



De-Gaza:

**A year of Israel's genocide and
the collapse of world order**

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Smoke rises following a violent Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on October 9, 2023. Photo: Mahmoud Al-Hamas - AFP

Introduction

Since 1967, the Palestinian territory has been under an illegal Israeli occupation that quickly expanded beyond the imposition of temporary effective control over the territory, revealing its true colonial-settler nature. It has involved the unrestricted seizure and forcible annexation of land, the plundering of its resources, the subjugation and displacement of the Palestinian people, and the replacement of Palestinians with Israeli citizens.

The Gaza Strip is one of the areas most vulnerable to Israeli crimes, enduring systematic, destructive policies that violate international law for decades. This is especially true since Israel's illegal blockade was imposed in 2007, which has made daily life in the Strip an agony for more than two million Palestinians, who face dire humanitarian and economic conditions.

Over the course of its nearly 18-year blockade of Gaza, Israel has severely and systematically denied basic rights to the Palestinian population there, in addition to imposing collective punishment. Israel has placed tight restrictions on the entry of basic supplies like food, medicine, and fuel into the Strip for almost 20 years now. Due to these policies, vital services like water and electricity have collapsed, and the health system has deteriorated and is currently unable to handle serious cases.

Since the start of Israel's Gaza blockade in 2006, the enclave's population has suffered from severe food shortages, as Israel implemented a calorie system that governs the quantities of food allowed into the Strip based on narrow calculations. These calculations ensure only the population's survival without it falling into starvation, and the system has prevented the entry of many essential materials.

Under the pretext of "self-defense", Israel has repeatedly attacked the Gaza Strip, destroying thousands of homes, hospitals, and schools with a specific focus on defenseless civilians and vital infrastructure. The targeting of civilians and infrastructure in these military assaults was not accidental, nor were the casualties or demolished buildings and facilities collateral damage; rather, they were part of a deliberate plan to kill as many Palestinians as possible and gradually destroy the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian armed factions launched an armed attack on 7 October 2023, under the name "Operation Flood of Al-Aqsa", on the Israeli communities surrounding the Gaza Strip, also known as the "Gaza Envelope", as Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip entered its 17th year. Over 1,200 Israelis and foreigners—including active members of the military and civilians—were killed in the attack. The Palestinian armed factions detained more than 200 people and transferred them to the Gaza Strip, including dozens of Israeli soldiers and civilians who were taken hostage.

Following the attack, Israel declared that it was in a state of war. With the stated objectives of deposing Hamas, securing detainee releases, and reestablishing security, it launched a military operation. On the ground, however, this went beyond the proclaimed objectives; Israel has carried out a genocide against all Gaza Strip residents, killing over

41,000 of them—mostly women and children—injuring roughly 100,000 Palestinians, and demolishing about 80% of the region's buildings, infrastructure, and agricultural land. (Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor notes that, according to a study published by medical journal *The Lancet*, the true death toll could reach more than 186,000 people⁽¹⁾.) Additionally, Israel has imposed living conditions meant to exterminate the population, including mass starvation and forced displacement, the destruction of hospitals, schools, and universities, and the impediment to the entry of relief supplies and aid.

To commemorate a year since the Israeli military offensive began in and against the Gaza Strip, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor has released this report, which offers a thorough analysis of Israel's actions in the Strip between now and last October, highlighting their massive and devastating nature as well providing context to the situation. Together, these factors suggest that Israel has already crossed the threshold for its actions to be considered genocide and that it clearly intends to exterminate the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip—a group which is legally protected under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The intent to commit genocide is apparent from Israeli officials' statements about the military operation in the Strip, as well as the way Israeli military attacks are conducted and the clear behavioural pattern exhibited by the Israeli occupation forces. The Israeli occupation army's actions in the Gaza Strip make it obvious and only reasonable to conclude that there is an unquestionable intent to exterminate the Palestinian people there, either entirely or in part.

Among Israel's actions are mass murders, the number of civilian casualties—including children—that is extraordinarily high and coordinated schemes to systematically deny Palestinian people their rights. Along with the widespread physical destruction of the population's homes and rampant use of excessive brutality, Israel's crimes also include its extensive illegal blockade, the staggering extent of forced displacements, starvation of a population, and the excessive and continuous denial of life-saving supplies and services. Furthermore, Israeli military operations have completely destroyed the Gaza Strip.



Palestinians demonstrate near the border fence with Israel against the continued Israel-imposed siege on the Gaza Strip,
Photo: Mohammed Al-Za'noun - March 30, 2019

I. Gaza Strip and Genocide Context

2. Background

The International Court of Justice confirmed that Israel has been illegally occupying Palestinian territory since 1967 in its advisory opinion on 19 July 2024, “Legal Consequences of Israeli Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The Court urged Israel to immediately cease its illegal presence in all of this territory while also outlining the international obligations of Israel, other States, and the United Nations system with regard to the continuation of this illegal situation and the duty to actively work toward its end.

The Court ruled that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal because it consistently violates several mandatory rules of international law, including the ban on using force to acquire territory; the ban on imposing systems of dominance, racial discrimination, racial segregation, and apartheid; and the ban on violating a people's right to self-determination.

Israel has been enforcing full military rule over the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 1967 in an effort to seize this land, subjugate and uproot the native Palestinian population, and replace it with Israeli citizens, bringing many Jews in from overseas. Israel has systematically and forcibly changed the legal status, character, and demographic composition of the Palestinian territory in order to achieve this goal, in violation of all applicable international law, including those pertaining to its obligations as an occupying power, against an occupied territory and an occupied people.

Using a variety of techniques, including direct physical force and the establishment of an environment that is punitive and coercive, Israel has methodically and widely forcibly displaced the native Palestinian population, subsequently relocating its citizens to the occupied territories. Additionally, Israel has arbitrarily taken and is still taking Palestinian lands in order to annex them permanently, divide the Palestinian territory, lengthen the walls of separation and apartheid, create and expand Israeli settlements, and take control of the region's natural resources.

In order to accomplish this, Israel adopted laws, policies, and practical measures intended to evict Palestinians from their lands and properties. It also implemented discriminatory measures, which amounted to racial segregation and isolation between Palestinians and Israeli settlers as well as amongst Palestinians themselves. Israel divided the Palestinian population into distinct enclaves and imposed different military and administrative regimes in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Along with imposing arbitrary restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement and travel both inside and outside of their lands, it also implemented discriminatory

policies in regard to home demolition and construction. These restrictions included the wall, embedded barriers, military checkpoints, closed areas, bypass roads, and an arbitrary permit system.

Additionally, Israel has suppressed the Palestinian people's ability to establish a national ideology and freely select their own political leadership by infringing upon their fundamental freedoms, particularly those related to politics, and by killing people without cause, assassinating them, forcing them to flee their homes, and making frequent, arbitrary arrests. Furthermore, Israel has persisted in its efforts to eradicate the native Palestinian identity by the appropriation of Palestinian cultural heritage; violating their religious sanctities; changing the names of villages, cities, and roads, banning the display of Palestinian national symbols, including the Palestinian flag; undermining Palestinian cultural, religious, social, and political entities; and even criminalising them.

The Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, together make up the Palestinian territories that were taken over by Israel in 1967. Like the West Bank today, the Israeli occupation army ruled the Gaza Strip from within and without until 2005. It stationed military forces both inside and outside the Strip and established settlements of Israeli settler residents.

Israel declared a unilateral "disengagement" policy in 2005, involving the evacuation of Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip and the withdrawal of its armed forces. Despite this declaration, Israel remains an occupying force in the Strip since it still has actual control over the region. This was validated by the recent advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, which followed a nearly unanimous international consensus. Israel has maintained control over the majority of the primary pillars of authority in the Gaza Strip, even after the withdrawal of its armed forces. These pillars include the population registry; imposition of travel restrictions; collection of import and export taxes; control over the buffer zone; and control over the land, sea, and air borders.

2. Gaza Blockade

One of the most important tools used by Israel to divide the Palestinian people and isolate them in different areas in order to subjugate them and facilitate control over them and these areas is the siege of the Gaza Strip and its isolation from the rest of the Palestinian territory and the outside world. This is a prominent example of Israel's policy of fragmenting the Palestinian territory and making its territorial unity impossible.

Movement of Palestinians into and out of the Gaza Strip has been increasingly restricted since the early 1990s. People and goods are only allowed to cross the land borders through two checkpoints that are under the control of the Israeli occupation army. Entry and exit by land (apart from the two aforementioned checkpoints) and sea is prohibited. Israel imposed this broad and arbitrary blockade on the Gaza Strip by land, sea, and air after Hamas won the legislative elections in 2006. This resulted in what is known as the world's largest open-air prison⁽²⁾, where over two million Palestinians—including approximately one million children—have been persecuted and subjected to collective punishment that is illegal under international law for almost two decades.

The political, economic, and humanitarian crises in the Strip have drastically worsened as a result of this unlawful blockade, which has been in place for nearly 18 years. The residents of Gaza were practically deprived of their most fundamental human rights prior to 7 October 2023. People's freedom of movement was severely restricted. For example, only those who could obtain permits from the Israeli authorities—which are usually very difficult to obtain—were able to travel to the West Bank or Israel, and only a small number of people were able to cross the border into Egypt through the Rafah land crossing.

The Gaza Strip also lost its natural connection with the rest o

f the Palestinian territory and was isolated from the outside world as a result of Israel's illegal blockade. Thousands of patients were prevented from traveling abroad to receive treatment that was not available in the Gaza Strip, which resulted in hundreds of their deaths⁽³⁾. Furthermore, the local economy was stifled, as thousands of students were prevented from studying abroad, residents were denied employment opportunities outside the Strip, and the exporting of goods and products was subject to capricious restrictions. Along with the ongoing power outages, the severe shortage of medical personnel, medical equipment, and pharmaceutical supplies that are either impossible to obtain or prohibitively expensive is also causing a severe crisis for the local health system.

The Israeli policies of starvation and denial of the entry of basic supplies into the Gaza Strip are not new; they date back decades before 7 October 2023. Israel has enforced a calorie-based system for determining food imports into the Gaza Strip since the start of its blockade. This has resulted in limiting the food flow to the “humanitarian minimum” required only to prevent starvation or malnourishment⁽⁴⁾.

Furthermore, Israel has enforced a policy known as “dual use” regarding the goods that are allowed to enter the Gaza Strip. This policy has resulted in the imposition of considerable limitations on the entry of goods that Israel deems to have both military and civilian applications. These goods include basic construction materials like cement, iron, and gravel, as well as a variety of spare parts, computer equipment, and vehicles that Israel regards as dual-use items, thereby restricting their import and entry into the Strip⁽⁵⁾.

