipment is damaged, and pregnant women are giving birth without medical care.

As stated by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, shelters are overflowing with displaced people seeking safety, and nowhere is safe from hostilities. Many families are sheltering in abandoned, unfinished, or damaged buildings, while others, including children and pregnant women, are sleeping in the open.



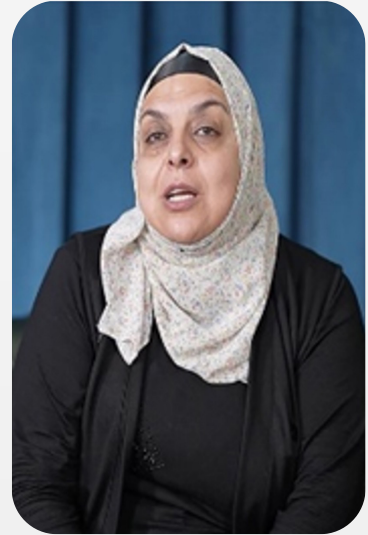
Women in Gaza are unable to meet even the most basic needs of their children. For example, Bahaa al-Nimr has cerebral palsy, and as the mother of a sick child, there is nothing his mother can do but watch her child's health deteriorate before her eyes.

In a letter sent to Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN, Danny Danon, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated that he had received "reliable information" about violations involving sexual violence against Palestinians by Israeli armed and security forces in numerous prisons, detention centers, and a military base. It is impossible to determine the extent of what is happening because Israel does not permit access for international organizations and independent observers.



A report published in August 2025 by the Palestinian human rights organization El-Awda stated that Palestinian women prisoners struggle with pests and poor hygiene in overcrowded cells, enduring daily strip searches and psychological abuse. The lack of basic living supplies and personal belongings further exacerbates the difficulties. The report documents systematic torture and sexual abuse of female prisoners in Israeli prisons, stating that torture and humiliation are not isolated incidents but are organized within the framework of Israeli policy

Israeli attacks are killing even unborn children. Fadia Malhis, an obstetrician at the Shifa Hospital in Gaza, Palestine, reported that a pregnant woman in northern Gaza went into labor at midnight and was struck by a missile as she left her home with her husband and his brother to go to the hospital. She stated that the pregnant woman died eight minutes after being brought to the hospital. She also told that they performed a caesarean section on another pregnant woman who was killed in an attack in the emergency room and delivered the baby, and that the baby's heart started beating again after their intervention. However, the baby died from internal bleeding because it was injured by missile fragments in its mother's womb during the attack and never opened its eyes to the world.



Malhis emphasized that even before October 7, Israel only provided electricity to Gaza for eight hours a day. She stated that after October 7, they first cut off the fuel and electricity to hospitals. "Because winter had started, it was very difficult to keep the babies in incubators warm. Babies who had survived the massacre and had no one were coming to us. They found one baby who came to us on top of a tree. Imagine, the pressure of the explosion was so great that it threw the baby from its crib onto a tree in front of the house." His own daughter is also pregnant. "Because Shifa Hospital and other hospitals were bombed, I delivered my daughter myself and performed the cesarean section without painkillers," he said.

Pregnant women in Gaza are in tears, saying, "I have no cloth to wrap my baby in when it's born, no clothes to dress it in, no way to wash it when it's born, no way to feed it if my milk doesn't come in." Mothers are dressing their babies in black plastic bags because they have no money to buy diapers.

In Gaza, where two million people have been displaced and half are forced to live in tents, babies are freezing to death and children and the elderly are dying of starvation after days of suffering because, in addition to attacks of unprecedented severity in any war or conflict, a total blockade has been imposed, preventing basic humanitarian needs and medical care from reaching them. The lack of water and hygiene supplies has led to the spread of infectious diseases. Not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank, an eight-month pregnant woman was shot by Israeli soldiers, and the ambulance was blocked to prevent the mother and her baby from being saved.



It is literally impossible to describe the suffering of women in Gaza.



An injured mother and child at Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, in the center of Gaza, exemplify the helplessness women face. Thousands of such heartbreaking scenes exist in Gaza.

Perhaps the most painful experience is not being able to feed their children for days as they cry, “I’m hungry,” and having to witness their organs failing and watch them dying of starvation before their very eyes.

Hunger and Man-Made Famine Used as Weapons of Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza

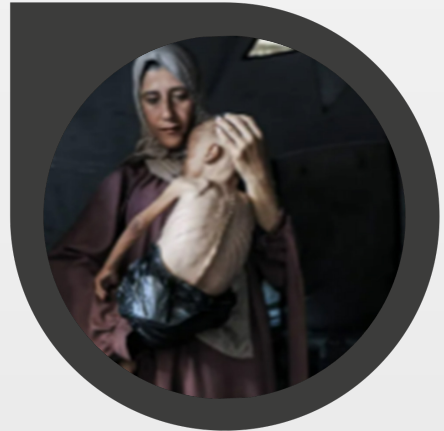


We are imposing a full blockade on Gaza. There will be no electricity, food, water, or fuel. Everything will be shut down. We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly.

October 9, 2023, Yoav Gallant
(Israeli Defense Minister)

Even if it leads to the deaths of 2 million Palestinians, blocking humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip is legitimate and ethical. I want a Jewish State that includes Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt, as well as parts of Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

August 8, 2024, Bezael Smotrich
(Israeli Finance Minister)



Israel's policy is clear: no humanitarian aid will enter Gaza.

April 16, 2025, Israel Katz,
Israeli Defense Minister



The mass starvation occurring in Gaza, where famine was declared in August and people began dying of hunger rapidly, is not a natural consequence of the conflict/war. According to international organizations, the famine was deliberately engineered to force the people of Gaza to flee their homeland and is “entirely man-made.” The famine, which could have been prevented if Israel had allowed it, has been used systematically and collectively as a weapon of war since October 9, 2023, when it was announced that there would be “no electricity, food, water, or fuel,” and since October 13, 2023, when 1.1 million people were ordered to move south toward the border.

Indeed, as recently as September 2024, Aluf Benn, editor of Haaretz, Israel’s oldest daily newspaper, stated that Israel had completed the first phase of the Gaza war and entered the second phase, preparing to annex northern Gaza and establish settlements for Israelis in the area, with starvation serving as a means to this end.

The inevitable result of the systematic destruction of agricultural areas and the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid, carried out over two years, was the official declaration of famine in Gaza by the UN-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on August 22, 2025. As of September 1, the number of people who have died of starvation in Gaza exceeds 350, and this number is increasing dramatically.



*Five-month-old baby
Ghadir Brika*

Famine is declared only under very specific conditions, and the IPC had previously declared famine only in Somalia in 2011, South Sudan in 2017 and 2020, and Sudan in 2024. The IPC defines famine as two out of every 10,000 people dying of hunger or malnutrition every day and one in three children being actively malnourished. Currently, one-third of Gaza’s population (641,000 people) is at level 5, in other words, facing “catastrophic levels of food insecurity.”

The sole reason for the famine that will affect hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza for the rest of their lives, if they survive, is Israel’s use of starvation as a weapon of war since the second day of the conflict two years ago to drive 2.3 million Gazans from their homeland.

The method was announced by Defense Minister Gallant in front of the press on September 9, 2023 and two years of testimony from international organizations, the International Court of Justice’s provisional measures ruling against Israel for genocide, and the International Criminal Court’s arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and then-Defense Minister Gallant have not been able to stop this

Israel has systematically destroyed all agricultural areas and livestock facilities, bulldozed farmlands, and left 2.3 million people dependent on humanitarian aid to survive. As of January 2025, Israel has blocked 93% of humanitarian aid. To undermine humanitarian aid efforts, Israel has sidelined the UNRWA, which has provided humanitarian aid during the 16 years of siege, and has banned other individual international aid organizations. From the very first months, it has attacked humanitarian aid organizations, obstructed their work, and killed their staff.

Because Israel does not allow aid into Gaza, the World Health Organization warned on March 5, 2024, that “children are dying of starvation.” Adele Khodr, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said, “As malnutrition ravages the Gaza Strip, the child deaths we feared are happening. These tragic and horrific deaths are man-made, predictable, and entirely preventable.”

At this point, independent international experts have been saying for the past year that the famine in Gaza should be officially declared due to Israel’s deliberate and systematic actions. The United Nations has been warning of famine for over a year. Despite this, after Israel began to openly declare its intention of occupation and annexation in February 2025, it stopped all food imports between March and May 2025. Israel established the Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation (GHRF), affiliated with Israel, to completely sideline the UN and international aid organizations by directing the people of Gaza to designated camps. Only four centers were planned to provide very short-term aid to 2.3 million people. Moreover, those who walked for hours to receive aid were also fired upon.

As of August 7, 2025, the number of people killed near humanitarian aid centers since May 27 has exceeded 1,700. This number has risen to 2,140 as of August 27, with more than 15,737 people injured. In June 2025, the Rafah Red Cross Field Hospital declared 12 mass emergencies in just two weeks. During this period, more than 900 wounded people were brought to the hospital, 41 of whom died. It was reported that most of those treated were trying to reach food distribution points when they were shot or wounded. The fact that 900 wounded were brought to a single field hospital within two weeks reveals how Israel used its aid center as a trap.

The families of those who did not go to humanitarian aid centers are facing the threat of death from starvation. When famine was declared, 271 people in Gaza were recorded as having died of starvation. However, it is stated that the actual numbers of those who did not reach the hospital due to hunger and thirst are much higher. As of September, this number has increased exponentially. The World Food Programme (WFP) has reported that 500,000 people in Gaza are facing “catastrophic” levels of hunger and 90,000 children are suffering from severe malnutrition.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Fakhri said, “What we are seeing in Gaza, which began on October 9, 2023, and continues today, is the fastest case of ‘starvation’ in modern history. We have never seen so many civilians starve so quickly and completely in modern history. This is because it is an occupation that has been going on since 1967, and it is Israel’s policy, which it has been implementing since 1948, of doing everything possible to drive the Palestinian people from their land and homes. Today, we see that it is no longer just occupation; now we see Israel trying to annex and seize the remaining Palestinian territories.”

Fakhri said, “The ceasefire was a slowdown in Israeli violence against the Palestinian people in Gaza. What we see today is how Israel is once again using humanitarian aid as a weapon and bargaining chip by refusing it. Israel is using this as leverage to pressure Palestine, essentially using the lives of Palestinian civilians as a leverage in negotiations. What we are seeing now is not another ceasefire, but a slowdown in killings because they are not using bombs and bullets, yet we continue to see people dying from hunger and disease.”



In his statement on August 28, 2025, Guterres said, “Famine is no longer a looming possibility, but a catastrophe of our time. People are dying of hunger. Families are being torn apart by displacement and despair. Pregnant women face unimaginable risks, and life-sustaining systems—food, water, health services—are being systematically dismantled.”

In August 2025, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for the annexation of Gaza in four stages, stating: “Water, electricity, and food must be cut off in the Gaza Strip. Those who do not die from bullets will die from starvation.”