Since 2007, Israel has placed stringent restrictions on the entry of necessary building supplies, which have continually delayed or prevented the building, renovation, and modernisation of homes and other infrastructure in Gaza. This has hindered both the

3 https://unispal.un.org/pdfs/OCHA_BLOCKADE.pdf

4 <https://gisha.org/en/red-lines-presentation-released-after-3-5-year-legal-battle-israel-calculated-the-number-of-calories-it-would-allow-gaza-residents-to-consume/>

5 <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/09/1134396>

population's ability to build quickly enough to meet its needs and its ability to recover from the massive damage brought on by Israel's repeated wars. The humanitarian crisis facing the people of the Gaza Strip has also been made worse by these restrictions, as basic services like water, sanitation, health care, and education have become less accessible and of lower quality.

Furthermore, the Gaza Strip's overall area has decreased by 17% and its agricultural area by 35% due to Israel's heavily armed fence, surveillance systems, and military buffer zone. This means that access to these areas is either dangerous or forbidden, which significantly hinders agricultural activities. Additionally, the strict Israeli naval blockade has resulted in an 85% reduction in the fishing zone and access to marine waters.

Any possibility of development and prosperity has also been eliminated by Israel's illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip. Instead, it has left the Strip a desolate and isolated region with a collapsed economy, with GDP growth of nearly nil in 2019, poverty rates of more than 53% by the end of the same year, and unemployment of more than 50% in 2021. Eighty per cent of the Strip's population in 2021 relied on foreign assistance in one way or another.

The Gaza Strip's electricity crisis is further exacerbated by the blockade, with the Strip's population primarily dependent on outside sources, notably Egypt and Israel, for electricity. Palestinians have endured frequent power outages that last anywhere from 12 to 20 hours a day, significantly impairing daily life and the local economy. In 2015, UNCTAD issued a warning, stating that Gaza might become uninhabitable by 2020 due to Israel's restrictive measures.

Between 29 September 2000 and 7 October 2023, Israel's military attacks on the Gaza Strip resulted in approximately 7,569 Palestinian deaths, including 1,699 children. These attacks included four asymmetric wars and other rounds of escalation, the most recent of which occurred in May 2023 and resulted in numerous injuries as

well as extensive property destruction. Over the course of 18 months in 2018 and 2019, thousands of Palestinians participated in the "Great March of Return" protests along the fence separating the Gaza Strip from Israel. During this time, thousands of people demanded the lifting of the illegal blockade on the Strip and the return of Palestinian refugees to the villages and homes from which they had been displaced by Israel. It should be noted that 80% of the Gaza Strip's population is made up of Palestinian refugees. Israel also killed 214 Palestinians during this protest, 46 of whom were children.

TIMELINE OF GAZA BLOCKADE:

How it started, how it's going

JAN 25 2006 Hamas wins most seats in parliamentary elections.

FEBRUARY 2006 Israel decides to withhold millions of dollars of monthly tax revenue owed to the PA.

MAR 2006 USA suspends assistance to the PA, bans US government contacts with the PA, and prohibits unlicensed transactions with it.

12 MAR 2006 Israel closes its only passenger crossing on the Gaza-Israel border for Palestinians, allowing only special permit holders to cross.

25 JUNE 2006 Palestinian gunmen capture Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit during a cross-border raid.

JUNE 28 2006 Israel bombs Gaza's sole power station and launches Operation Summer Rain, which continues until November and claims the lives of more than 457 people, a quarter of them children, and injures over 1,000.

JUNE 9 2007 Egypt closes its Rafah border with Gaza the public. Until 1 June 2010, it only opens sporadically for special cases, such as medical patients, students and foreign visa holders.

12 JUN 2007 Israel closes the Karni crossing used to bring in large quantities of commercial goods into Gaza.

15 JUN 2007 Hamas controls the Gaza Strip.

2 DEC 2007 Israel's High Court rules that limiting fuel and electricity supplies to Gaza is in accordance with Israeli law.

SEP 2007 Israel declares Gaza a "hostile entity" and imposes severe restrictions on the movement of individuals and the entry of gas and electricity supplies.

FEB 2008 Israel launches a 5-day aerial and ground attack on Gaza, Operation Hot Winter, killing at least 110 Palestinians, including 26 children.

4 NOV 2008 Israel seals all border crossings and prevents all humanitarian aid and staff from entering Gaza.

27 DEC 2008 Israel launches a 23-day military offensive (until 18 Jan 2009), dubbed Operation Cast Lead, against Gaza, killing at least 1,383 Palestinians, including 333 children and 114 women, and injuring over 5,300.

OCT 2012 Israel reveals a 2008 document about restrictions it placed on entry of food between 2007 and 2010. The document calculates the minimum number of calories needed by Gaza residents, then uses this to determine the quantity of foods of which 2,465 were allowed into the Strip.

14 NOV 2012 Israel launches an eight-day attack on Gaza (operation pillar of defense), killing 162 Palestinians, injuring 1,300 others, and destroying 200 homes.

8 JUL 2014 Israel launches a devastating 51-day attack on Gaza (operation Protective Edge), killing 2,147 Palestinians, wounding 10,870 others/17,123 homes were hit, of which 2,465 were destroyed.

1 SEP 2015 The UN warns that Gaza could become "uninhabitable" by 2020 due to the ongoing "de-development" of the Strip.

MAY 10 2021 Israel launches an 11-day attack on Gaza, killing 254 Palestinians, including 66 children, and injuring 1,948 others.

9 MAY 2023 Israel launches a five-day military campaign on Gaza, leaving **33 Palestinians killed**, including 6 children and 3 women.

Infographic: Timeline of the Gaza blockade and Israeli military attacks before October 7, 2023

3. October 7th Attack and Israel's Genocide of Gaza

As the Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip entered its 16th year with no end in sight, 7 October 2023 saw the attack on the Israeli communities surrounding the Strip, which are known as the "Gaza Envelope". Under the banner of "Aqsa Flood Operation", this attack was carried out by the armed wings of Hamas (the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades) and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (the Al-Quds Brigades).

The Israeli authorities have provided figures indicating that over 1,200 Israelis and foreigners, including soldiers and civilians, were killed in this attack. Many Israeli soldiers were among the more than 200 individuals who were arrested and moved to the Gaza Strip, with the other individuals being civilians. In return for 240 Palestinians held in Israeli occupation prisons, the Palestinian factions released 110 individuals during the lone truce that occurred over the past 12 months.

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor is investigating a number of crimes that are said to have happened on 7 October 2023, including rape, torture, and hostage-taking. On 20 March 2024, the Prosecutor filed applications to the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the Court seeking arrest warrants for three Hamas leaders: Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's Political Bureau; Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip; and Mohammed Diab Ibrahim al-Masri, also known as Deif, the supreme commander of Hamas' military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades. All three are suspected of being criminally responsible for international crimes that were allegedly committed during the 7 October attack. The Court



Palestinians on the top of a burning Israeli tank on October 7, 2023 - Reuters

had finished its proceedings against Ismail Haniyeh after his assassination in July 2024. However, the Court is still looking into claims that Mohammed Deif was killed by Israeli occupation forces and will end its proceedings against him if this is confirmed.

In this regard, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor demanded in early September 2024 an impartial, global inquiry into the events of 7 October 2023 in order to ascertain the whole truth, guarantee accountability for all involved, and provide recompense to the victims. This call coincided with an upsurge in reports in the Israeli and global media concerning the Israeli occupation army's application of the legally contentious "Hannibal Protocol" during the 7 October attack; this protocol seeks to prevent the capture of Israeli soldiers by any means necessary, including actions that put soldiers and civilians in danger. To ensure that everyone has the right to know the truth and to arrive at a fair and comprehensive understanding of the situation as a whole, it is imperative that the circumstances and decisions made by all parties during this pivotal event be thoroughly assessed, given the complexity of, and murkiness surrounding, the protocol's implementation.

Israel declared a state of war after the 7 October 2023 attack, with the President, Prime Minister, and other members of its political and military establishment leading the charge. The Israeli military campaign was launched with the stated goals of destroying Hamas, obtaining the release of prisoners, and reestablishing security. This operation was called "Operation Iron Swords".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proclaimed Israel to be at war on 9 October 2023, using the right to self-defence as the basis for the ongoing military operations in the Gaza Strip. Many nations, particularly Western ones, quickly expressed their full readiness to supply Israel with all necessary military and political capabilities in order to support Israel's right to self-defence and its exercising this right in its recently declared war.

However, the International Court of Justice, the world's highest court, has previously held a different opinion on Israel's right to self-defence as an occupying power in the Palestinian

territory⁽⁶⁾. In its 2004 advisory opinion on the legal ramifications of the wall's construction, it stated that as long as the security threats viewed by Israel as justification for building its wall come from within the occupied Palestinian territories that Israel controls, and not from outside, Israel cannot use the right of self-defence. The Court further pointed out that Article 51 of the UN Charter, which acknowledges the innate right to individual or group self-defence in the event of an armed assault, mostly applies when one state launches an armed attack against another state. Since Israel does not assert that another state is responsible for the attacks against it, as it does not recognise the state of Palestine, the Court determined that Article 51 does not apply in this particular situation. The Court acknowledged Israel's right to self-defence only in the event that it launches attacks against other states following attacks against it, provided that these attacks originate from outside Israel's borders or from areas that are not effectively under its control.

Although the wall's construction was the particular focus of this advisory opinion, the Court's established legal principles apply to situations involving comparable circumstances. The same legal framework established by the Court has been invoked by numerous experts⁽⁷⁾ in international law to contend that Israel cannot assert a right of self-defence in its ongoing conflict with Gaza because the threat it faces is not from another state but rather from an armed group (Hamas) operating out of territory that Israel continues to occupy (the Gaza Strip).

Yet, whether or not Israel's claim to the right of self-defence is legitimate, the use of this or any other right does not absolve Israel or any other state of its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, where relevant, with regard to how it conducts its military operations and treats those under its control. No state, including Israel, is exempt from this requirement. During military operations, all states must take all necessary precautions to safeguard civilians and civilian objects from harm and adhere to the legal guidelines governing the use of force in accordance with the principles of

6 <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/131/131-20040709-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf>

7 <https://www.analystnews.org/posts/does-israel-have-a-right-to-self-defense-in-gaza-legal-experts-say-no/>; Self-defence in Israel and Palestine: Unsuspending Disbelief: <https://rsilpak.org/2023/self-defence-in-israel-and-palestine-unsuspending-disbelief/>; Israel's Right to Self-Defense Under International Law: <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2023/12/7-10-the-question-of-israels-right-to-self-defense-under-international-law/>; Israel's War in Gaza is Not a Valid Act of Self-defence in International Law: <https://opiniojuris.org/2023/11/09/israels-war-in-gaza-is-not-a-valid-act-of-self-defence-in-international-law/>

distinction, proportionality, and military necessity. States must also refrain from launching direct, indiscriminate, or excessive attacks against civilians or civilian objects.

Most importantly, according to international law, genocide cannot be justified in any situation—not even in self-defence, preemptive strikes, or deterrent warfare. Nonetheless, the facts and evidence surrounding Israel's operations in the Gaza Strip during the past year, especially with regard to their nature, extent, and context, show a definite intention to exterminate the Palestinian people in Gaza, either entirely or partially, which is consistent with the legal definition of the crime of genocide.

II. Legal Framework of the Crime of Genocide



A woman holds her baby in her arms after she was pulled out from under the rubble following an Israeli airstrike on the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza City, Photo: Ali Jadallah - Anadolu Agency

On 9 December 1948, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It was the first international treaty to define genocide legally, classify it as a crime under international law, and require States Parties to take action to stop it and hold perpetrators accountable in front of both domestic and international courts.

As per the definition found in Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the crime of genocide is comprised of two interconnected elements: the mental element (general intent and specific intent) and the material element (acts). Both elements need to be present in tandem for the crime to be classified as genocide.

The act of committing any of the designated acts in the Convention with the intention of completely or partially eradicating a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such, constitutes the material element.

These acts are:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

General intent as well as specific intent comprise the mental component of the crime of genocide. The term “general intent” describes the overarching desire to carry out the forbidden behaviours. A key component of the definition of genocide is specific intent, which calls for the deliberate intent to eradicate a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group entirely or in part due to the group member’s belonging to said group. The destruction must also have the intention of destroying the group as a whole, or at least a portion of it, if that portion is large enough to have an impact on the group as a whole.

The offense of genocide is distinct from the majority of other international crimes in that it requires proof that the perpetrator (either a state or an individual) acted with the specific intent to decimate the target group. Additionally, the only reasonable

conclusion that can be made from the acts in question—that is, the only conclusion that can be made at all—must be the conclusion that genocidal intent exists. Therefore, proving this specific intent—which calls for substantial evidence of the perpetrator's goals and motivations—is one of the main challenges in prosecuting the crime of genocide. This intent can be ascertained through direct evidence, which includes official statements from the government or policies of the state, as well as indirect evidence, which is evidence that is deduced from specific types of behavior, such as the nature, scope, context, and length of the crimes.

Not only is the Genocide Convention an international legal obligation, but customary international law also imposes a prohibition on genocide on states. As a result, all states, whether or not they are parties to the Genocide Convention, are required to uphold this obligation.

The outlawing of genocide entails an obligation of absolute force towards all, or what are known as *erga omnes* obligations; this means that because the crime has a grave effect on humanity as a whole, all states have an obligation to prevent it and punish those who commit it, not just those who are directly impacted. Article 3 of the Genocide Convention states that, in addition to the direct commission of the crime, cases of conspiracy to commit the crime, direct and public incitement to commit the crime, involvement in its commission, and even attempts to commit the crime are all considered prohibited acts of genocide.

The definition of genocide found in the Genocide Convention is also found in Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Genocide is a crime that is covered by both the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice. Although the scope and nature of these courts' jurisdictions vary greatly, they work in tandem to provide a more thorough response to what is known as the "crime of all crimes".

The jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice extends to the consideration and resolution of disputes between states and questions of interpretation of international law, including those pertaining to the Genocide Convention. Cases alleging genocide

committed by one state against another are heard by the International Court of Justice. One such case is South Africa versus Israel, in which the latter is accused of violating the Genocide Convention in the Gaza Strip. Put differently, this is a court of states that looks at state responsibility as opposed to personal criminal responsibility. As such, its rulings have no criminal consequences, such as imprisonment, but may force states to fulfill their international obligations or to pay compensation.

The International Criminal Court's mandate does not cover disputes between states, even though it is restricted to the criminal responsibility of individuals for international crimes, such as genocide. Regardless of an individual's official position or immunity, the International Criminal Court (ICC) looks into and prosecutes those who are accused of international crimes. Convictions carry jail sentences and the potential for fines.

III. Genocide In the Gaza Strip



Huge destruction was left in the Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip following an Israeli massacre that killed 70 people, Photo: Ali Jadallah, Anadolu Agency - December 24, 2023

This chapter analyzes the acts that Israel has committed and is still committing in the Gaza Strip that, given their nature, scope, and context, have the characteristics of genocide. These acts include the mass murder of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including women and children; the infliction of severe physical and psychological harm on Palestinians

in the Gaza Strip; the imposition of living conditions intended to destroy them as a group, including the widespread destruction of homes and residential areas; starvation; deprivation of necessities for survival; denial of adequate medical care; denial of access to sanitary and hygienic supplies; torture and inhumane treatment; the devastation of Palestinian life in the Strip; and, lastly, the imposition of policies meant to prevent Palestinians from having children.

This chapter also examines evidence of Israeli officials' specific intent to carry out and persist in carrying out genocide in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, especially in light of their direct and public statements that both reveal and encourage the commission of genocide by others. This is especially the case when one considers the magnitude of the killing, harm, and destruction that have been witnessed in the Strip.

A. Material Element: Acts of Genocide

1. Killing of Group Members:

Since the beginning of its military offensive on the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023, the Israeli occupation army has been systematically and widely killing thousands of civilian Palestinians who were not involved in hostilities, mostly women and children. The Israeli occupation army deliberately launches large-scale military attacks against homes, residential neighbourhoods, shelters, and any other residential communities by air, sea, or land, using massively destructive missiles and shells, unguided artillery shelling, sniper fire, and quadcopters.

The Israeli occupation army has killed over 50,000 Palestinians since the start of its military offensive on the Gaza Strip (42,000 registered with the Ministry of Health). Thousands of victims' bodies remain trapped under rubble and in the streets, with medical personnel unable to retrieve them.

The 42-member Euro-Med Monitor team in Gaza has documented approximately 3,500 families experiencing the loss of multiple members due to the ongoing genocide since October 2023. Of those, 365 families have lost more than 10 members, and over 2,750 families have lost at least three members.

The Israeli occupation army has killed people in a variety of ways, primarily by using tactics and weapons that violate Israel's obligations to maintain distinction, proportionality, and the need to take necessary precautions both before and during any attack and every time it conducts a military operation.

a. Killing of civilians inside their homes

Using multiple missiles and bombs, some of which weigh more than a ton, the Israeli occupation army has adopted a policy of bombing homes over the heads of their occupants without giving them advance notice, and consequently crushing them under the rubble. This policy is not limited to the bombing of residential flats or homes known to belong to active



Massive destruction was left following the bombing of Abu Eida residential area in Jabalia camp, Source: Agence France-Presse - November 1, 2023

fighters. Instead, it has been expanded across the Strip in an unprecedented manner. The Israeli military has targeted 10s of thousands of homes and residential blocks this way, regardless of the number of residents inside, with the evident goal of causing the greatest number of deaths, and without taking into account the fact that the victims are civilians protected by international humanitarian law.

The following are some of the prominent killings that Euro-Med Monitor has documented:

- On 1 November 2023, about 120 people, mostly from the same family, were killed when Israeli aircraft bombed the Abu Aida residential block, home to hundreds of civilians and displaced people. The bombing was carried out using American

weapons. The Euro-Med Monitor investigation revealed that, without any prior notice, Israeli occupation forces dropped six to eight extremely destructive air bombs on the Abu Aida residential area at approximately 12:30. The targets of the bombs were nearby residential buildings with heights ranging from one to five stories, as well as a kindergarten. Within seconds, buildings were levelled to the ground, while neighbouring buildings were severely damaged. Large holes in the ground, at least three of which were visible, with a depth of roughly 2.5 metres and some of them with a diameter of about 10 metres⁽⁸⁾, were also caused by the targeting, along with extensive destruction in the vicinity and damage to nearby buildings. In what is known as the “ring of fire”, which the Israeli occupation army has adopted in many areas of the Gaza Strip since the start of its military offensive on 7 October 2023, all eyewitnesses and survivors that the Euro-Med Monitor team spoke with stated that the bombs fell suddenly and simultaneously on several residential buildings in the area. The ring of fire is represented by Israeli forces targeting a specific area with several heavy bombs that are dropped successively on neighbouring buildings in a matter of seconds or minutes; this results in significant human and material losses due to the inability of residents to flee the targeted area. The incident constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity.

- On 8 June 2024, the Israeli occupation army launched intense and violent air, land, and sea attacks on the Central Market area—which is crowded with thousands of residents every day in the Nuseirat camp and the surrounding areas—killing over 270 Palestinians and injuring hundreds more—most of them women and children. The Israeli occupation army then expanded its attacks to most of the central Gaza Strip. In the wake of these widespread attacks, the Israeli occupation army declared that its forces, working with the Israeli police (Yamam) and the General Security Service (Shabak), had successfully recovered four Israeli detainees during a special forces operation in the Nuseirat camp.

A young man using the pseudonym “Faisal”, who wished to remain anonymous, provided the following information to the Euro-Med Monitor team:



“Heavy attacks were carried out by Israeli drones and warplanes, initially targeting the Nuseirat camp’s northwest section. Later, the attacks spread to other parts of the camp, including the northeastern Al-Awda Street area and the Bureij camp’s entrance, where tanks were positioned to randomly fire artillery shells.”

UN human rights experts denounced the way in which the Israeli operation in the Nuseirat camp was conducted as a violation of international humanitarian law, highlighting the excessive violence used and its devastating effect on civilian lives. The operation resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of Palestinians. Along with urging the UN Security Council to seek out a long-term peace for the Palestinian people, they also demanded an arms embargo against Israel to put an end to the violence.

- On 12 June 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed a house in the Nuseirat camp, killing two members of the al-Louh family.

Yahya Muhammad al-Lawh provided information on the attack that killed his brother and sister-in-law and injured three children:



“I was sleeping at midnight when I felt an explosion. I looked out the window, thinking it was coming from one of the tents, but it was actually on the floor where my brothers’ flats were. When I arrived at the four-storey building in al-Nuseirat, I discovered that the targeting was on the fourth floor, which had two flats—one for my brother Shams and the other for my brother Ibrahim. I had no idea what was going on or why they were targeted. As I began to search the building for survivors, I discovered that neither my brothers, nor their kids, had been found. Instead, [I found that] the mother and sister of my brother’s

wife had been killed and taken away by ambulance. When I ascended to the top floor and entered the apartment, there was a fire raging and dust all over the place. We immediately began extinguishing the fire in an attempt to find anyone. Then I discovered that my brother Shams had been killed; [right] after identifying both his and his wife's bodies. I found one of my brother's kids as I searched more, but everything was covered in dust and blood, so I was not able to identify him. And then I discovered my brother Ibrahim buried beneath the debris, along with his wife and son. We dug until we extracted her and her son Mohammed, who was hurt. After much digging, we eventually pulled out my other brother, who was critically hurt."

- On 6 February 2024, Israeli forces bombed a house near Al-Nasr Municipality in Rafah, killing 13 members of the Al-Zarabi family.