This situation shows that the famine is not a result of the conflict, but rather a situation that was anticipated and desired from the outset. Speaking about the IPC report, UN Aid Coordinator Tom Fletcher pointed out that the famine is entirely preventable. Thousands of trucks filled with humanitarian aid are waiting on the other side of the border. The necessary mechanism is in place to get aid to the people. All that is needed is for Israel to allow the aid through and ensure passage. However, due to Israel’s systematic obstruction, food cannot reach the Palestinian territories.

As stated by Tom Fletcher, the UN humanitarian aid coordinator: “This is a famine that we could prevent if we were allowed to... But because of Israel’s systematic obstruction, food is piling up at the borders.”

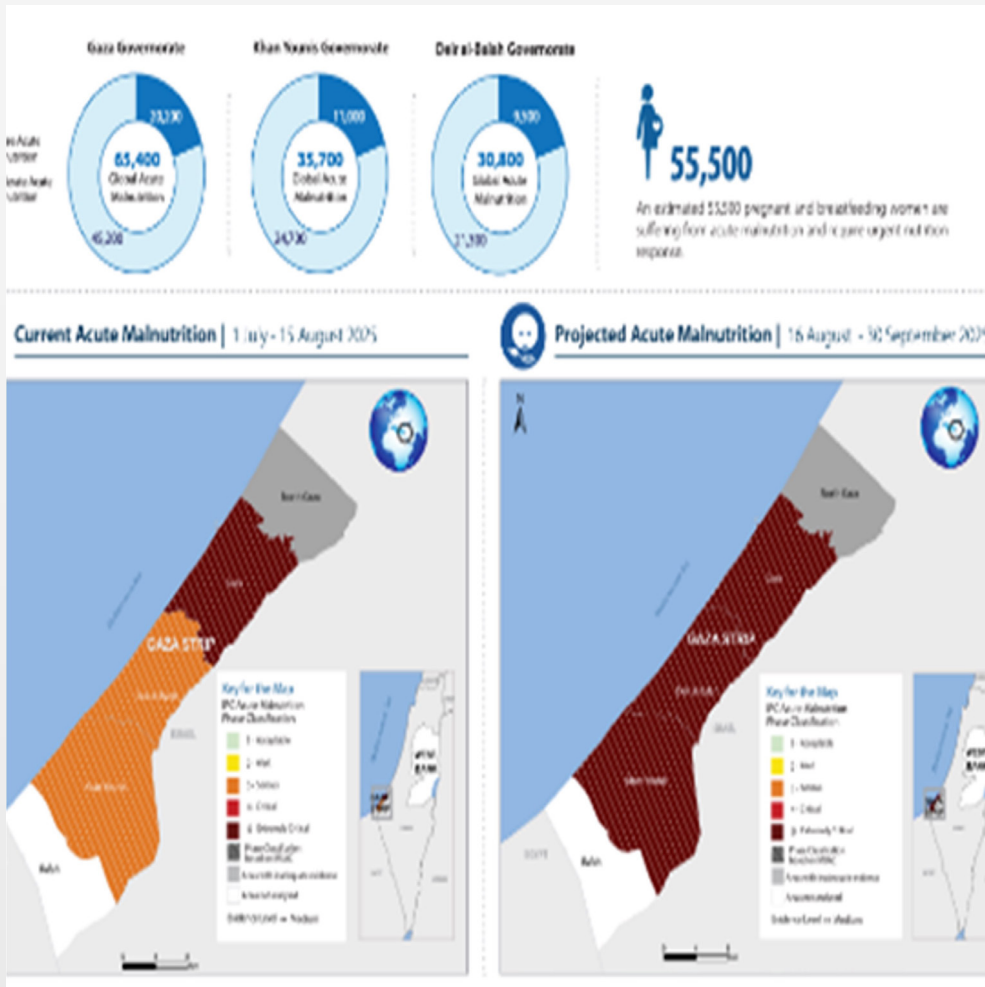


“They (Palestinians in Gaza) need to starve to death. If there are civilians concerned for their lives, they should implement the migration plan.”

May 6, 2025, Amichai Eliyahu
(Israeli Heritage Minister)

Repeated statements by Israeli ministers indicate that the reason for using starvation as a weapon since the second day of October 7 is to force Gazans to migrate.

As reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on July 29, 2025, prior to declaring famine, “The worst-case scenario of famine is currently unfolding in the Gaza Strip. Growing evidence indicates an increase in hunger-related deaths. Food consumption in most of Gaza has reached the famine threshold. Acute malnutrition is prevalent in Gaza City. The Israeli military has created widespread hunger by restricting aid access for months and implementing a food distribution system where people are shot almost daily.



The IPC forecasts that at least 132,000 children under the age of five will experience “acute malnutrition” by June 2026. This figure is approximately double the estimates made in May 2025. Among these cases, there are more than 41,000 children in severe condition who are at high risk of death. In addition, approximately 55,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women also require urgent nutritional support.

As stated in the August 22, 2025 Report, the most serious deterioration has been observed in recent months since Israel's attack on Gaza began in October 2023. According to IPC findings, "this famine is entirely man-made," and "after 22 months of relentless conflict, more than half a million people in the Gaza Strip are facing catastrophic conditions characterized by hunger, poverty, and death."

One of the causes of the famine, according to the IPC, is Israel's complete halt of humanitarian aid shipments earlier this year. The complete suspension of humanitarian and commercial food aid in March and April, followed by critically low levels of aid reaching the area until July and the collapse of local food production, has led to extreme food shortages.



Dr. Omar Harb, a Palestinian cancer patient, professor, and writer who lost his wife, several children, and seven grandchildren in previous Israeli airstrikes, died in September 2025 due to malnutrition and lack of medical care caused by the Israeli blockade.

As stated by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Israel has clear obligations under international law, including meeting the food and medical needs of the population. Because these obligations have not been met, all these events, which are impossible to describe in words, have been compounded by famine. "There are no words to describe what is happening in Gaza."



This famine is a direct result of Israel's deliberate policy of starvation in Gaza... The deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid, the destruction of life-sustaining infrastructure, and the direct killing of civilians are clear indications of how Israel is imposing living conditions aimed at the physical annihilation of Palestinians in Gaza as part of its ongoing genocide.

Erika Guevara Rosas, Spokesperson for Amnesty International



The famine warning in Gaza has been known for months. The World Health Organization has reported that acute malnutrition in northern Gaza has tripled as of July 2025, affecting nearly one in five children under the age of five, while in central and southern Gaza it has doubled. Treatment centers are “overflowing” due to malnutrition in Gaza. According to the IPC, more than 20,000 children have been treated for acute malnutrition between April and mid-July 2025. More than 3,000 are severely affected by starvation.

Indeed, General Giora, former Chairman of Israel’s National Security Council, stated in his article dated November 19, 2023, that Israel has no choice but to make Gaza uninhabitable, either temporarily or permanently, and that creating a humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a “necessary method” to achieve this goal. The plan shared on social media by Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich, who said he agreed with every word, has been implemented since the second day, when it was announced that there would be no water, electricity, or food in Gaza.



Following October 7 in Gaza, Israel struck water sources from the first week onwards, subsequently destroying and poisoning agricultural lands, destroying ports and fishing vessels, and eliminating approximately 93% of the economy in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors. Israel has destroyed nearly 97% of the livestock population in the Gaza Strip through bombardment and systematic starvation. Data from June 14, 2024, shows that Israel bombed cattle and sheep farms, bulldozed them, and, due to import restrictions, the relentless attacks have resulted in the near-total depletion of livestock, calves, and goats. Among the animals destroyed by Israel are pack animals, which were used as the last means of transportation amid fuel shortages and limited public transportation. Fishing boats were destroyed, preventing the coastal population of Gaza from feeding themselves by eating fish.

Israel has systematically rendered fields unusable not only with bombs but also with bulldozers and heavy machinery. Satellite images show that agricultural areas have been completely destroyed, eliminating the people’s ability to feed themselves.

The Guardian's report, based on United Nations data, shows that as of August 8, 2025, only 1.5% of arable land in Gaza remains usable as a result of Israeli attacks. According to data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this rate was 4% in April.

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu stated that Gaza is currently experiencing a full-scale famine, with people suffering from hunger not because there is no food, but because local agriculture and food systems have collapsed and families can no longer sustain even their most basic livelihoods.

The destruction of Gaza's food system has eliminated the ability of Palestinians in Gaza to feed themselves for decades. The man-made famine in Gaza is of such magnitude that it will negatively affect future generations for decades to come.

The World Food Programme (WFP)'s statement dated July 20, 2025, indicates that all of Gaza is facing starvation. Malnutrition is increasing, and 90,000 women and children require urgent treatment. Nearly one in three people have not eaten anything for days. The price of a kilo of flour in local markets has exceeded \$100. For most people, food aid is the only way to access any food.

Even before October 7, due to a 16-year siege, 500 trucks of humanitarian aid and 50 trucks of fuel were entering Gaza daily, where one million people were receiving daily aid. The need is much greater in Gaza, where 2 million people have been displaced and agricultural and fishing areas have been destroyed. However, Israel has blocked humanitarian aid from the outset.

Even before 2025, Israel had repeatedly attacked people distributing humanitarian aid and those gathered to receive it. On February 29, 2024, Israel attacked civilians desperately searching for food with tanks and machine guns, killing 112 Palestinians, injuring more than 700, and carrying out the "Flour Massacre." People who did not die under fire would die of starvation, so they could not leave the aid site and were crushed under the tanks. Over the past two years, Israel has repeatedly attacked crowds gathered to collect food, killing thousands.

The result is that two million people forced to flee their country are now directly facing starvation. Death by starvation is a "Silent Death" that occurs after weeks of suffering.

As stated in the testimony of Dr. James Smith, an emergency room doctor who volunteered twice in Gaza, on August 5, 2025, “This is one of the most barbaric ways to kill. It is prolonged and maximizes suffering. When a person goes without food for days, their metabolism slows down, kidney function deteriorates, and the immune system weakens. The body’s ability to heal diminishes, the heart and lungs weaken, and muscles shrink. Vital organs such as the heart and lungs become less effective. Eventually, with protein stores depleted, the body breaks down its own tissues as death approaches.”



In July 2025, Netanyahu posted on his social media account, “There is no starvation policy in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza.” On August 27, 2025 alone, the official number of people who died of starvation in Gaza was 10.

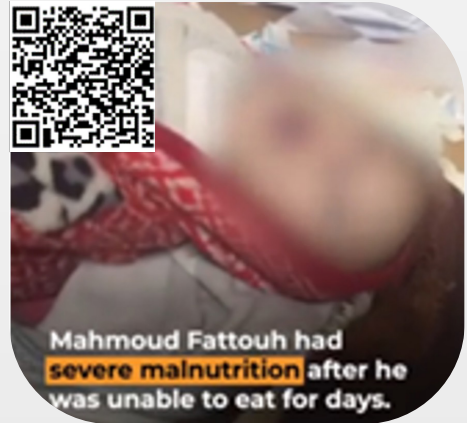
While babies are dying of starvation in Gaza, commentators on Israeli television laughingly say that the mother ate her baby’s food and the baby itself. On a program broadcast on Channel 14 television, host Shimon Riklin said of Tahrir Abu Daher, the mother of 4-year-old Razan Ebu Zaher, who died of starvation in Gaza, “Let’s show her photo on screen. When you see the mother, it will be clearer why the girl died of starvation. This is not a woman suffering from famine.” Reporter Tamir Morag laughed, saying, “No, this is not a woman suffering from famine. This is a woman who may have eaten all her child’s food, a woman who ate her child”. The notion that “there are no innocents in Gaza” resulted in TV commentators mocking the photo of a 4-year-old child dying of starvation in the 21st century after days of suffering in Gaza, where there is no milk or formula.