Nawal Mohammed Abdullah Al-Zarabi told the Euro-Med Monitor team the following:



"My daughter, her husband, and three of her children, in addition to displaced people [sheltering] in her house, were pulled out in pieces from under the rubble. Mu'ayyad Ahmed Nayef Al-Zarabi, my grandson, was discovered close to the trees with burns on his leg in addition to serious injuries to his head and body.

The family and I had been forced to evacuate our home in Khan Yunis to my brother's residence in Rafah, which is close to my daughter's house—which was [then] targeted."

- On 26 May 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed the house of the Khala family in Jabalia, north of Gaza, killing at least 12 citizens and injuring 20 others.

Mahmoud Abdel Khaleq Khala provided the Euro-Med Monitor team with further information about the targeting of his brother's five-storey home:



“At precisely 4:25 pm, the house was targeted. An explosion shook the area and I saw dust filling my house. I could not see anything in front of me. I had no doubts that the bombing was either in or close to my home. The targeted house contained approximately 20 people, including my brother Ahmed, his spouse, and their sons Mohammed, Maysara, Mahmoud, and Humam, along with the sons’ spouses and kids. The bombing caused extensive destruction to the residential area. The home, which is situated to the far west of Jabalia al-Nazla town, is home to displaced people from the Jabalia camp and the eastern parts of Jabalia. As a result, there have been injuries among neighbours and bystanders in this now-congested area of displaced people. The five-storey house of my brother was completely levelled to the ground. We pulled out 12 dead people and there are still six more [stuck] under the rubble, including four children, in addition to about 20 people who were injured.”

b: Killing of civilians in shelter centres:

As part of its ongoing genocide, Israel has turned shelter centres housing thousands of forcibly displaced people into targets, including UN-run schools and facilities as well as state-run schools and public facilities, all without prior warning. This has resulted in the killing and wounding of thousands of Palestinian civilians.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- In the early days of August 2024, the Israeli occupation army bombed 16 school-turned-shelters in the Gaza Strip, 15 of which were located north of Wadi Gaza. This resulted

in the deaths of 217 Palestinians and the wounding of hundreds more, the majority of whom were women and children.⁽⁹⁾ At midnight on Saturday 7 September 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed the Halima al-Sadia school, which was sheltering hundreds of forcibly displaced people in Jabalia al-Nazla, in the north of the Gaza Strip. Four people were killed and several others were injured during the attack. The same afternoon, a bombing targeted the Amr Ibn Al-Aas School, north of Gaza City. The explosion claimed the lives of four Palestinians, including a child, and injured several more.

On 10 August 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed displaced people in Gaza City while they were performing their dawn prayer in Al-Tabi'in School's prayer hall, including the upper part of the hall, which was designated for sheltering women and children. According to Euro-Med Monitor investigations,



Al-Tabi'in School was subjected to Israeli shelling at dawn Saturday, August 10, 2024, Photo: Omar Al-Qatta, AFP

the Israeli occupation army detonated three American winged bombs during this targeting, which had a tremendous capacity to burn, melt, and destroy bodies. This resulted in the deaths of over 100 Palestinians, including numerous families which included women and children, as well as notable academics like Professor Youssef Al-Kahlout, an Arabic language professor at the universities of Gaza.

In the massacre at the prayer hall of Al-Tabi'in School, Muhammad Sufyan Jabr lost his grandfather, uncle, and aunt's husband. He describes some of the details of the incident as follows:



“A massacre took place in the prayer hall at the time of the dawn prayer. After doing my ablution, I went outside to join the prayer when it was called, but I had not arrived at the hall when the attack occurred, and the fire blew in my face. Feeling that the entire school would burn, I fled from the scene. I was unaware that my aunt’s husband, my uncle, and my grandfather were inside the hall. When I heard, I tried to look for them, going among the throngs of people trying to put out the fire with whatever water we had on hand—fire extinguishers not being available. Other than severed bodies and severed limbs, I found no evidence of them. After our three-storey house was bombed, the school became our home, but it was also a dangerous place for us to live. Everyone in the vicinity of the prayer hall at the time of the attack suffered from severe burns, limb amputations, or both. I sobbed a lot for my father, my grandfather, my uncle, and a lot of the fathers of the children who were killed [...] when the prayer hall was targeted. We were unable to say goodbye to them before they were turned into pieces of flesh. The hall was filled with mutilated bodies and a lot of flesh pieces. The bombing occurred unexpectedly, with no prior notice or warning.”

- On 14 July 2024, multiple missiles fired by Israeli warplanes struck the UNRWA-run Abu Aribat School, which provides shelter to thousands of internally displaced people in the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip. The attack resulted in 15 deaths, including at least one woman, as well as the injury of 80 civilians, the majority of whom were women and children.
- On 15 May 2024, the Israeli occupation army used F16 aircraft to fire missiles at the Sabra Clinic Centre in southern Gaza, killing a large number of displaced people in the process. Approximately 50 individuals, comprising women, men, and children, were

housed on the ground and first floors of the clinic; the clinic is under the purview of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). After [Israeli forces] assured these families that the army would not approach them, the building was bombed, killing many people—the majority of whom were women and children. With most of the survivors hurt, those who lived had a hard time escaping the rubble.

Eight-year-old Hudhayfah Fayez Abu Samaan and his family were evacuated to Al-Sabra Clinic. Along with his three-year-old brother, he survived the bombing of the clinic that claimed the lives of his mother and father. He explained to Euro-Med Monitor:

“My parents woke up for the dawn prayer while we were sleeping at Al-Sabra Clinic. After they finished praying and returned to their beds, the clinic was bombed with several missiles. I did not hear the bombing because I was asleep, but when I woke up, I felt like I was about to die because of the weight on my leg [due to] the heavy column that had fallen on it. In addition, my left ear still does not hear. After my relative picked me up, I was taken to the hospital, where my leg was put in a cast. My father and mother were killed and buried. Only my uncles and my younger brother remain alive.”

c: Killing of civilians in displacement tents and humanitarian zones

The Israeli occupation army frequently attacked the makeshift displacement tents, even inside what it referred to as the so-called “humanitarian area”, which was the region around Khan Yunis and Rafah where hundreds of thousands of people had been forcibly evacuated since the start of Israel's aggression on the Gaza Strip.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- On 26 May 2024, Israeli aircraft used several missiles to bomb displacement tents near the UNRWA warehouses northwest of Rafah. The attack left 45 Palestinians dead, including nine children, 12 women, and three elderly people.
- On 28 May 2024, Euro-Med Monitor documented the killing of seven civilians, including four women, after Israeli aircraft targeted displacement tents in the vicinity of the UNRWA barracks in the Tal al-Sultan area northwest of Rafah city. All the victims of this massacre belonged to two families: Abu Jarad and Tanboura. These families had been forcibly displaced from Gaza City and its north after being forced to flee their homes and head south, where they were ultimately directly targeted by Israeli airstrikes.
- On 13 July 2024, eight highly destructive US bombs were dropped by Israeli aircraft on a group of 10s of thousands of people who had been forcibly displaced. At least 90 people were killed and 300 were injured, many of them women and children who lost limbs or were paralysed as a result of the attack. Medical personnel struggled to treat the injured, as the Gaza Strip's health system has collapsed due to Israel's targeting of it since 7 October.
- On 10 September 2024, Israeli aircraft used at least three missiles to bomb displacement tents in the area of Al-Mawasi, southwest of Khan Yunis. The bombing created deep holes and completely buried 20 tents. Forty civilians lost their lives, 60 were injured, and many more remain missing and presumed dead as a result of the attack.



Palestinians inspect their displacement tents that were subjected to heavy shelling in the Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, Photo: Mohammed Salem, Reuters - July 13, 2024

d: Killing of civilians by running them over with military vehicles and tanks

One of the most brutal ways the Israeli occupation army has killed Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip has been by deliberately running them over with its military vehicles and tanks while they are still alive.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- On 29 February 2024, the Israeli occupation army deliberately killed 62-year-old elderly man Jamal Hamdi Hassan Ashour in Gaza City's Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood⁽¹⁰⁾. Ashour, a father of five, had previously been displaced from his home after it was targeted by Israeli aircraft. The attack also killed his nephew. The incident occurred on Salah al-Din Street, the main road in the Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, according to eyewitnesses who spoke with the Euro-Med Monitor team. Ashour and his wife were surrounded by Israeli forces inside their home before he was arrested and taken to a house set aside for questioning detainees. The victim's hands were bound with plastic handcuffs by Israeli soldiers who trampled his body from the legs up, implying that the victim was alive during the crushing. To ensure complete and total crushing, the victim was placed on asphalt instead of the nearby sand. Following the killing, it was noted by onlookers and the



A photo of a Palestinian civilian being run over by an Israeli tank to death

Euro-Med Monitor team that the victim's mutilated body and the surrounding area bore the obvious remnants of a military bulldozer or tank. The victim was purposefully stripped of his clothes, except for his underwear.

- On 23 January 2024, an Israeli tank ran over a makeshift shelter caravan in the Taiba Towers neighbourhood of Khan Yunis city in the southern Gaza Strip, where members of the Ghanem family were sleeping. The incident resulted in the deaths of a man and his eldest daughter, and injured his wife and their three other children. Amina Ghanem, his 13-year-old daughter, claimed that an Israeli tank unexpectedly and repeatedly ran over the caravan while the family was sleeping, killing her father and older sister. She also stated that she suffered from severe pressure in her eyes, nearly losing her sight as a result of the attack.
- On 16 December 2023, Euro-Med Monitor documented Israeli tanks and bulldozers running over and crushing displaced people inside their tents in the courtyard of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern city of Beit Lahia. Many of them were killed or injured, and the corpses of people who had previously been buried in an area of the same courtyard were also crushed.

e. Killing of civilians through field executions

The Israeli army carried out dozens of direct executions and unlawful killings by shooting or shelling civilians, without any military necessity. Not long after the Israeli occupation army started attacking the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023, a pattern of genocidal crimes started to emerge.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- On 13 December 2023, Israeli occupation army forces executed nine civilians, including children, inside the Shadia Abu Ghazaleh school-turned-shelter in Jabalia, according to testimony received by Euro-Med Monitor. An elderly man, Yousef Khalil, told the Euro-Med Monitor team that after Israeli forces stormed the school, two soldiers

opened fire on his family members in one of the classrooms. Khalil said that after the killing of his family members, the Israeli forces arrested him and others and held them for several days, beating and torturing them before their eventual release. After the forces withdrew from the vicinity of the school where they had been stationed for a week, Khalil returned to find the bodies of his family members almost decomposed. Among the victims were a woman, her husband, and several children. A blood-soaked mattress, bullet holes, at least two bodies on the ground, several bodies—including that of a woman—damaged classrooms, and bloodstains on the floor were captured in footage obtained by Euro-Med Monitor between 13 and 15 December.

- On 21 December 2023, the elderly man Akram Abu Hasira and his wife were killed after Israeli forces took them out of their home on Yarmouk Street in Gaza City. The soldiers shot them and left them to bleed to death before burning their home. Their relatives were able to transport and bury their bodies after Israeli forces withdrew from the area, according to their son, Mahmoud Abu Hasira.