Moreover, this is not a method that existed after it was declared that the entire population of Gaza would be sent away after February 2025. Medical sources have confirmed that 16 children died of starvation in March 2024. WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said, “Unfortunately, the unofficial figures are likely to be higher.” One reason for the high child mortality rate is the malnutrition of new mothers. The WHO Director-General said that at least 300,000 Palestinians in northern Gaza are trying to survive on very little food and clean water, and that at least 576,000 people (a quarter of the population) face dire food insecurity and are close to starvation.



According to the UN, in February 2024, 378,000 people in Gaza were facing level 5 hunger, classified as ‘catastrophic’ according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale, while 939,000 people were facing level 4 hunger, known as ‘emergency’. Acute food insecurity in the Gaza Strip has exceeded the 15 percent threshold deemed “critical” by the World Health Organization, reaching 16.2 percent.

The UN has already warned of an “explosion” in child deaths due to food and water shortages in February 2024. Mahmoud Fatuh, a 2-month-old Palestinian baby who died of severe malnutrition at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in February 2024 because his family could not provide him with milk due to the famine created by Israel in the Gaza Strip.



As stated, famine in Gaza is a deliberate weapon used against the population. Those who managed to survive the air and ground attacks were left facing a slower but equally deadly fate. Thousands of children, weakened and visibly distressed, are forced to wait for hours in long lines outside charity kitchens run by a handful of volunteers. These temporary food stations provide only a minimal amount of supplies. The scenes of children desperately struggling just to eat reveal the experiences of a generation torn apart by war, fear, and deprivation.



The biggest victims of hunger are the one million children in Gaza. At such a young age, they are forced to wait for hours to receive aid.



Children in Gaza, such as Mohamed Zakaria Ayub Al-Matuk, face malnutrition that threatens their lives.

Gazans say, “We need 300 shekels (US\$90; £66.50) every day just for flour.” Their only means of survival is aid organizations. Israel not only denies aid organizations access but also kills their workers. The result is more children dying every day.



Gazze, yakın tarihin en büyük ekokırımına sahne oluyor

Gazze Şeridi'ndeki 150 kilometrekarelik tarım arazisinden Haziran 2024'te alınan veriler, son 7 yıllık ortalamaya göre yüzde 63 verim kaybı yaşandığını gösterdi

Gazze Şeridi'ndeki tarım arazileri alanı

150 km²

Tahribata uğrayan tarım arazileri alanı

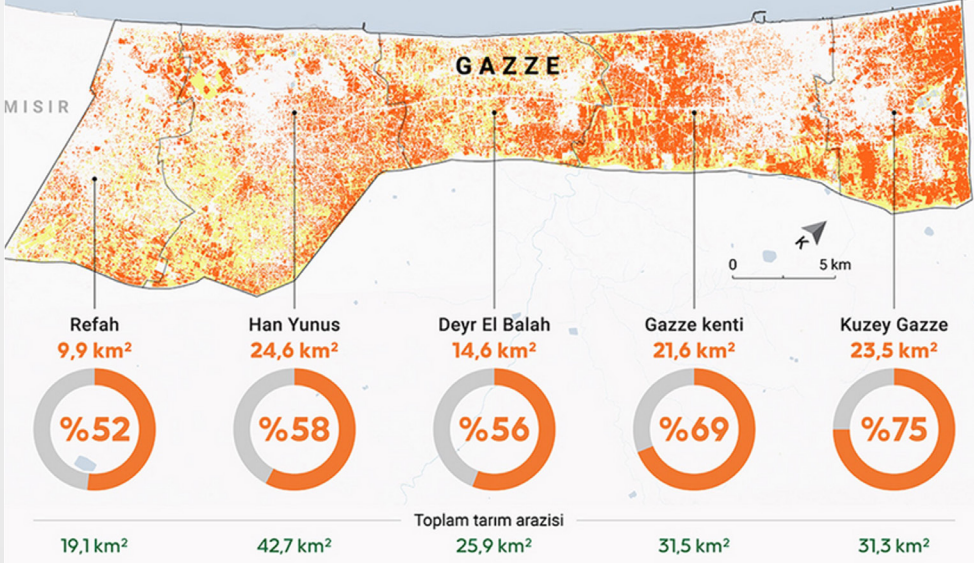
94,2 km²

Ağır bombardıman altındaki Gazze'de tarım alanları tahrip oldu

■ Tarım arazileri

■ Tahribata uğrayan tarım arazileri

Akdeniz



Doğal çevreye kapsamlı, uzun dönemli ve ciddi zararlar verilmesi anlamına gelen ekokırım, Roma Statüsü'nde savaş suçu olarak kabul ediliyor

Ekim 2023-Mayıs 2024 arasında çöplerin biriktirildiği 225 atık sahası tespit edildi

Çöp sahalarının büyüklüğü uydu görüntülerinden tespit edilebilecek boyutta

Bölgede 150-200 kuş türü, 20 civarında memeli türü ile nadir ve nesli tehlike altında olan 20 sürüngen türü bulunuyor. İsrail saldırıları biyolojik çeşitliliği riske atıyor

08.10.2024

Kaynak: OCHA, UNOSAT, PAX for Peace, Filistin Yönetimi'ne bağlı Çevre Kalite Kurumu



As of September 2024, according to reports from 15 international humanitarian aid organizations, 83% of humanitarian aid has not been allowed to enter Gaza.

As of April 9, 2024, UN Spokesperson Jens Laerke stated that food convoys bound for the north, where 70% of the population faces famine conditions, are three times more likely to be rejected than humanitarian aid convoys carrying other types of supplies. The United Nations reported that Israel blocked more convoys carrying food aid than those carrying other types of aid in Gaza, where famine had set in. The situation worsened significantly in 2025. Israel also generally prevented volunteer organizations from distributing aid in Gaza. It did not allow Gazans to eat a plate of food after waiting all day.

In a joint statement on July 23, 2025, 109 humanitarian organizations warned, “While the Israeli government’s blockade is starving the people of Gaza, aid workers are joining the same food lines, risking being shot to feed their families. As supplies are completely depleted, humanitarian organizations are witnessing their colleagues and partners melt away before their eyes.”

UN data from August 19, 2025, indicates that 450 humanitarian aid workers have been killed in Gaza. 2024 is recorded as the year with the highest number of humanitarian workers killed. There was a 31% increase in humanitarian worker deaths in 2024 compared to 2023. Of these, 181 were killed in Gaza. There is no sign that this trend will be reversed in the first eight months of 2025. As of August 14, 265 aid workers have been killed. Most of the humanitarian workers killed were local staff serving their communities. It has been reported that these people were attacked while on duty or at home, that 308 more aid workers were injured in 2024, 125 were abducted, and 45 were detained. The highest number of deadly attacks on aid workers occurred in southern Gaza in March 2025. This period coincides with Israel’s stated intention to take over Gaza.





As stated by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Emergency Coordinator Amande Bazerolle on April 16, 2025, “Gaza has been turned into a mass grave for Palestinians and those who came to help them.”

The images of children literally reduced to skin and bones from starvation are the clearest evidence of a genocide unprecedented in modern history.

Attacks on humanitarian workers, assets, and operations not only violate international humanitarian law, but also undermine the livelihoods of millions of people trapped in war and disaster zones. UN Secretary-General Guterres drew attention on August 19, 2025, to the fact that attacks on aid workers have reached record levels. Accordingly, life-saving aid is increasingly under threat.



The images reveal how babies are suffering from a lack of food and medical care. The effects of genocide are likely to continue for generations.

The Use of Humanitarian Aid as a Tool for Ethnic Cleansing

(Aid organization in Gaza) It's a rat trap. There are people writhing in hunger, in misery. You promise them a little cheese. And when they get there, the Israeli army opens fire on them with glee. This is pure sadism.

Norman Finkelstein
Academic and Author

This is a massacre. The goal is to erase the lives of Palestinians from Gaza. The price of trying to survive is the death penalty.

Jonathan Whittall
(Head of the UN Humanitarian Aid Coordination Office in
Gaza and the West Bank)

Israeli Army Spokesperson Adraee, in a written and video statement on social media in August 2025, called for Palestinians in northern Gaza to migrate to southern areas. Arguing that the “evacuation” of the city of Gaza, which they plan to occupy, is “inevitable,” Adraee stated that Palestinians, whom they are imposing starvation upon, “will receive more aid if they go south.”

In the south, Gazans are also faced with the risk of either their families starving to death or being killed while waiting for humanitarian aid. Jonathan Whittall, head the United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Aid Coordination Office in Gaza and the West Bank, stated on June 23, 2025, that “there is a horrific pattern of Israeli forces killing people gathered to access food.” This is because, as of September 2, 2025, the number of Palestinians killed in systematic attacks targeting Israeli-affiliated aid distribution points since May 27 has reached 2,294, with 16,839 wounded.

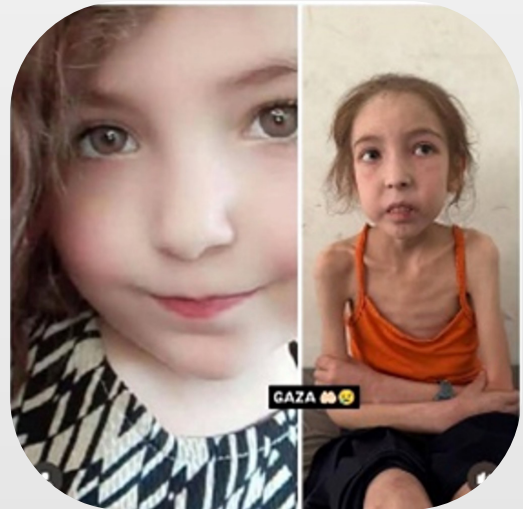
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the backbone of aid operations in the Gaza Strip. Israel has already blocked the existing United Nations system at this point, which was operational during the previous 16-year siege. Approximately two million Palestinians have been displaced from their homes, and while there is a shortage of food, water, and medicine in Gaza, on October 29, 2024, the Israeli parliament approved a bill blocking UNRWA's aid activities in Gaza.

Indeed, since October 7, UNRWA and other UN support mechanisms have been deliberately obstructed by Israel. On January 30, 2025, Israel completely banned UNRWA's activities in Israel and occupied East Jerusalem. To mitigate the international community's reaction, it established the Humanitarian Relief Foundation in Gaza about a month after this decision.



Israel halted food deliveries and electricity supplies even during the ceasefire in January 2025. On March 2, Israel stopped all humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip, and on March 9, it cut off electricity supplies to the Gaza Strip. Israel then violated the ceasefire and carried out a massive destruction, killing 400 people in a single day. On May 5, 2025, Israel's security cabinet approved an attack plan that also aims to expand the occupation in the Gaza Strip. The first phase of the plan involves the occupation of more areas in Gaza and the expansion of "buffer zones." Unlike previous occupations of areas captured by ground attacks, it has been reported that Israeli soldiers will not withdraw after the attacks are over and will continue their occupation of these areas.

Defense Minister Israel Katz stated on April 16, 2025, "Israel's policy is clear: preventing any humanitarian aid from entering Gaza. No one is currently planning to allow any humanitarian aid to reach Gaza, and there are no preparations for such aid to be delivered."



Israel did not allow any aid organizations to enter Gaza between March and June 2025. During the 80-day full closure, 58 people died of malnutrition. A further 242 people, mostly elderly, died due to a lack of access to food and medicine. In addition, more than 300 miscarriages were recorded as a result of pregnant women being unable to access the nutrients necessary to sustain their lives.

Approximately 130 days later, in July 2025, although Israeli authorities allowed a limited amount of fuel to enter Gaza by permitting two trucks per day, five days a week, gasoline for ambulances and other critical services was not permitted.

On May 4, 2025, the Israeli security cabinet approved the attack plan presented by Chief of Staff Zamir, which would expand and make permanent the occupation of Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also stated that they would permanently occupy the entire Gaza Strip, that they were in contact with some states regarding the expulsion of Palestinians to other countries, and that they were continuing their efforts to implement the plan. Israel has deliberately closed all border crossings to isolate Gaza and eliminate basic means of survival. Aid convoys carrying food, medicine, and basic supplies have been blocked. Calls for humanitarian aid have been ignored. It has been stated that aid will be provided through organizations authorized by Israel.



On May 22, 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that an aid mechanism would be put in place, that the construction of the first distribution areas would be completed in the coming days, and that Israel “plans to establish large safe zones in southern Gaza.” Netanyahu stated, “While we fight in other areas, Palestinians will move there for their own safety.”

The Prime Minister’s statement confirms reports in the Israeli press. According to the Israeli press, the three-stage plan envisages the deportation of Palestinians to “camps” established by the Israeli army in April in the south of the Gaza Strip to distribute enough aid for their survival, and the intensification of attacks in areas cleared of Palestinian population to make the occupation permanent. In this context, four camps are planned to be established: one in the Netzarim Corridor to drive Palestinians in the north of the Gaza Strip further south using starvation as a weapon, and three in the Morag Corridor to gather all those in the south in a single area.



Images from the distribution point controlled by GHF are being compared by social media users to a symbolic photograph taken in concentration camps established by the Nazi Germany during World War II.

It is anticipated that the “Gaza Humanitarian Aid Foundation” will distribute aid to 2.3 million people from a total of four distribution centers. It has been stated that Israel aims to completely monopolize aid distribution and to transfer Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to “camps” in regions of its choosing in order to deport them to other countries.

Indeed, Israeli Defense Minister Yisrael Katz announced on July 24, 2025, that he had instructed Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir to prepare a plan to establish a “humanitarian aid city” in Rafah with the aim of deporting Palestinians to other countries. Katz stated that they aimed to transfer 600,000 Palestinians to the area in the first stage, followed by all Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and that they would establish a “tent city” for this purpose, adding that Palestinians who entered the area would not be able to return to other parts of the Gaza Strip. He stated that this was “very important for Israel” in order to implement the deportation of Palestinians to other countries under the name of “voluntary emigration.”

Israeli Heritage Minister Eliyahu said on a local radio program on the same day that “all of Gaza will be Jewish.” International human rights organizations describe Israel’s gathering of Palestinians at gunpoint, monopolizing humanitarian aid, not as a “humanitarian aid city” but as a “concentration camp” aimed at sending Gazans out of Gaza.

In a report published in June 2025 by Israeli Professor Yaakov Garb of Harvard University, regarding the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), established it as an Israeli-affiliated aid plan, he stated: “These aid organizations are more about controlling the population than providing aid. Therefore, calling them ‘humanitarian aid centers’ is misleading. These centers are not consistent with humanitarian principles.”

The foundation, established in Geneva, Switzerland, was claimed by Israel to be “independent.” However, even GHF Director Jake Wood announced that aid distribution could not be carried out in accordance with “humanitarian principles” and resigned the day before the opening ceremony. Wood stated that implementing the aid plan was incompatible with humanitarian principles, that fundamental principles such as neutrality, humanity, and independence could not be compromised, but that many practical obstacles, primarily security, made the plan unworkable.

Reports in The New York Times and Israel’s Times of Israel newspaper stated that the foundation project was Israel’s idea and was established at a meeting attended by Israeli civilian and military officials and businesspeople “to distribute aid to Gaza without using UN aid channels.” The Israeli newspaper Haaretz, meanwhile, stated that the security company S.R.S. was able to enter Gaza “without obtaining security clearance.” It stated that the company and the Humanitarian Aid Foundation for Gaza were the product of the efforts of a team close to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Yair Lapid, leader of the main opposition party Yesh Atid, said that the Tel Aviv administration was behind the humanitarian aid organization in Gaza and that the government was lying to the public.

The United Nations and international aid organizations have pointed out that this system will pave the way for Israel to use humanitarian aid as a weapon and to evacuate other areas of the Gaza Strip with the weapon of starvation, which it cannot evacuate with “expulsion orders.”

There are thousands of trucks waiting at the Israeli border, carrying aid supplies that are rotting inside. If Israel allowed the aid trucks waiting at the border to pass, an international aid system that has been operating for years under siege would already be operational. Despite this, it is stated that only four centers have been opened for 2.3 million people, three of them in the south, and only open for a very short time although not all of them are operational.

The United Nations has stated that the organization’s activities “are incompatible with humanitarian principles and serve political purposes.” Tom Fletcher, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, described the aid distribution plan carried out by this organization as “a cover for more violence and forced displacement” at a UN Security Council session. It has been stated that the organization has made its aid contingent on political and military objectives and has turned hunger into a bargaining chip.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced on May 23, 2025, that they would not participate in any aid plan that does not respect international law and the principles of humanity and integrity.

As stated by Fletcher, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his briefing to the UN Security Council on May 19, 2025: “The problems with the initial plan proposed by Israel, which would force further displacement, put thousands of people at risk. It limits aid to only part of the Gaza Strip and fails to meet other critical needs. It makes aid contingent on political and military objectives.”

UN rapporteur Albanese has described Gaza’s new aid system as “humanitarian camouflage” and “a tactic of genocide.”

The Israeli-affiliated GHF announced on May 27, 2025, that it had “begun operations in Gaza” and that trucks had set out to distribute aid. The Israeli army announced that two aid distribution centers on the Morag Corridor had begun operations. During this period, Israel divided the Gaza Strip into cantons and declared more than 80 percent of it a forbidden zone for Palestinians.



Thousands of people in Gaza are gathering to receive aid.

In Gaza, where 2.3 million people, whose agricultural and livestock facilities have been destroyed, are left in need of daily humanitarian aid, aid has been delivered at specific points, and people trying to obtain humanitarian aid have been shot in the head and vital areas and killed.

People prefer to die by bullets rather than starve to death in order to receive aid, because if Gazans do not come to these centers, their families will starve to death. Therefore, they continue to come to the centers at the cost of dying by bullets.



In a video dated July 12, 2025, hundreds of gunshots, sound bombs, and sniper fire can be seen raining down on thousands of starving Palestinians, massacring civilians near a GHF aid distribution point, killing 30 people and injuring 180. People are left with the choice of dying from starvation or bullets.

Humanitarian organizations reported that the Israeli army killed more than 1,050 Palestinians trying to obtain food one day after the launch of a controversial aid distribution mechanism, an alternative to the UN-led mechanism. According to the UN Human Rights Office, 766 people were killed near four aid bases of GHF, located in Israeli military zones and operated by US private security companies. Another 288 people lost their lives near UN and other aid convoys. Between May 27 and June 19, 2025, Israel killed 397 people waiting for aid. The United Nations stated that between June 17 and 30, 2025, at least 580 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach the Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation or aid convoys. The number of people killed by Israel for coming to receive humanitarian aid exceeded 1,700 within a few months, then surpassed 2,000.



A Palestinian who had to go to the aid center said, “It’s hard to even imagine the trouble and sorrow we are going through. We have to set out 4-5 hours early to get food, sleep on the streets, and wait for the aid centers to open. Before the centers open, we are caught in heavy fire. We are surrounded by dead and wounded people, and even though we see them, we can’t do anything. Because at that moment, we are preoccupied with our own survival.”



On June 17, 2025, the Gaza Ministry of Health reported that 59 Palestinians waiting for an aid truck in Khan Yunis in the south were killed by Israeli tanks. Witnesses who saw Israeli tanks open fire on the Palestinian crowd described it as “like a horror movie.” Musab Barbakh, 22, said, “At around 8:30 in the morning, I was sitting with a group of young people when suddenly a bullet fell right in the middle of us. Then a missile was fired and random gunshots were heard. The place was covered with dead bodies, wounded people, and pools of blood. Cars were exploding, bodies were being torn apart... Everywhere I looked, there were body parts, blood, and corpses.”

Palestinian health officials reported that at least 59 people were killed and 221 wounded, 20 of them seriously, in the attack. Mohammed Saqer, head of department at the Nasser Medical Center in Khan Yunis, said, “The wounded were piled on top of each other and brought to us in donkey carts. Some carried around 20 wounded.” Their only crime was going to aid centers so their families would not starve to death.

Again, on June 17, 2025, the Israeli army opened fire on Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Yunis. It was reported that at least 45 civilians were killed in the attack and many more were seriously injured. On June 20, 2025, Palestinians waiting near the Netzarim Corridor in the south of Gaza City in the hope of receiving humanitarian aid were attacked by the Israeli army. At least 34 dead and wounded, including children, who had walked for miles to reach aid points to meet their basic food needs, were brought to the burned-down Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.



Civilians are being directed to tightly controlled points surrounded by Israeli snipers under the pretext of providing aid. Witnesses, videos, and medical personnel report that Israeli forces repeatedly opened fire on the crowd and ambushed civilians trying to reach aid trucks.



On June 19, 2025, thousands of starving Palestinians in northern Gaza flocked to humanitarian aid distribution centers set up by the Israeli-controlled “Gaza Humanitarian Aid Foundation” on the Coastal Road in the Sudaniyye area to receive food parcels. This image is one of the most barbaric examples of how hunger is being used as a weapon in Gaza. Some Gazans, who walked for miles to reach the aid center, returned home with a sack of flour. Some returned with a sack of flour, some carried a martyr on their shoulders, and others carried dead or wounded bodies on their shoulders.





A Palestinian speaking to BBC Arabic in July 2025 said, “Both my children are crying because they haven’t eaten anything in four days. I went to the distribution point. I was hoping to get a bag of flour for home. But I didn’t know what to do there. Should I rescue the wounded, carry the martyrs, or try to find a bag of flour? I swear, if I knew I could bring home a single bag of flour and feed my children, I would accept death.”