A photo of the elderly Akram Abu Hasira and his wife, who were executed by the Israeli army after being taken out of their home on Yarmouk Street in Gaza City, on September 21, 2023

- On 16 May 2024, the Israeli occupation army executed two citizens on Al-Ajarmah Street in Jabalia camp, north of Gaza, and put Israeli military uniforms on them.
- Recalling another incident, 26-year-old Abdullah Ibrahim Saleh told Euro-Med Monitor about the execution of his father and his neighbour: “Despite the [Israeli] calls on Saturday 11 May to leave Jabalia camp, we remained in our home on Al-Ajarmah Street in the camp, north of Gaza, until Thursday 16 May. Together with my mother, father,

and four brothers, we departed on Thursday and stayed the night at a relative's home in Sheikh Radwan. My father left the following day, but later called to tell us that he had returned home and would not be leaving. Up until Wednesday 22 May, we kept in daily contact with my father. During our last call, he informed us that the army had searched the house and spent two days there without finding him on the upper floor. Since he was alone in the house, he informed us that he would go to the Ghaboun family's house to stay with our neighbour. We lost contact after that, so we were unaware of what happened to them. On 30 May, we came home to find my father and our neighbour Hani dead, lying near a staircase in military uniforms painted by the occupation army to make them look like Palestinian resistance fighters. In addition to bullets all over their bodies, we saw five hand grenades that were thrown at them, still in the area surrounding them. Bloodstains were visible on the floor, as the army had dragged them from the area near the stairs to the centre of the house."

- On 24 March 2024, Israeli occupation forces executed two children, Ali Salouha and Saeed Sheikha, in Gaza City.

Gaza City resident Islam Ali Salouha provided the following account to Euro-Med Monitor:

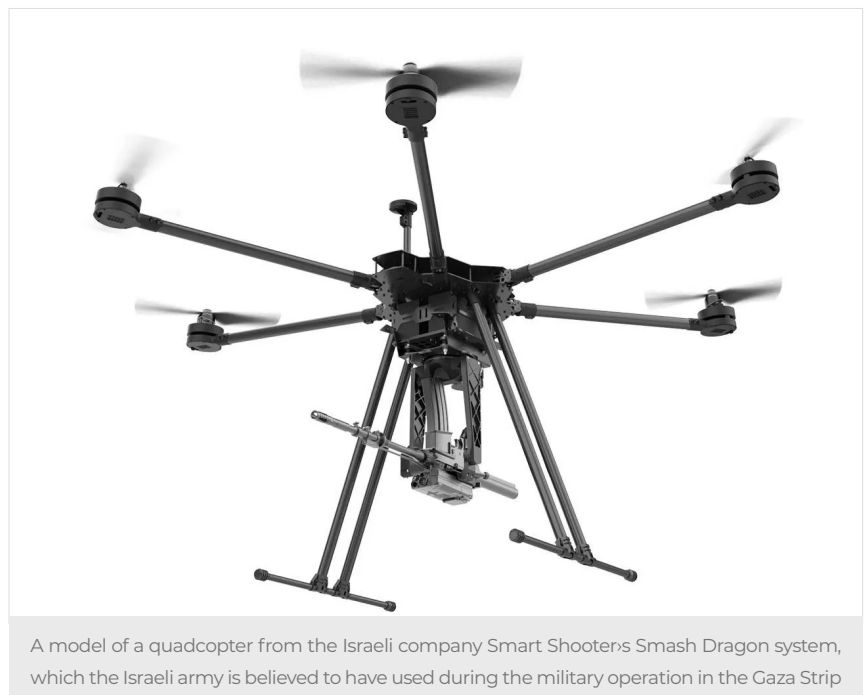


"We kept walking, and suddenly disaster struck. Amid heavy gunfire, my child Ali and his cousin, the child Saeed Mohammed Sheikha, fell. The two children fell before our eyes, and we saw blood covering their bodies. I tried to lift my child off the ground, and our relatives from the Sheikha family tried to lift their child off the ground, but the Israeli military vehicles started shooting at us. We were unable to bring them with us and had to continue walking on the road. My wife tried to go to our child, but I held her, fearing that she would be executed next to her child. When my child fell, I was staring into his eyes and she said to me, 'Dad, why did you leave me and go?' This scene will never leave our minds. Up until this point, we have no idea about my child; his body

is still in its original location, out of the reach of the medical staff. After four days of fasting, my child expressed his desire for food, to which we replied that we would go get some. After going for days without breaking his fast, my child was killed without eating, dying hungry. Based on the remains of victims found in the streets, the area around Al-Shifa Hospital has been turned into a field execution area.”

f: Killing of civilians with quadcopters

Euro-Med Monitor documented an increase in the number of killings carried out by the Israeli occupation army using electronic, remotely piloted quadcopters to drop explosive bombs and carry out direct fire. These drones were used for a variety of purposes, including espionage and surveillance; to issue forced displacement orders; to frighten civilians



with unsettling noises; and—most dangerously—as a means of killing and injuring Palestinians. Previous investigations by the Euro-Med Monitor team have revealed that the army may be using the [Smash Dragon](#) system made by the Israeli company [Smart Shooter](#). This system can be fitted with a variety of aircraft, including the Matrice 600 and the [Thor](#) aircraft made by [Elbit Systems](#). These are highly mobile, multipurpose drones that are intended for short-term use, capable of carrying both lethal and non-lethal payloads, and able to carry out a wide range of missions for special and military forces.⁽¹¹⁾

11 More: <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6357>

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- On 21 May 2024, Israeli army forces deliberately targeted and executed Silah Muhammad Ahmad Odeh, 52, while she was trying to escape from the Jabalia refugee camp by walking while raising a white flag. Odeh was killed due to direct fire from Israeli quadcopter aircraft, in front of her family.

Her brother Nidal, 40, told the Euro-Med Monitor team the following:



“On 20 May, at a late hour, my sister Silah suggested that we stay at our neighbours’ house on a backstreet of our Jabalia camp, which had been completely destroyed by Israeli bulldozers, and leave early the following day. Early on 21 May, we agreed on the plan. With our neighbour from the Abu Al-Tarabish family joining us, Silah made the decision to lead the group and carry the white flag. We counted around 12 people. As soon as we got to the main street, my sister emerged, and the quadcopter fired right at her, striking her squarely in the head. She was falling in front of us and her head was covered in blood. The artillery shells began flying in our direction as we hurried back towards the house we had left. I was the last of my brothers to return home. Upon turning around, I discovered my sister dead. Since it was difficult to get to her because she was in the middle of the main street, I went back home. After just two or three hours, a small aircraft flew in and took pictures of us inside the house. The army forces then moved in and started shooting at us. They fired sound bombs, causing a state of panic among the women and children. They forced us to take off all our clothes and tied our hands [together]. Then they interrogated us, photographed us, gave us a white flag, and then told us to head west, towards the sea. My brother, Mahdi, is fluent in Hebrew. He told

a soldier that we wanted to take Silah's body with us, since it was [still] in the street, but the soldier refused. We left under heavy artillery shelling on the designated route until we reached the western areas of the camp, where we met several people. After the army left the camp, on 30 May, we went back, found my sister Silah's body, and buried her in Al-Faluja Cemetery, west of the camp."

- On 10 May 2024, 70-year-old elderly man Fathi Hassan Yassin was similarly killed after being shot by quadcopter aircraft in Gaza City's southern Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood.

Yassin's son, Ibrahim, told the Euro-Med Monitor team the following:



"After a sleepless night brought on by [Israel's] constant artillery shells and airstrikes, we decided to leave the house and head to a school where my uncle had fled. We departed at 10 am, with everyone in the vicinity evacuated. At the Zaytoun Martyrs school, displaced people were directly targeted by artillery shelling and quadcopter planes, causing multiple casualties. When a quadcopter got close, I ran away, but my father stayed behind, looking for a safe place with his blanket and mattress. I was struck in the head, and he was instantly killed by a direct shot."

- On 7 May, 2024, Euro-Med Monitor's team documented Ibrahim Aziz Atallah's death; Atallah was hit by a bomb dropped by an Israeli quadcopter in Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood.

Muhammad Mazen Karam, the victim's cousin, told Euro-Med Monitor the following:



"We live in the Yarmouk neighbourhood. Searching for copper and plastic to sell and feed our families, my cousin Ibrahim Atallah and I were at the Salah al-Din Mosque in the Zaytoun neighbourhood, just before the Dawla intersection. People were moving around the place as usual. We were approached by a quadcopter as we went by a side street. I warned him to run and hide as soon as I saw it, but it is likely that his poor hearing prevented him from hearing my call. I told him to hide, as I was doing, when all of a sudden I heard an explosion. When I heard Ibrahim calling, I told him to stay [put] to the right until assistance arrived. I saw him being targeted by a quadcopter bomb. That was at nine in the morning, and he passed away shortly after I saw him take his last breaths."

These drones have killed dozens of civilians, as documented by Euro-Med Monitor in earlier reports, by firing automatic machine guns mounted beneath an aircraft at random gatherings, or shooting directly at people.

Since the beginning of Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, dozens of Palestinian civilians have been killed or wounded by Israeli snipers and quadcopter drones, in addition to those killed during the Israeli army's ground incursions, which began at the end of October 2023 and have intensified in recent weeks.

g: Killing of civilians in gatherings and markets

In order to eradicate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, the Israeli occupation army implemented a policy of bombing public gatherings in marketplaces, streets, close to residences, near water stations, or when filling private vehicles with water.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- On 25 May 2024, the Israeli occupation army bombed a gathering of displaced persons in front of a water truck at Al-Nazla Elementary School for Boys in northern Gaza, killing 10 citizens and wounding 20 others, most of whom were women and children.



Palestinians gather after an Israeli airstrike targeted an internet distribution point on Al-Jalaa Street in central Gaza City, Source: Social media - May 15, 2024

Fourteen-year-old Dima Mohammed Radaj, who was displaced from Beit Hanoun and moved to Jabalia al-Nazla, describes in detail how the gathering was targeted.



“A few metres away from where I was sitting in the schoolyard, there was an explosion that happened abruptly and without warning while I was there with my little niece. It was discovered that women and children who were waiting for a truck to fill up with drinking water were struck by the explosion. The kids were lying in the yard, covered in blood, when I got close. I ran into the room next to me with my baby nephew in tow. I saw that his hand was dripping with blood. It was discovered that a tiny piece of shrapnel had struck the palm of his hand. As of right now, the school is being evacuated. Everyone is fleeing out of concern that the drone attack is a warm-up for blowing up the school or carrying on with its targeting. It is our third time [changing shelters]. We left Beit Hanoun to Jabalia camp last November, and at that time my brother was martyred from heavy artillery shelling. Then, following the invasion of Jabalia camp two weeks

ago, we were forced to evacuate Jabalia camp to Jabalia al-Nazla. We have no idea where we are going to go as we leave now. This has happened in front of me three times now. I miraculously survived the bombings.”

- On 22 April 2024, two civilians were killed and several others were injured when Israeli aircraft bombed a civilian car in the busy Deir al-Balah market area in the central Gaza Strip.

Speaking to the Euro-Med Monitor team, 20-year-old Ramez Yasser al-Aklouk said:



“I live in Deir al-Balah. I was on my way to the town to get some groceries. I was shocked to hear a massive explosion as I got closer to the clinic. It was a car targeted by an Israeli aircraft. I had no idea what was going on at the time. After losing consciousness while flying into one of the stores, I ended up in the hospital. My back and entire body were covered in shrapnel. In comparison to injuries like limb amputation, my condition is stable and minor.”

- On 15 May 2024, four people were killed and 15 more were injured when Israeli aircraft bombed a crowd of people in a Gaza City Internet distribution centre.

The father of one of the injured individuals, Hassan Saeed Yousef Barakat, said:



“At Al-Oyoun intersection, there was a tent with an Internet connection where people congregated to check in and comfort their families. Israeli aircraft struck the crowd of people—including women and children—who had gathered there to use the Internet, without giving them any advance notice. Four people were killed and 15 more suffered moderate-to-serious injuries when a drone launched a missile that fell in the middle of the throng. Everyone in the

tent was either killed or injured. A 13-year-old girl was among the dead, having been martyred after visiting the Internet point to contact her family, who had been displaced to the south. Two minutes ago, I was there in the same spot with them. The damage that resulted was abnormal, appearing as though thousands of tons of explosives had been used."

h: Killing of starving civilians around humanitarian aid trucks

The targeting of civilian gatherings around humanitarian aid trucks with direct gunfire by Israeli occupation army soldiers, quadcopters, and tank shells during the past year of genocide in the Gaza Strip was one of the most dangerous forms of killing and illegal executions carried out by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians. This was particularly true at the Kuwait Roundabout and Nabulsi Roundabout in Gaza City, which were later dubbed the "flour massacres" and claimed hundreds of lives.

As of 23 March, 256 deaths had been documented by Euro-Med Monitor in the Kuwait Roundabout area; 230 on Rashid Street, and 21 related to attacks on aid distribution centres.

The following are some of the incidents documented by Euro-Med Monitor:

- The Kuwait Roundabout massacre, which occurred on 14 March 2024, and the Nabulsi Roundabout massacre, which occurred on 29 February 2024, were among the most serious "flour massacres" carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian civilians, who were already victims of the Israeli crime of



A photo documented by the Euro-Med field team: Casualties reported after Israeli army opens fire on people waiting for aid trucks near Kuwait roundabout - March 23, 2024

starvation committed in Gaza City and the Strip's North Governorate. Using machine guns fired from helicopters, tanks, and quadcopter drones, Israeli forces conducted a massacre of Palestinian civilians who had gathered to receive desperately needed humanitarian supplies near the Kuwait Roundabout on the outskirts of Gaza City on 14 March. The attack left more than 80 people killed and 200 injured, some of whom are still in critical condition.

- Around 4:30 am on 29 February, Israeli tanks opened fire on thousands of starving civilians who had been waiting for hours for relief trucks to arrive near the Nabulsi Roundabout on Rashid Street, southwest of Gaza City. The attack resulted in 118 deaths and 760 injuries. After the aid trucks arrived, Palestinian civilians were targeted by Israeli shelling and shooting. Numerous people fell from the trucks while attempting to obtain a bag of flour, and many others were targeted while carrying a carton of canned goods or a bag of flour to feed their starving family members.



Al-Shifa Hospital's Euro-Med Monitor researcher reported that hundreds of injured and dead people arrived at the facility, which is only partially operational. She emphasised that there was a significant stampede and a shortage of medical personnel, and that citizens were left to deal with the injured and attempt to administer first aid themselves in the midst of an agonising situation. Carts full of the dead and injured arrived at the hospital, some of them with bags of flour drenched in blood.

"We went to get aid and flour near the sea, but they opened fire on us at around 4:30 in the morning today," Saeed Thabet Salem Al-Rifi told the Euro-Med Monitor team. As soon as the trucks pulled up and people began to approach them, Al-Rifi said, "Gunfire broke out from all directions...turning the situation into a slaughterhouse. I got a bag of flour to feed my 11-member family, but my companion was killed."

“We reached the Nabulsi Roundabout and as soon as the trucks arrived, the tanks started shooting and shelling from all directions,” Anas Sobhi Abdel-Al told Euro-Med Monitor. Only one out of 10 individuals managed to get any aid, according to Abdel-Al: “Many people were killed or seriously hurt while transporting canned food or flour bags. The shooting was focused on the trucks and the surrounding area. The trucks were filled with the dead and wounded.”

The Israeli army attempted to deny any involvement in the massacre, arguing that the deaths were the result of a stampede and a run-over. However, the [investigations](#) carried out by Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor established the Israeli occupation army's involvement by identifying the bullets used in the massacre as being Israeli-made ammunition. At least 200 people who were present at the crime scene were injured by this type of bullet. This was revealed by the wounds and marks on the dead and injured; the eyewitness video clips that were released; the audible evidence of the bullets and their source—the Israeli tanks that were positioned toward the sea; and the general atmosphere of fear and panic that engulfed everyone there, even those who were far from the aid trucks, and drove them to run for their lives.

- On 25 February 2024, Euro-Med Monitor documented the additional killing and wounding of 30 Palestinians after they were targeted by the Israeli occupation army while waiting for aid trucks near the Nabulsi Roundabout on Rashid Street, southwest of Gaza City.
- On 13 March 2024, up to six people, including a child and an UNRWA staff member, were reported killed, and 22 others injured, by an Israeli strike on an UNRWA facility in Rafah, which serves as both a warehouse and a distribution centre. According to UNRWA Commissioner-General [Philippe Lazzarini](#), the strike affected “one of the very few remaining UNRWA distribution centres in the Gaza Strip...as food supplies are running out, hunger is widespread and, in some areas, turning into famine.” The

Commissioner-General said that UNRWA shares the coordinates of all its facilities in Gaza with the parties to the conflict on a daily basis and that the Israeli authorities had received the coordinates of the Rafah facility the day before it was struck. Since the beginning of the current round of hostilities, UNRWA has recorded an “unprecedented number of violations against its staff and facilities that surpass any other conflict around the world”, with at least 165 of its team members killed, more than 150 UNRWA facilities struck, and over 400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) killed while seeking shelter in UNRWA facilities.

i: Killing of Palestinian prisoners and detainees

In Israeli prisons and detention facilities, Palestinian prisoners from the Gaza Strip are routinely subjected to extrajudicial and arbitrary executions, as well as willful killings. They are also subjected to rights violations including torture and denial of medical care. Dozens of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip have been killed in Israeli prisons and detention centres since 7 October 2023, and the precise numbers and identities of the vast majority of them remain unknown to date.

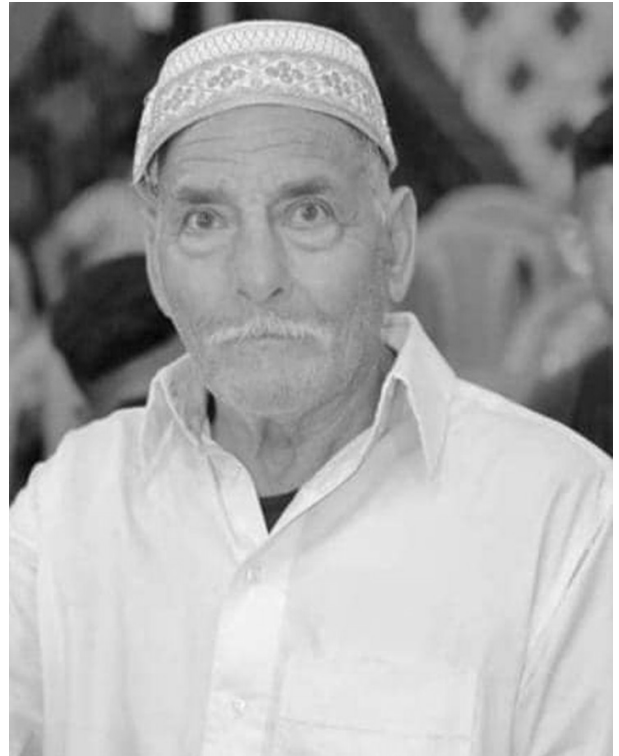
Since 7 October, at least 48 prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip have been killed during their interrogations or detentions in Israeli military facilities, either by direct illegal execution or as a result of the severe torture they endured, according to documentation published in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. No independent party has been able to confirm and identify the circumstances of these prisoners' and detainees' deaths, nor has the Israeli occupation army released any information about them. Their bodies have not been exhumed; their identities have not been established; their remains have not been returned; and their families have not even been informed.

Prisoners who are confirmed to have been killed in Israeli jails include the following:

1. On 20 February 2024, it was announced that 40-year-old Izz al-Din Ziad al-Banna, a resident of Gaza's Al-Zaytoun neighborhood, died in Ramla Prison. His health

deteriorated as a result of the torture he endured following his arrest two months prior to his death from Gaza during the ongoing genocide. He already had multiple diseases and a worsening mobility impairment.

2. Ahmed Rizq Qadeeh, a 70-year-old resident of Khan Yunis, who was arrested by the Israeli army during its ground invasion of Khan Yunis on 7 February 2024. His death was announced on 1 March 2024, after he was subjected to torture in an Israeli military camp, in addition to being deprived of medical treatment.



Elderly Ahmed Rizq Qudaih, from Khan Yunis, who was proclaimed dead on March 1, 2024 in Israeli prison after being tortured and denied treatment

3. Ismail Abdel Bari Khader, a 33-year-old Gaza resident. He was killed in one of the Israeli detention centres on an unknown date. His death was revealed on 2 May 2024, when his body was released that day along with dozens of Gaza detainees who were released through the Kerem Shalom (Kerem Abu Salem) crossing,

east of Rafah. It is noteworthy that he is the only dead prisoner whose body was turned over with signs of torture. The director of the Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah, Dr Marwan Al-Hams, explains: "Upon examining the body, we discovered swelling in the knees and shoulders as well as signs of torture on the wrists. His chest was obviously swollen, indicating that he was tortured to death."

4. Adnan Ahmed Attiya Al-Bursh, a 50-year-old consultant physician who oversaw the orthopaedic department at Al-Shifa Medical Complex. In December 2023, the Israeli army detained him along with several other medical professionals from Al-Awda Hospital. He was killed in Ofer Prison on 19 April 2024, and his death was announced on 2 May 2024.