The video shared in the AP report shows private security teams working in humanitarian aid distribution areas in Gaza shouting enthusiastically as Israeli soldiers open fire on civilians. The video shows civilians gathered to receive aid trying to retreat in panic and chaos, while company security cheered in support of the gunfire, shouting, “Hell yeah, boy!”

The situation in Gaza is described as ‘the use of starvation as a weapon,’ ‘forced displacement,’ and ‘death sentences for those trying to survive.’ We actually have a plan. But we keep getting blocked, so we can’t implement it. The goal is to erase the lives of Palestinians from Gaza.

*Jonathan Whittall
(Head of the UN Humanitarian Coordination Office in Gaza and the West Bank)*



In Gaza, all these people are hungry, deprived, gathering every day under the heat for one meal. The vast majority return without getting anything. Many are also targeted by Israeli bullets.

Parents say they kiss their children goodbye before going to receive humanitarian aid, because they don’t know if they will return. The UN’s statement on August 28, 2025, indicates that mostly children and young men are being killed around aid centers.



Amir, an 8-year-old boy who came to the aid center, received a kilo of lentils and a kilo of flour, kissed the aid worker’s hand in gratitude, thanked him in English, and was then killed by Israeli soldiers.

American soldier Anthony Aguilars recounted what happened during his time working at the GHF aid distribution point in a podcast he made in August 2025. “Amir, a frail child, walked 12 kilometers barefoot under the sun to reach the distribution point. He could only get one package of rice and lentils from the ground. He came to me, kissed my hand, and said ‘Thank you’ in English. Minutes later, as he was leaving with other civilians, the Israeli army fired tear gas and bullets, and Amir died at the scene.”





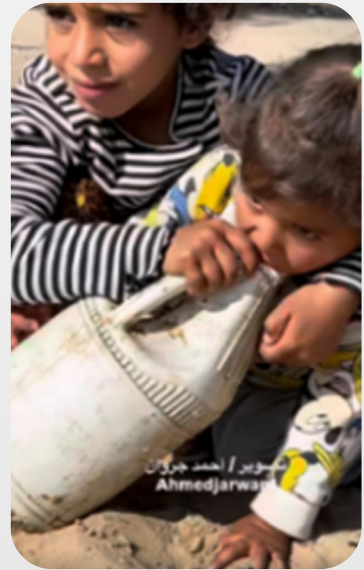
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson James Elder stated on August 5, 2025, that comprehensive evidence and data collected from those on the ground point to a horrific situation in Gaza. According to Elder, “there is a population experiencing unprecedented levels of malnutrition and lack of access to services. We have seen a significant increase in the number of children believed to have died of starvation. Let us not forget that the vast majority of severely malnourished children are now ten times more likely to die from causes such as pneumonia, measles, or other illnesses. It is very difficult to record these deaths at present.”

British surgeon Graeme Groom, who has traveled to Gaza 44 times and served in Gaza as part of the volunteer medical team of the UK-based aid organization Islamic Help and its partner organization IDEALS, emphasized that the hunger crisis in Gaza is deepening and reaching the scale of a humanitarian disaster. He stated that when he first arrived in the region as a volunteer doctor, he focused on treating the wounded, but a doctor working at a malnutrition clinic in Gaza told him that “12 children are diagnosed with severe malnutrition every day.” There was no formula available for newborn babies. Therefore, they could not get regular formula either. From the start of the blockade until May 27, when I visited the malnutrition clinic, 60 of these children had died.” Dr. Groom stated that he had messaged Niza Abu Dhaka, an anesthesiologist he had worked with in the region for years, in July 2025, and that Abu Dhaka had been able to find only 8 kilograms of flour for \$300 three days earlier, which was all the money the doctor had, that they could make bread for a few days with the flour the doctor had on hand, but they had nothing else to eat for the future. When he asked her what her six children, aged 2.5 to 13, had eaten in the last two days, she said they had licked some salt and filled their stomachs with water to be able to sleep.



As of July 2025, the situation in Gaza has deteriorated significantly. Water wells have dried up or are located in dangerous areas that Israel has declared off-limits and where anyone entering is shot. The health infrastructure has become inoperable, and diseases are spreading rapidly. As stated by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell on July 16, 2025, the entire region (95%) faces water insecurity due to reduced water production capacity. As access to clean water becomes increasingly difficult, children have no choice but to drink contaminated water. This situation increases the risk of epidemic diseases.

Our warehouses are empty. Displaced families are fleeing with nothing, and we have nothing to give them. Partially functioning hospitals are overflowing due to mass deaths occurring almost daily. Some hospitals are being directly targeted, while others are struggling due to insufficient fuel and evacuation orders. In Gaza, where water sources were hit in the first week, a major crisis in drinking water supply is unfolding as of August 2025 due to the blocking of fuel supplies needed to operate wells and treatment plants. Ninety percent of Palestinians in Gaza can no longer find a water source. A major water shortage for domestic use is being experienced due to the blocking of fuel supplies used to operate wells and purification plants.



There is absolute famine in Gaza, and this famine is not natural but artificially created. Hunger and malnutrition have a significant impact on wounded patients. It is hindering their recovery and greatly increasing their risk of dying from their wounds by increasing infection rates. When it comes to children, malnutrition slows their development and causes permanent damage. What we are witnessing right now is the horrific evil of medieval barbarism.

Dr. Graeme Groom, British surgeon who served in Gaza

Death, Destruction, and Displacement in the West Bank



2025 will be the year of the “annexation” of the West Bank.

November 11, 2024, Bezael Smotrich (Israeli Finance Minister)

The West Bank is a region where 3.3 million Palestinians live, divided by walls, cut off from roads, and their land confiscated, under occupation according to the law. Israel has increased its raids in the West Bank since October 7. Even during the brief ceasefire that took place on January 19, 2025, which Israel violated in March, the intensity of attacks in the West Bank has continued to increase. As of September 3, 2025, at least 1,016 Palestinians have been killed and approximately 7,000 injured in attacks by the Israeli army and Israelis seizing Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023. Over 18,500 Palestinians have been detained.

Settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem constitute war crimes in and of themselves. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the occupying power from transferring its population into the occupied territory. Attempts to annex the West Bank and impose Israeli sovereignty violate international law and United Nations resolutions. In particular, they contradict UN Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and 2334 (2016), which invalidate any attempt to legitimize Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. Israeli officials have repeatedly declared that the West Bank will also be annexed.

In a statement made at his party’s group meeting in February 2025, Smotrich said that the Israeli army would do in the occupied West Bank what it did in Gaza, and that Israel would bring the occupied West Bank completely under its sovereignty. He said that the West Bank cities of Tulkarm, Jenin, Nablus, and Ramallah would resemble the cities of Gaza. “These places will also become uninhabitable ruins, and their residents will be forced to emigrate and seek a new life in other countries,” he said.



Israeli Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich announced on September 3, 2025, that he had presented a plan envisaging the annexation of approximately 82 percent of the West Bank by Israel. It was stated that this proposal aimed to prevent the establishment of a potential Palestinian State. Smotrich announced his proposal under the slogan “Maximum territory, minimum population.”

The decision to annex the West Bank to Israel was approved by the Israeli Parliament on July 23, 2025, with 71 votes in the 120-seat parliament. The text of the resolution, which was opposed by 13 members of parliament, stated that the West Bank is a “historical, cultural, and spiritual homeland” for the (Zionist) Jewish people. It also takes a clear stance against the two-state solution model, stating that the idea of a Palestinian state should be removed from the agenda. The resolution calls for “the application of Israeli sovereignty to Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley.” It calls on the Israeli government to take steps in this direction. The motion, submitted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition, is declaratory in nature. It has no direct legal binding force. Nevertheless, it has the power to bring the issue of annexation to the agenda of future parliamentary debates. The Israeli Knesset’s decision is an indication of its will to translate its de facto control over the West Bank into a political reality.

At this point, Israel’s sole target is not only Gaza, which it has rendered completely uninhabitable. Israel’s second theater of attack is the West Bank, where life is made extraordinarily difficult by walls and checkpoints.

Indeed, the UN has stated that the increase in attacks in the West Bank, along with displacement and deaths, constitute war crimes. UNICEF’s statement dated May 9, 2025, reveals that since October 7, 2023, a child has been killed every two days in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. On July 23, 2024, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell stated, “Children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been living amid horrific violence for years. With the escalation of hostilities in Gaza, the situation has become even more dire. In recent days, we have frequently encountered allegations that Palestinian children are being detained on their way home from school or shot while walking in the street. The violence must end immediately.”

Even before October 7, there was a continuous increase in Israeli settlements; confiscation of Palestinian property, physical violence by Israeli settlers, discriminatory planning laws, confiscation of Palestinian natural resources, demolition of Palestinian homes under various pretexts, two separate and unequal legal regimes, forced displacement of Palestinians, a constantly shrinking regional area for Palestinians, the denial of the right of Palestinians, who have lived on the same land for over three thousand years, to determine their own destiny, and finally, the apartheid regime and annexation, resulting in Palestinians being unable to actually exercise any of the rights guaranteed to them in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in their own country.

In its Advisory Opinion dated 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice stated that the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful; that the State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as soon as possible; that the State of Israel is under an obligation to immediately cease all new settlement activities and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territories; that the State of Israel is under an obligation to make full reparation for all damage caused to all natural or legal persons in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; that all States are under an obligation not to recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining that situation; that international organizations, including the United Nations, are under an obligation not to recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and that the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly and the Security Council, which requested this opinion, should consider what further measures are necessary to bring to an end, as soon as possible, the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Meanwhile, Israeli ministers and the Parliament are taking steps toward “annexation.”

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar stated in an interview with the Israel Hayom newspaper in May 2025 that they would unilaterally annex the settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley. Prior to this, Israeli Justice Minister Yariv Levin, in a meeting with the head of the settlements council in the northern West Bank, said, “The time has come to impose Israeli sovereignty on the West Bank,” adding, “I believe this period is a historic opportunity that we must not miss, beyond the current problems.”



In July 2025, fourteen ministers from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud Party called for the annexation of the West Bank. In a letter addressed to Netanyahu by the ministers, they demanded the immediate annexation of the occupied West Bank. In the letter shared by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, the ministers who signed the letter called on Netanyahu to “establish sovereignty over the West Bank before the Knesset summer session ends on July 27.” The letter was signed by the ministers of defense, economy, agriculture, energy, communications, transportation, justice, tourism, innovation, culture, diaspora affairs, education, social equality, and regional cooperation, as well as Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana.

On November 11, 2024, Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich stated at a group meeting of the Religious Zionism Party, which he leads, that he had instructed the relevant institutions to begin the necessary infrastructure work for the annexation plan. He declared that 2025 would be the “year of annexation” for the occupied West Bank, stating that this would be an “opportunity” to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

A state has already existed in Palestine since 1948. Recognized by international law and acknowledged by nearly 150 states, with many European countries, including France, announcing their intention to recognize it, the Palestinians in Palestine have lived in their homeland for over three thousand years.

Israel, however, refuses to accept this reality and continues to expand its settlements, which constitute war crimes. On March 23, 2025, Israel approved the recognition of 13 settlements in the West Bank as independent units. Smotrich stated, “We continue to lead the revolution of normalization and regulation in the settlements. Instead of hiding and apologizing, we are raising our flag, building, and settling. This is another important step on the path to true sovereignty in Judea and Samaria.”

On May 29, 2025, the Israeli government approved the establishment of 22 new settlements on Palestinian lands it has seized throughout the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said the decision to establish new settlements would “prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state that would threaten Israel’s existence” and that the next step would be “the annexation of the West Bank.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a social media post that Smotrich and Defense Minister Yisrael Katz spearheaded the decision, calling it a move that would be made “once in a generation.” He reported that “four settlements will be established” in the east of the occupied West Bank. The shared maps show that the 22 illegal settlements in question are spread across the West Bank.

According to a report in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronot, the High Planning Council of the Civil Administration Unit, affiliated with the Israeli Ministry of Defense, has approved the advancement of a project announced by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich with the statement that it would “eliminate the idea of a Palestinian state.” Under the plan approved by the Israeli planning committee, 3,401 new illegal housing units will be built between occupied East Jerusalem and the illegal settlement of Ma’ale Adumim in the West Bank. This involves the displacement of Palestinians in the E1 area and the establishment of a new settlement in the heart of the West Bank. Finance Minister Smotrich had previously stated that they planned to double the size of the Ma’ale Adumim settlement starting August 20, 2025.

Smotrich said, “With the E1 project, we plan to connect the Ma’ale Adumim settlement to the city of Jerusalem and cut off Palestinian access between the cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem.” The “E1 Project” aims to sever the connection between East Jerusalem and Palestinian territories in the West Bank, thereby isolating it. The “E1 Project” was launched to connect the Ma’ale Adumim settlement, built near the Palestinian neighborhood of Azariya, which was historically part of East Jerusalem but remains on the West Bank side of the Separation Wall (Wall of Shame), to the road leading to West Jerusalem. In this context, 12,000 acres of Palestinian land have been seized to build more than 4,000 illegal homes and hotels in the area.

In August 2025, Israeli authorities announced that they had seized 455.6 acres of land in the Cit and Ferata areas east of Qalqilya and the Tel area west of Nablus under the pretext of “state land.” Accordingly, Israel seized Palestinian land in order to legitimize the illegal settlement of Havat Gilad, which was built on land belonging to the villages of Cit, Ferata, and Tel. It has been stated that since the inauguration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government in Israel, the amount of Palestinian land seized under the pretext of “state land” has exceeded 26,000 acres with 13 announcements.

At this point, history is repeating itself for the West Bank. Indeed, on a map presented by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on September 4, 2024, explaining why it was necessary for them to continue the occupation of the Philadelphia Corridor in Gaza, the West Bank, home to 3.3 million Palestinians, “does not exist.”



Netanyahu has promised to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories if he won the April 2019 elections. In interviews with local media before the election, he said he would prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state by “controlling the entire region.” The Israeli Prime Minister announced that he would submit the plan to a vote in the cabinet and Parliament on July 1, 2019. At that time, there were objections to Netanyahu’s plan to annex approximately 30 percent of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley on the Jordanian border, areas near the Dead Sea, and Jewish settlements. On June 17, 2020, Netanyahu stated that he could postpone the plan, citing “the map not being finalized,” taking into account the objections of his coalition partners.

A statement signed by nearly 50 independent experts working for the UN in 2020 argued that annexing 30 percent of the West Bank would constitute a 21st-century apartheid regime. Accordingly, “the annexation of occupied territories” is a serious violation of the fundamental rule that “seizure of land by war or military force is unacceptable,” a rule repeatedly affirmed in the relevant articles of the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Convention, and the decisions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. Human rights violations against Palestinians during Israel’s years-long occupation of the West Bank include confiscation of property, violence by settlers, home demolitions, excessive use of force, torture, and violations of press freedom and freedom of expression. Current human rights violations will only increase with annexation.

As of March 13, 2025, 934 Palestinians, including 167 children, have been killed in attacks by Israeli soldiers and Israelis seizing Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Nearly 7,000 people have been injured. OCHA data shows that as of August 4, 2025, at least 995 Palestinians, including 210 children, have been killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since October 7. As of September 3, 2025, the Council Against the Racist Separation Wall and Jewish Settlements reports that at least 1,016 Palestinians have been killed and approximately 7,000 injured in attacks by the Israeli army and Israelis seizing Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023.

Israelis living in illegal settlements are subject to Israeli law. Approximately 3.3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank live under Israeli military occupation. The Israeli army's checkpoints, roadblocks, and raids on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank make life unbearable for Palestinians. Attacks by Israelis who have seized Palestinian land are another form of violence to which Palestinians are constantly exposed.

As of March 2025, the number of Palestinians detained in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023, has reached 15,640, including over 4,000 administrative detainees who have not been charged with any crime, 490 of whom are women. Reports indicate that as of June 9, 2024, around 250 West Bank children are missing within Israel's detention system. The United Nations has reported numerous cases of ill-treatment, enforced disappearance, and mass detention. In June 2025 alone, 160 Palestinians were arrested in one week. As of August 27, 2025, the number of Palestinians detained in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since October 7, 2023, has exceeded 18,500.

There are testimonies that at least 200 Palestinian children are being held in Israeli detention centers in the West Bank, deprived of their most basic rights, and that girls aged 12-13 are subjected to degrading treatment, including sexual assault, in prisons after being arrested in the West Bank.



Palestinians living in the West Bank are being displaced, just like Gazans. Israel has carried out dozens of airstrikes on settlements, including Palestinian refugee camps, in an attempt to drive the people of the West Bank out of the country. For example, on January 21, 2025, Israel launched an attack called "Iron Wall" on the city of Jenin, located in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. Israel continued its violent attacks in Jenin on January 27 in Tulkarm. Israel is damaging transportation, water, electricity, and communication infrastructure in its attacks in the northern West Bank, also destroying homes in the area. Following Jenin, the Israeli army expanded its attacks to the Tubas and Tulkarm governorates, the towns connected to them, and Palestinian refugee camps.



In September 2024, videos and photographs showing how Israel deliberately destroyed roads in the West Bank, rendering them uninhabitable, reveal that infrastructure in the West Bank, as in Gaza, was intentionally destroyed.

Similarly, the Israeli army's military restrictions on entry and exit in the West Bank constitute a "systematic policy of collective punishment." These practices paralyze movement between villages and cities. They violate fundamental freedoms, primarily the right to travel and seek medical treatment.

A study by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on issues restricting freedom of movement in the occupied Palestinian territories found 850 checkpoints and physical barriers. The report revealed that this is the highest number in the last 20 years and that Israel has built nearly 30 new barriers in just the last three months.



As of March 15, 2025, the number of Palestinians displaced in the West Bank has exceeded 24,000 as a result of ongoing attacks on the city of Tulkarm and the Tulkarm Refugee Camp and Nur Shams Refugee Camp in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. Israel continues to evacuate residents of the Tulkarm Refugee Camp. Palestinians in the Al-Murabba neighborhood were forcibly evacuated from their homes at gunpoint. Statements indicate that Israeli soldiers raided homes in the Abu Al-Ful and Kakun neighborhoods, causing extensive damage, and that Israeli soldiers have set up checkpoints in many areas of the camps to restrict the movement of civilians.

As of February 10, 2025, the number of checkpoints set up by the Israeli army in the West Bank to restrict the freedom of movement of Palestinians has risen to 898. At the end of 2022, the number of Israeli military posts and settlements in the West Bank was 483.

The most distinct feature of Israel's apartheid regime is demographic growth and land control, which serve as the primary means of asserting sovereignty in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

-The settler population in the West Bank was 192,000 in 2000 and reached 517,000 in 2023.

-The population in East Jerusalem was 172,000 in 2000 and reached 235,000 in 2023.

-Israeli settlements are located in the 61% of the West Bank that is completely controlled by Israel (Area C).

-The establishment of settlements in areas beyond the 1967 borders, defined as occupied territory under international law, constitutes a war crime. Israel, however, continues to announce plans for new settlements.

According to data from the Committee Against the Separation Wall (Wall of Shame) and Jewish Settlements, the number of settlers in the West Bank reached approximately 770,000 by the end of 2024, with 180 settlements and 256 illegal settlements in the region that do not have legal status under the Israeli government.

The number of settlers in the West Bank rose to 745,467 by the end of 2022, including Jerusalem. In 2023, there was a significant increase in settlement construction. Israeli authorities approved construction plans for over 18,000 settlement units in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. Israeli authorities seized 26,000 acres of Palestinian land in the West Bank in 2022, and this figure rose to 50,526 acres in 2023. Israel partially or completely demolished 659 buildings and facilities in the West Bank in 2023. It also issued demolition orders for 1,333 Palestinian facilities on the grounds that they were unlicensed.

As of May 2024, Israelis have demolished 1,429 Palestinian homes and structures in the West Bank, displacing 3,244 Palestinians. They have increased the practice of evicting Palestinians from their homes and demolishing them. The construction and expansion of Jewish settlements has accelerated.

The death, destruction, and displacement taking place in the West Bank before the eyes of the whole world reveals that the goal of ethnic cleansing is not limited to Gaza. To this end, settlers are being armed, Palestinian property is being confiscated, and attacks on Palestinians and their land are not being prevented.



Israeli forces and Jewish settlers carried out 12,161 attacks against Palestinians and their property in 2023. Of these, 3,808 were against homes and religious sites, 707 were against land and natural resources, and 7,646 were against individuals. In these attacks, approximately 21,700 trees, including 18,964 olive trees, were damaged or uprooted.

According to a report by the UN Human Rights Office covering the period from November 1, 2023, to October 31, 2024, Israel is increasing its illegal settlements in the occupied territories. In occupied East Jerusalem alone, Israel has taken steps to build more than 20,000 homes and demolished 214 properties and homes belonging to Palestinians. There are 10,300 illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli army and settlers are building unauthorized roads around the occupied settlements. These roads and control centers enable the seizure of Palestinian land. It is stated that Israeli government officials in the occupied West Bank are facilitating the advance of settlers and the “ steady integration of the West Bank into Israel.”

As of October 2024, 612 Palestinians have been killed by settlers in the occupied territories, with an average of 118 settler violence incidents recorded daily in 2023. In the West Bank, 1,779 homes belonging to displaced Palestinians have been demolished, resulting in the displacement of more than 4,000 people. The report states that the number of Palestinians forcibly displaced due to demolitions has increased by 200 percent compared to the previous reporting period.

As stated by the UN High Commissioner Turk, Israel’s settlement policy, annexation actions, and related discriminatory legislation and measures violate international law and the right of Palestinians to self-determination, as confirmed by the International Court of Justice. Israel’s transfer of part of its civilian population to the occupied territories constitutes a war crime. Israel must immediately cease all new settlement activities in compliance with the ICJ ruling and compensate for the damage it has caused there. Israel, however, completely disregards even the humanitarian law applicable in times of war and conflict in its attacks.