Israel's killing of consultant doctor Adnan Al-Bursh under torture is a clear example of

its violations, which have targeted Palestinian competencies—including medical personnel—directly and intentionally. Through his work at Al-Shifa Medical Complex, where he saved thousands of injured people, and through media statements outlining the outcomes of Israel's genocide, Dr Al-Bursh gained notoriety.



Doctor Adnan Al-Barsh, tortured to death in Ofer prison on April 19, 2024. His death was declared on May 2, 2024

After a week-long siege that saw the Israeli army forces storm Al-Shifa Medical Complex on 16 November 2023, destroying its courtyards, parts of its buildings, and medical equipment, as well as carrying out arbitrary arrests, killing people, and destroying civilian objects, those inside—patients, medical staff, and displaced people taking shelter—were forced to evacuate. While everyone else headed south, Dr Al-Bursh went to the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza, where he was injured in an Israeli bombing. His brief stay at Kamal Adwan Hospital ended when he was forced to evacuate to Al-Awda Hospital in the Tal Al-Zaatar neighbourhood, east of the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. From there, he was detained by the Israeli army in December 2023, and held in Ofer Prison, where he was subjected to cruel torture until the final days of his life.

Following his release from Israeli prisons, doctor Khaled Hamouda stated:



"I was a sergeant in the prison. They brought Dr Adnan Al-Bursh in with four other doctors after they arrested them from Al-Awda and Al-Mamadani Hospital in Gaza. Dr Adnan was in miserable condition. He informed me that he had been badly beaten and that he had severe injuries all over his body. I helped him in using the bathroom, as he had difficulty going to it. After spending a day or two there, they moved him."

Other released detainees witnessed the deaths of their fellow prisoners and detainees inside the Israeli detention centres without ever being able to identify them, as the authorities turned prisoners and detainees into numbers and prevented them from speaking to one other under the threat of torture.



Ismail Ibrahim Shaaban Qarmout (33 years old), a resident of North Gaza and a medical equipment engineer, said: "On the 18th day of detention, at around 5:00 pm, one of the prisoners requested to see a doctor because he was suffering from shortness of breath due to a heart attack. The soldiers refused to take him to the doctor and asked the overseer to cover him up. The following morning, around 5:00 am, during the headcount, the detainee who had requested to see the doctor did not respond, so they asked the overseer to wake him up and found that he had passed away. At that moment, we started to chant 'Allahu Akbar' (God is the Greatest) and scream, and a number of soldiers entered the barracks and threw sound bombs at us, beating us with batons and letting dogs attack us. The repression lasted half an hour, after which they took the deceased detainee, whose name we did not know."

j: Killing of civilians by starvation

Since the first day of its aggression on the Gaza Strip, Israel has used starvation as a tool to carry out the crime of genocide by tightening its blockade, preventing the entry of food and other necessary supplies, and cutting off water supplies. Hundreds of thousands of residents, especially in the Gaza City and Northern Gaza governorates, have experienced hunger and dehydration. As of 24 June 2024, the Euro-Med Monitor team had recorded 49 deaths of children in the Gaza Strip specifically from starvation and food insecurity; 3,500 children were at risk of death from malnutrition, lack of vaccinations, and nutritional supplements; and the phenomenon of their emaciation, severe weakness, and epidemics

was spreading. These children now have severe health issues, emaciated bodies, unnaturally pale faces, and protruding eyes.

With famine spreading throughout the northern Gaza Strip, Euro-Med Monitor reported the death of three-year-old Ahmed Wael Ahl on the evening of 6 March 2024, due to starvation and dehydration. It also reported the deaths from malnourishment and dehydration of a 72-year-old man at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, and a 15-year-old child at Al-Shifa Medical Complex.



Mustafa Hijazi, 10, died due to malnutrition, dehydration and lack of medical treatment, Photo: Ashraf Abu Amra, Anadolu Agency - June 15, 2024

k: Killing of humanitarian and relief workers

The Israeli occupation army has systematically and purposefully targeted relief and humanitarian workers as well as humanitarian missions, undermining the efficacy and safety of the process of delivering life-saving aid and exacerbating the dire humanitarian situation that Israel has created in the Gaza Strip as part of its ongoing genocide.

Israel purposefully targets humanitarian workers, whether they are Palestinian or foreign nationals. Over 300 relief workers, the majority of whom were UNRWA staff members, were killed in Israeli attacks over the past 12 months.

In an incident on Thursday 29 August 2024, at around 3:35 pm, Israeli aircraft bombed a vehicle leading an Anera aid convoy that was carrying food and fuel to the Emirates Red Crescent Hospital. The victims were four Palestinians: Fathi Amira al-Amur, Mohammed Sami al-Amur, Saed Jihad al-Amur, and Mohammed Ahmed Abu Shriteh.

The Palestinians were part of a local protection team that the intermediary company working with Anera had hired.

Although the Israeli army claimed to have targeted gunmen who had hijacked a car at the head of the convoy and begun driving it, Euro-Med Monitor's preliminary investigations, which included speaking with the victims' relatives and other relevant parties, show that the victims were members of the protection team hired by



An Israeli airstrike on a car carrying foreign workers employed by the World Central Kitchen organisation resulted in the killing of seven of them. Photo: Ahmed Zaqout, Reuters - April 1, 2024

Move One, a Dubai-based company with a branch in Gaza, whose license to operate in the Strip could not be verified. The victims' presence was part of a work mission to secure the convoy, as the company was in charge of transporting and securing the Anera team. According to Anera's statement, all initial reports from the scene of the incident indicate that there were no weapons present and the four individuals did not pose a hostile threat—in contrast to Israeli claims that the first vehicle was carrying weapons—and that the Israeli airstrike was carried out without any warning or prior communication.

On 1 April 2024, seven people working for the World Central Kitchen (WCK) in Gaza were killed in a deliberate Israeli airstrike. The individuals hailed from Australia, Poland, and the United Kingdom, with the additional group members being a dual United States-Canadian citizen and a Palestinian who was both driving and translating. Three vehicles, including two armoured vehicles with the WCK logo on them, were being driven in a convoy heading south on Rashid Street, directly across from Deir al-Balah, when Israeli drones targeted them with three missiles. A missile was fired at the first car, totally

burning the front end. The driver was able to flee and board another car in the convoy. The aircraft then returned and targeted a different vehicle about 500 metres to the south. The missile struck this vehicle's roof, killing three people. Two of the individuals inside were able to get out and make it into the third car. However, the Israeli aircraft returned to target the third vehicle with a missile, killing four more people, approximately a kilometre south, across from the al-Tall site.

The targeted team was departing a food warehouse in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, when the bombing occurred, even though their movements had been coordinated with the Israeli occupation army.

i: Killing of Palestinian Elites

Tens of thousands of Palestinians were affected by Israel's widespread and unjustified killing campaign, which has been ongoing for an entire year now and has resulted in the deaths of dozens of academic elites, university professors, thinkers, writers, programmers, and journalists.



A photo of a number of academic and scientific figures who were assassinated by the Israeli army in direct attacks (social media)

Deliberate and targeted attacks have been carried out by the Israeli occupation army against intellectual, scientific, and academic figures in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of these individuals were killed in sudden and direct raids against their homes, with their families or other displaced families crushed under the rubble alongside them.

Israeli military attacks have resulted in the deaths of over 127 academics, deans, and

lecturers, as well as three university presidents. The attacks also claimed the lives of 18 professor degree holders, 87 doctorate degree holders, and 21 master's degree holders. This list, however, is not definitive; existing estimates including the names of additional targeted academics and holders of higher degrees have not been included because of documentation difficulties brought on by movement restrictions, communications and Internet outages, and the presence of thousands of unaccounted-for missing individuals.

On 2 December 2023, after the end of the temporary truce between the Palestinian resistance and the Israeli occupation forces, Israeli forces killed Dr Sufyan Tayeh, the president of the Islamic University in Gaza, and his family, targeting with warplanes a multi-storey residential building sheltering displaced persons belonging to the Al-Ubaid family in the northern Jabalia camp. Dozens of casualties and deaths were reported during the attack, including Dr Sufyan Tayeh.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor compiled a list of technology specialists, including those with expertise in programming and artificial intelligence, who have been directly killed by the ongoing Israeli attacks. Among those is the well-known programming engineer Haitham Muhammad Al-Nabahin, who was esteemed as one of the Gaza Strip's most accomplished computer engineering specialists. He, along with his wife, Eng. Nasma Zuhair Sadiq, was killed in an Israeli air strike on a residential home in the central Strip's Bureij refugee camp on 14 March 2024.

A relative of Nabahin told Euro-Med Monitor that he and his family had fled to a house in Rafah, in the far south of the Gaza Strip. However, Nabahin's two children, Layan and Muhammad, were killed—and his wife wounded—in an Israeli attack that forced them to flee once more, this time to a house in the Bureij camp. There, the Israeli army killed them approximately two weeks later. According to his relative, Nabahin had paid a hefty price to have his and his wife's names included in the coordination lists for individuals seeking to leave the Gaza Strip through the Rafah Border with Egypt, in order to treat his wife abroad, before they were both killed in the Israeli attack.

Tariq Thabet, a graduate of the American Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, was killed on 31 October 2023 in an Israeli airstrike that also claimed the lives of his wife, children, parents, and other family members. Thabet was the director of the UCAS Technology Incubator Programs at the University College in the Gaza Strip.

Baraa Abdullah al-Saqqa, the founder of DITS and a software engineer specialising in website and smartphone application programming (senior and lead developer), was killed in a similar Israeli air strike on 21 November 2023. He held positions with numerous industry-specific businesses, such as CTO company. Additionally, he was active in providing programming courses and specialised workshops. In addition to being a student in a master's programme in computer engineering with a focus on artificial intelligence, Saqqa was regarded as one of the leading young programmers in Gaza. He was recognised for his efforts in training numerous new employees in the technical fields, and had been awarded numerous certificates and awards prior to his death. Saqqa was killed in an Israeli airstrike on his family home in Gaza City, along with his pregnant wife and his in-laws.

The list also includes Muhammad al-Athal, who was killed on 26 October 2023; Hamza al-Shami on 2 November 2023; Anas al-Sheikh on 9 December 2023; Obaida Khater on 20 December 2023; and Abdel Rahman Hamada on 15 March 2024, in addition to another group of young programmers including Rami al-Sousi, Abdel Hamid Al-Fayoumi, Bilal Zaqout, Ahmed Nidal Qaddoura, and engineer Muhammad Hassouna.

The Israeli crimes of targeting and killing Palestinian competencies and elites, respectively, as well as the widespread and intentional destruction of businesses and infrastructure, will not only undermine the scientific, educational, and economic systems of the Gaza Strip but also impede the development of Palestinian society in general and deprive its vital sectors of highly qualified individuals who will be difficult to replace. These crimes will incite fear and create an atmosphere of coercion among those who remain, forcing them to emigrate.