Israel is committing unprecedented human rights violations not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank. An example of this is the Israeli army's attack on the village of Kabatiyah near Jenin in the West Bank, where the bodies of three people were kicked off the roof by Israeli soldiers and transported with a bulldozer.

On September 20, 2024, Israeli soldiers surrounding a house in Jenin killed five Palestinians and wounded at least four others. The soldiers threw the lifeless bodies of the Palestinians off the roof. In images taken at different times, an Israeli soldier is seen using his foot to roll the body towards the edge of the roof and then push it off the roof. At least two soldiers are just watching these moments. Another video taken from a place overlooking the roof shows the bodies piled up on the roof.

Later footage shows a bulldozer using a metal claw attachment to remove the bodies thrown from the roof. The UN has stated that these images are inhumane and that they are deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in the occupied West Bank. Dujarric said this includes Israel's increased military activities in the region.



Similarly, on June 23, 2024, during a raid in the occupied West Bank, Israeli soldiers tied a wounded Palestinian named Mujahid Azmi to the front of a military vehicle and drove it, demonstrating that international law is not being respected in the West Bank. The Israeli Army confirmed the incident, which was videotaped and shared on social media, and admitted that he was "suspicious and was injured during the clash that broke out during the raid." The wounded Palestinian's family said they asked for an ambulance, but the soldiers tied him to the hood of a jeep and drove away. The wounded young man later died in the hospital.



Following the emergence of the images, two more Palestinians told the BBC that they had been tied to an Israeli military vehicle while injured. Samir Dabaya, a 25-year-old Palestinian, said he was shot in the back during a raid on the Jabaliya camp. Dabaya said he was thrown onto the vehicle after lying face down for hours and losing blood. Footage from a security camera shows him lying half-naked on top of a speeding jeep with the number 1 clearly visible next to him. The location of the footage matches the site of the Israeli operation. Another Palestinian, Hesham Isleit, said he was shot twice during the operation in Jabaliya and was forcibly put into the same military jeep. Isleit stated, “They ordered us to stand up and stripped us. Then they wanted us to get into the front of the jeep. The top of the car was burning hot. I was barefoot and naked.”

War crimes committed in the West Bank are not limited to men. On February 10, 2025, in the West Bank town of Tulkarm, 23-year-old Sunduz Shalabi, who was eight months pregnant, was shot by Israeli soldiers in the Nour Shams refugee camp. It was reported that Israeli soldiers then blocked the ambulance, preventing it from reaching her, and that both the mother and child died.



Settler Violence Supported by Arms Distribution

Israeli settlers who have seized Palestinian land have increased their attacks in East Jerusalem and the West Bank since October 7. Settlers are not only committing crimes of seizure, theft, and assault, but are also killing Palestinians who say they will continue to live in their homeland. Israel not only fails to punish these crimes but is rapidly arming the settlers. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir stated in October 2024 that more than 120,000 weapons have been distributed to Israelis since October 7, 2023, and that the arming will continue.

On October 9, 2024, Jeremy Laurence, spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, noted that their concern was the “sharp increase” in violence in the region. Laurence said, “(Ben-Gvir) The minister’s comments on the distribution of large numbers of weapons only serve to heighten the concerns that have been expressed.” In a report published in December 2023, the UN Human Rights Office expressed “grave concern” about the Israeli army distributing weapons in the occupied West Bank. As Laurence stated, “This coincides with a sharp increase in settler violence. More than a third of the incidents recorded involved armed threats and attacks.”

Moreover, as of September 2, 2025, a statement from the office of Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir announced that the towns of Megiddo and Tel Mond, north of Yafni, have been included in the areas where firearms licenses are granted. Accordingly, approximately 100,000 more Israelis will be eligible to obtain special firearms licenses. Ben-Gvir praised the policy of arming Israelis, saying, “This reform we have carried out has saved many lives, proven its effectiveness in the field, and was designed to enable citizens to protect themselves and their communities.”

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ September report shows that Israelis seizing Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank carried out 1,350 attacks against Palestinians, 55 of which were armed attacks. The report documents that 12 Palestinians were killed by Israelis seizing Palestinian land in the West Bank.

Even becoming world-renowned with an Oscar-winning film cannot protect Palestinians. Hamdan Ballal, one of the Palestinian directors of the Oscar-winning documentary *No Other Land*, which won the best feature-length documentary award at a series of international awards starting with the 2024 Berlin International Film Festival, was previously beaten and injured by Israeli settlers and then arrested by Israeli forces while injured. On March 24, 2025, another Israeli director, Yuval Abraham, stated on X account, “A group of settlers lynched Hamdan Ballal, one of the directors of our film *No Other Land*. They beat him, and he suffered injuries to his head and stomach, and he is bleeding.”

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy stated on May 20, 2025, “I have seen the consequences of settler violence in the West Bank firsthand. The fear of the victims. The impunity of the perpetrators.” The most recent example of this is the killing of renowned Palestinian activist Odeh Hadalin, who appeared in the Oscar-winning documentary *No Other Land*, by Yinon Levi, an illegal Israeli settler, who shot him in the chest in the West Bank town of Masafer Yatta on July 29, 2025.

Video footage clearly shows that Hadalin was deliberately killed. Despite this, the settler was released a week later. On August 4, 2025, Yinon Lievi was released by an Israeli court and returned to his settlement just one week after killing Odeh Hathain. While the killer was released, the family members of the murdered Hathalin are in prison. Moreover, the police refuse to release the body. This incident alone demonstrates how Israel supports settler violence.

The refusal to return the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers, not only in Gaza but also in the West Bank, is an example of the human rights violations taking place. In a statement made in August 2025 by the Palestinian civil society organization “National Initiative to Recover the Bodies of Martyrs,” it was reported that of the 726 bodies held by Israel for years, 67 were children and 10 were women, and 256 were being held in the Cemetery of Numbers. It is alleged that since October 7, 2023, at least 1,500 bodies have been held from the Gaza Strip and that these bodies are being kept in inhumane conditions at the Sde Teiman Military Base, affiliated with the Israeli army.

Israel has continued its policy of depriving Palestinian families of their most basic rights, such as saying goodbye to their loved ones and burying them with dignity, by withholding the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers for more than 50 years. The withholding of bodies began as an irregular military practice. Since 1967, hundreds of people have been buried in the Cemetery of Numbers, which has secret numeric markers.

At this point, in the West Bank, where Palestinians are surrounded by walls and an apartheid system is in place, more Palestinians are being killed every day under the threat of annexation, their homes are being demolished, their property is being stolen, they are being displaced to different places, and they are being told they must leave the country.

UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry Report on Gaza dated September 16, 2025

In its report titled “Legal Analysis of Israel’s Actions in Gaza under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” published on September 16, 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded that Israel committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The Commission called on Israel and all states to fulfill their legal obligations under international law to end the genocide and punish those responsible.

Having investigated the events that have taken place since October 7, 2023, over the past two years, the Commission has concluded that Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed four of the five acts of genocide defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, namely killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting living conditions intended to destroy the Palestinian people in whole or in part, and taking measures intended to prevent births.

According to the report, the explicit statements of Israeli civilian and military officials and the conduct of Israeli security forces indicate that the genocidal acts were carried out with the intent to destroy the Palestinian population in the entire Gaza Strip or parts of it.

According to Commission President Navi Pillay, the Commission has determined that Israel is responsible for committing genocide in Gaza. It is clear that there was an intent to destroy the Palestinian population in Gaza through actions that meet the criteria set out in the Genocide Convention. Responsibility for these atrocities lies with the highest-ranking Israeli officials who have been conducting a campaign of genocide for nearly two years with the aim of eliminating the Palestinian population in Gaza. The Commission also found that Israel failed to prevent and punish genocide by not investigating acts of genocide and not prosecuting alleged perpetrators.

The report is based on all previous investigations conducted by the Commission, factual and legal findings regarding attacks carried out by Israeli forces in Gaza, and the conduct and statements of Israeli authorities between October 7, 2023, and July 31, 2025. The Commission’s findings are based on a comprehensive examination of the acts underlying genocide (*actus reus*) and the intent to commit genocide (*dolus specialis*).

In identifying acts of genocide, the Commission examined Israel’s military operations in Gaza. These included the killing and serious injury of an unprecedented number of Palestinians; the imposition of a total blockade, including the obstruction of humanitarian aid, leading to starvation; the systematic destruction of Gaza’s health and education systems; the systematic perpetration of acts of sexual and gender-based violence; the direct targeting of children; systematic and widespread attacks on religious and cultural sites; and the disregard for the orders of the International Court of Justice.

In determining the intent to commit genocide, the Commission applied the “only reasonable inference” standard established by the International Court of Justice in the Bosnia-Serbia case. The Commission analyzed statements made by Israeli authorities and concluded that these statements constituted direct evidence of the intent to commit genocide. The Commission also analyzed the patterns of conduct of Israeli authorities and security forces in Gaza, including their imposition of starvation and inhuman living conditions on Palestinians in Gaza, and determined that the only reasonable inference that could be drawn from the nature of the operations was genocidal intent.

According to Pillay’s statements, Israel has continued its strategy of destruction against Palestinians in Gaza, blatantly ignoring the International Court of Justice’s provisional measures, as well as warnings from Member States, UN offices, human rights organizations, and civil society groups. The Commission found that Israeli officials had no intention of changing their course of action and had, on the contrary, pursued their campaign of genocide in Gaza almost uninterrupted for two years. According to the report, the actions of Israeli political and military leaders are attributable to the State of Israel. Therefore, the Commission concluded that the State of Israel is responsible for the failure to prevent genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the perpetration of genocide, and the failure to punish the perpetrators of genocide.

The Commission also stated that Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and then-Defense Minister Yoav Gallant incited genocide and that Israeli authorities failed to take action to punish this incitement. The Commission called on the Israeli Government to immediately fulfill its international legal obligations, including ending the genocide in the Gaza Strip and fully implementing the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice.

As stated in the report, Israel must end its starvation policy, lift the blockade, and facilitate and guarantee broad and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid for all United Nations personnel, including UNRWA and OHCHR international staff, and all recognized international humanitarian aid organizations providing and coordinating aid. The Commission has called on Israel to immediately cease the activities of the Gaza Humanitarian Relief Foundation.

The Commission calls upon member states to halt the transfer of weapons and other equipment that could be used to commit acts of genocide to Israel; ensure that individuals and companies within their territory and jurisdiction do not aid or abet the commission of genocide or incitement to genocide; and take action to ensure accountability through investigations and legal proceedings against individuals and companies directly or indirectly involved in genocide.

According to Pillay, the international community can no longer remain silent about Israel’s campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. When clear signs and evidence of genocide emerge, failure to act to stop it amounts to complicity. Every day of inaction results in loss of life and undermines the credibility of the international community. All states have a legal obligation to use all reasonable means at their disposal to stop the genocide in Gaza.

CONCLUSION

What we are witnessing right now is the horrific evil of medieval barbarism.

Dr. Graeme Groom, British surgeon who has visited Gaza 44 times

In its provisional measures ruling dated January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice, where Israel is being tried for the crime of genocide, ordered Israel to take all necessary measures to prevent any act falling within the scope of the crime of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, to prevent and punish all acts of direct and public incitement to genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, to lift all restrictions preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and to ensure that such aid is provided effectively. The Advisory Opinion of July 19, 2024, stated that the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and that the State of Israel is under an obligation to terminate its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as soon as possible.

Far from complying with the binding decisions of international organizations, Prime Minister Netanyahu has stated that the maps of the Middle East will change. In August 2025, Israel announced that it would completely occupy Gaza and that the entire population of Gaza would be resettled in other countries. Similarly, the Parliament has decided to annex the West Bank.

The attacks on Gaza cannot be compared to any war or conflict in modern history. Seven times more bombs have been dropped on Gaza than were dropped on Hiroshima. It was stated on the second day that there would be no water or food, and hunger was used as a ruthless weapon of war, with famine declared for the second year. There is no other example in the world of attacks in which children, health centers, journalists, and humanitarian aid workers have been systematically targeted. Less than four months after October 7, at a conference attended by fourteen Israeli ministers themselves, the settlements to be built in Gaza were outlined on a map. To achieve this goal, a total “annihilation” was carried out, ensuring the destruction of not only civilian settlements but also all of Gaza, a narrow strip of land, including historical buildings such as the world’s fourth oldest church.

Israel’s policy of death, destruction, and displacement, which it has continuously pursued for a century by seizing Palestinian land, did not begin on October 7. Even before Israel was officially established, in 1947, the area of land in Palestine “controlled by Israel” ifadesi daha uygun olabilir, which was 6.5%, subsequently exceeded 90%. Palestinians have been continuously exiled from their own country for nearly a century. History is repeating itself today, and before the eyes of the entire world, 2.3 million people are being forced to leave their homeland, experiencing the most severe human rights violations in modern history and deprived of their most basic human needs.

Israel, by issuing evacuation orders in the first week after October 7 that constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law, rendering civilian residential areas uninhabitable through indiscriminate bombardments, and by imposing blockade policies that prevent the passage of food and basic humanitarian supplies and hinder humanitarian aid operations, deliberately changed the living conditions of Palestinians in Gaza in a manner that would completely eliminate their physical presence by using hunger and thirst as weapons of war and rendering hospitals unable to provide health services.

People in Gaza, who have been displaced multiple times and have no access to humanitarian aid, have nowhere safe to take refuge. More than 10% of Gaza's population has been killed, wounded, maimed, or left dead under the rubble. Gaza has been reduced to a ruin with no sign of life. Over 20,000 children have been killed in Gaza. Over 20,000 children are missing. Over 40,000 children have been orphaned. Since the 1980s, Israel has killed more journalists than all other countries combined during periods of war and conflict worldwide. There is no parallel in the modern world to the attacks carried out by Israel.

Evacuation orders that are completely contrary to humanitarian law, indiscriminate bombardments targeting residential areas densely populated by civilians, and the inability of people to meet their basic human needs for water, food, fuel, electricity, and other essentials have caused the forced displacement of over 90% of Gaza's population. This number is recorded as the largest displacement of the Palestinian people since the 1948 Nakba, when Israel occupied 78% of Palestinian land after its establishment.

Israel has consistently and systematically used forced displacement in Gaza as a weapon. All 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza, who today have no means to survive, face Israeli attacks, Israel's refusal to allow aid waiting at the border, and the complete denial of their right to exist under conditions of famine. Despite calls from around the world, the International Court of Justice's provisional measures ruling, the UN General Assembly's urgent humanitarian ceasefire resolutions, and the UN Security Council's humanitarian aid resolutions, the Israeli administration has, from day one, collectively punished the people of Gaza through unprecedented attacks aimed at occupying and annexing Gaza. The current situation is the result of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide, which have led to the displacement of 2.3 million Palestinians and the complete occupation and annexation of Gaza.

Israel's actions since October 7, which disregard international humanitarian law and completely destroy the humanitarian legal order, have led to the deaths of an unprecedented number of civilians, mostly women and children, the displacement of almost the entire population of Gaza, the destruction of settlements, and forced the Palestinian people living in Gaza to struggle for survival amid severe hunger, thirst, and deprivation of basic necessities. Today, Palestinians living in Gaza face the complete denial of their right to exist under Israeli attacks and famine conditions.

Israel has blocked the entry of basic necessities, including fuel, food, water, and medicine, into Gaza for months. Israel's attacks and blockade have caused the humanitarian disaster in Gaza to deteriorate to an unbearable level. The Palestinian people have been subjected to a nightmare-like collective punishment through Israel's ruthless attacks. The people have been deliberately left hungry and thirsty to force them to leave their homeland. Israel has turned Gaza into a man-made hell.

Since the Palestinians massacred us on October 7, they should not be there [in Gaza]. We must find ways more painful than death for the Gazans.

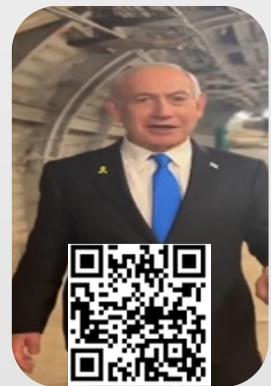
January 5, 2024, Amichai Eliyahu (Israeli Minister of Cultural Heritage)



In Gaza, not only children but even babies are now suffering horrific pain. An example of this is the two-month-old daughter of nurse Imad Muharab, who was killed in an Israeli attack on her home in April 2025, after her arm was amputated.

According to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (URWA), "Palestinian Refugees" are persons whose natural place of residence was Palestine between June 1, 1946, and May 15, 1948, and who lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of Israel's occupation policies following the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948. Today, there are 6.4 million officially registered Palestinian refugees worldwide. It is only a matter of time before the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza and the 3.3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank join the existing Palestinian refugees around the world. It is impossible to imagine that Al-Aqsa Mosque will remain untouched by this.

Indeed, on May 26, 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu posted a video on his social media account showing tunnels extending under the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of occupied East Jerusalem. The tunnel, part of the "City of David" project, extends from the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan to the area directly beneath the mosque. In the video filmed in the tunnel in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem "In a video filmed in a tunnel in the Silwan neighborhood of East Jerusalem" ifadesi daha doğru olabilir, Netanyahu stated, "The Old (City) and the New Jerusalem are in our hands and will always remain in our hands." He claimed that the structures uncovered in the tunnels, which extend to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and were opened under the pretext of archaeological excavations, belonged to his ancestors. The video was released on the so-called "Jerusalem Day," the anniversary of Israel's 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem. Netanyahu's video coincided with a cabinet meeting in Silwan, where he declared that he would protect a "united and integrated Jerusalem."



Israel's systematic and indiscriminate bombardment of the Gaza Strip, which has been under siege by land, air, and sea for 16 years and has one of the world's most densely populated civilian populations, has resulted in the killing of members of the group and serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, as defined under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

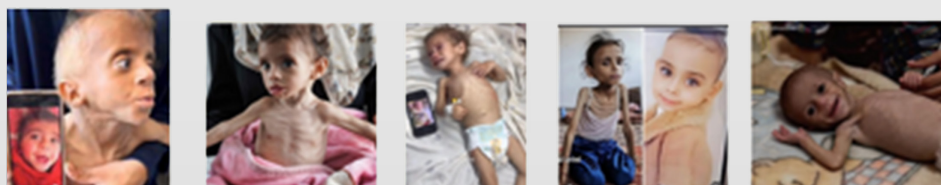
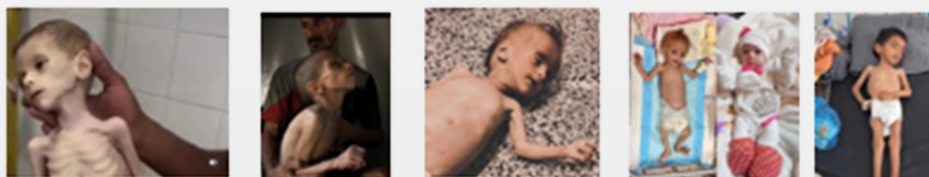
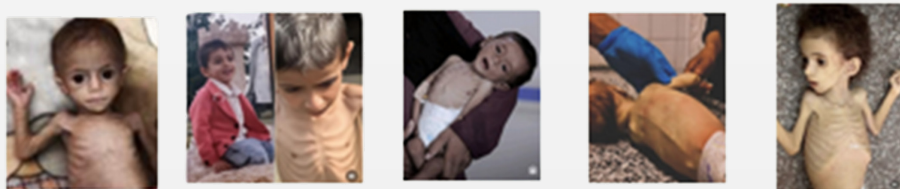
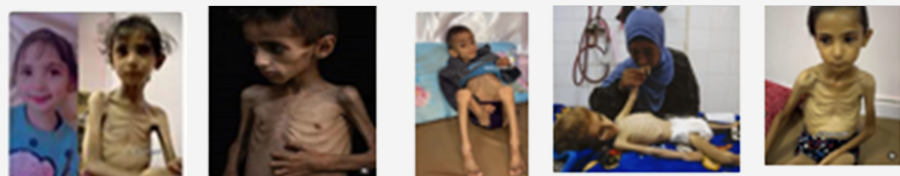
The Israeli administration has committed genocide by systematically and extensively carrying out acts of killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, and deliberately altering living conditions with the aim of completely eliminating the Palestinian people living in Gaza since October 7. According to Article 3 of the Convention, those who have committed acts aimed at carrying out the Gaza Genocide, those who have collaborated in the genocide, those who have directly and publicly incited the genocide, those who have attempted to commit genocide, and those who have participated in the genocide must be punished for their actions.

Proceedings against Israel for the crime of genocide are ongoing at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Precautionary measures and arrest warrants, as well as UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, have not prevented Israel from continuing to kill civilians en masse for nearly two years. UN reports prove that this unprecedented destruction has now reached the level of complete annihilation and ethnic cleansing.

The failure of the states party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to fulfill their responsibilities under Article 1 of the Convention to prevent and punish genocide, and the failure of the UN Security Council to fulfill its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, has resulted in the continuation of genocide in Gaza before the eyes of the international community.

If the annexation of Gaza cannot be stopped and the ethnic cleansing is completed by expelling the people from the country, the settlements announced by fourteen Israeli ministers on the map in January 2024, only four months after the attacks began, will be built on "the world's largest children's cemetery." The dream of Israeli leaders, convicted in the conscience of humanity for the crime of genocide, and those who unconditionally support them, to build satellite cities on top of children's graves will add yet another shameful chapter to the Gaza Genocide.

Many members of the international community stands united against Israel's occupation and annexation. The number of countries that do not recognize Palestine as a state has dwindled to only a handful. Before Gaza is completely erased from the map, it is everyone's responsibility to put an end to this genocide and ethnic cleansing.





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“GAZA”

NAKBA OF HUMANITY



GAZA 2023

GERMANY 1945



FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST OPEN-AIR PRISON
TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST CHILDREN'S CEMETERY

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