These crimes appear to be part of Israel's public policies aimed at making the Gaza Strip uninhabitable by destroying fundamental life structures and eliminating talent. This will undoubtedly lead to a paralysed society, incapable of quickly recovering from the disastrous fallout from the serious crimes committed by Israel during the current period.

2. Causing Serious Physical or Mental Harm to Members of the Group

The Israeli occupation army continues to launch thousands of systematic military attacks against civilians in the Gaza Strip, often using munitions and weapons with large destructive capabilities. These attacks cause unjustifiable pain, severe injuries, and extensive harm. As a result, approximately 100,000 Palestinians have been injured, with thousands suffering from amputations, permanent disabilities, or severe burns and lacerations.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, the number of amputations has exceeded 10,000 across the various governorates of the Strip since the start of the Israeli offensive, including more than 4,000 children. The UNRWA Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, stated that the ongoing war in Gaza results in 10 children losing one or both legs every day.



The child Iman Al-Khawli, whose leg was amputated after being injured in an Israeli airstrike, receives treatment at the European Hospital in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on December 28, 2023. Photo: Arafat Barbakh, Reuters.

In addition to this, nearly all residents of Gaza have experienced panic, stress, and psychological disorders due to the continuous bombardment, fear, loss of family and loved ones, repeated forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, and even lack of food,

along with the massive destruction of their homes, streets, and homeland. At the same time, Israel continues to deny all Palestinians in Gaza their right to receive necessary healthcare, medical, and psychological treatment.

Israeli aircraft target homes, shelters, and crowded streets with missiles and bombs with tremendous destructive power, crushing buildings and those inside. Alongside the widespread destruction of buildings and facilities, these attacks result in either the death of civilians or injuries that are impossible to heal.

The Israeli occupation army has also used other types of deadly and banned munitions aimed at individuals, which cause massive casualties and injuries, inflicting unjustifiable pain. White phosphorus, another internationally banned weapon, has also been used due to the severe injuries and burns it causes, often penetrating to the bone.

In addition to the widespread amputations, there are other serious injuries that result in permanent disabilities, including cases of blindness, full or partial paralysis, peripheral nerve damage, and severe burns of varying degrees.

Israel implements a systematic plan to deprive Palestinians in Gaza of their right to medical treatment and care, exacerbating the damage caused by injuries and making recovery difficult or impossible. The Israeli occupation army has systematically and extensively targeted all components of the health sector and its infrastructure, including hospitals, health centers, medical personnel, and ambulances. This includes repeated direct military attacks, raids, and the destruction of medical departments and equipment, along with the killing and arrest of medical staff. Moreover, the near-total blockade imposed by Israel has cut off medical supplies, medicines, and medical equipment, as Israel controls the types and quantities of goods allowed into the Strip.

What exacerbates the severity of most injuries is the lack of treatment facilities in Gaza, combined with the inability to transfer patients abroad for care due to the closure of border crossings by Israel. This has escalated to a complete closure following Israel's control over the Rafah border crossing with Egypt on 7 May 2024.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, there have been a total of 25,000 requests for treatment abroad. Of these, only 6,645 have received coordination and approval to travel, with just 4,859 patients and injured individuals managing to leave the Gaza Strip. Since 7 May only 219 medical cases have been allowed to leave through the Kerem Shalom crossing as of 24 June 2024.⁽¹²⁾

Israel's denial of Palestinians' right to medical care has led to the deaths of hundreds due to injuries or infections in the absence of necessary treatment. Additionally, Palestinian patients suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension have been deprived of life-saving treatments for a full year. Their suffering is compounded by the shortage or unavailability of many types of medication, putting their lives at imminent risk.

During the ongoing war, Gaza's only psychiatric hospital, located in the Al-Nasr neighborhood of Gaza City, was bombed by Israeli forces on November 6, 2023, rendering the facility non-operational. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that psychological services are needed in Gaza now more than ever due to the increasing distress caused by the conflict. The WHO has called on the international community and its public health institutions to provide the necessary mental health services to the people of Gaza.

The assault has caused 75% of mental health institutions to cease operations, as specialized clinics are generally housed in hospitals, including those focused on mental and family health. Since 75% of these hospitals have been shut down due to the attacks, it means at least 75% of these six clinics have either been destroyed or rendered non-functional.⁽¹³⁾

After a full year of widespread Israeli military assaults on Gaza, the residents of the Strip — nearly 2 million of whom have been displaced and are living in tents, shelters, or overcrowded homes under conditions that lack basic life necessities, hygiene, and health services — are now enduring severe psychological pressures. These circumstances,

12 Gaza Ministry of Health.

13 Independent Commission of Human Rights - Palestine, Jan 2024

compounded by heavy and continuous bombardment and the absence of any safe areas, have caused long-lasting mental and psychological trauma, particularly among children. Thousands of them have lost one or both parents, and hundreds have survived but are left without any family members alive.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor has documented a series of serious crimes and violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centers. In addition to causing dozens of deaths, the majority of detainees have suffered severe physical and psychological harm, with the effects of torture and abuse lingering even after their release.

Israeli occupation forces commit grave violations and crimes that strip Palestinians of their dignity and subject them to systematic and deliberate inhumane and cruel treatment. These crimes are part of a broader dehumanization campaign targeting all Palestinians in Gaza, effectively normalizing and justifying the atrocities committed against them. The humanity, suffering, and dignity of Palestinians are disregarded, as Israeli soldiers, like other segments of Israeli society, increasingly believe in the necessity of eliminating Palestinians as a group, particularly in Gaza. These crimes also reflect the public incitement for the extermination of the Palestinian people in Gaza, a sentiment echoed by Israeli officials, media figures, and settlers. The perpetrators enjoy absolute impunity, as no steps have been taken to hold them accountable on any level.

Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Gaza are particularly subjected to these practices in a systematic manner. Israeli forces deliberately torture them throughout their detention, interrogation, and questioning, inflicting severe physical and psychological harm. The physical marks left on their bodies are part of a broader strategy of collective punishment targeting Palestinians as a national and ethnic group, embodying the crime of genocide.

Israeli forces have carried out arbitrary arrests of thousands of Palestinian civilians from Gaza, including children and women. These individuals were stripped, blindfolded, and

forced to remain outdoors in cold weather for hours before being forcibly transferred to unknown locations, where they were subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including deprivation of food, water, shelter, and access to bathrooms.

Israeli forces continue to systematically enforce the crime of enforced disappearance against Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Gaza, refusing to acknowledge their detention or disclose their whereabouts. By withholding the names and fates of detainees, Israel deprives them of the legal protections they are entitled to, leaving them vulnerable for extended periods. Many of them have been subjected to physical and psychological torture, sexual violence, and threats throughout their detention. Some detainees were blackmailed or coerced into cooperating with the Israeli army and Shin Bet in exchange for reduced torture or certain privileges, or even their release.

Israeli forces continue to apply the “Unlawful Combatants Law,” which violates international law, to hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Gaza. This law strips detainees of all rights provided under international humanitarian law and human rights standards, including the legal protections they are entitled to according to their legal status. Under this law, detainees are not afforded the status of prisoners of war under the Third Geneva Convention, nor are they treated as civilian detainees under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its First Protocol. The law was amended at the start of the genocide in Gaza, allowing for the detention of Palestinians from Gaza for up to 75 days, with indefinite extensions based on secret evidence that neither the detainee nor their lawyer is allowed to access, effectively denying them the right to a defense and a fair trial.

In this context, UN experts issued a statement expressing concern over credible reports of gross human rights violations against Palestinian women and girls in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Gaza. These violations include deliberate killings, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture, sexual violence, including rape, threats of rape, forced stripping, and invasive body searches by

male soldiers, as well as inhumane treatment, assaults on their dignity, and the denial of their most basic gender-specific human rights. The statement highlighted the case of an infant forcibly taken into Israel by an Israeli officer, with her fate unknown since, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.

3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part

Israel has purposefully imposed living conditions meant to achieve the physical destruction of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip since it began its crime of genocide. These conditions include widespread and systematic forced displacement, hunger, thirst, and deprivation of basic necessities for survival, as well as blocking and restricting the entry of humanitarian supplies into the enclave and destroying the health and education sectors there.

a) Systematic and widespread forced displacement

The Israeli occupation army is committing the crimes of forced displacement and transfer by establishing a coercive environment throughout the Gaza Strip, without even a single metre of safety; by using physical force and launching severe and concentrated military attacks on residential complexes and neighbourhoods, storming shelters and homes and forcing Palestinians to flee without any other place to go; and by using psychological persecution, starvation, threats, intimidation, detention, and continuous issuance of orders for forced displacement.

More than 80% of the Gaza Strip's land was affected by the 63 evacuation orders that the Israeli occupation army issued over the course of a full year, and the majority of its 2.3 million inhabitants have suffered as a result. Approximately two million displaced people are currently housed in tents or shelters inside schools, with the majority of them being concentrated west of Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah.

Following the most dangerous displacement order on 13 October 2023, which demanded the evacuation of the Gaza/ Gaza City and North Gaza governorates, Israel has continued to carry out its policies of intimidating civilians, destroying the basic necessities of life, and engaging in aerial and artillery bombardment. As a result, hundreds of thousands of people have been forcibly displaced.



Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians flee Gaza City and North Gaza towards the south following Israeli evacuation orders, Photo: Ibrahim Abu Mustafa, Reuters - October 2023

As long as civilians are being forced from their home or places of residence without being given an alternative safe place to live—such as a secure shelter centre that offers basic necessities for survival and safety—and without the promise of security along their displacement route, these evacuations constitute a crime against international law and constitute forced transfer. The Israeli army has targeted residents directly, in numerous instances, who were travelling on routes during their displacements that had been declared safe passages by Israel.

According to a September 2024 Israeli Army Radio report, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were considering implementing operations in Gaza based on the so-called “Generals’ Plan⁽¹⁴⁾”. As part of the plan, the northern Gaza Strip will be under stricter siege, humanitarian aid will be stopped, and residents will be forcibly evacuated after being given a week’s notice.

¹⁴ [\(ajnet.me\)](https://www.ajnet.me/) نتنياهو وغالنت بدرسان تطبيق «خطة الجنراليت» في غزة | أخبار الجزيرة نت

Bloomberg News reported that Netanyahu is researching a plan “to force all Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to leave”, citing a former Israeli military official. The official apparently stated that the plan aims to turn the northern Gaza Strip into a closed military zone, besiege Hamas fighters, and “force them to surrender or starve”.

Numerous crises plague the displaced people in the Gaza Strip. On the one hand, Israel persists in attacking the humanitarian zones where it has invited them to seek refuge; on the other, they endure extreme overcrowding in shelters not intended for long-term residential use or live in run-down tents that lack the most basic amenities.

With the expected spread of winter diseases like influenza, following the summer outbreak of infectious diseases, hundreds of displaced people will likely experience a worsening of their painful suffering as the second winter draws near.

b) Starvation

In addition to using starvation as a tactic of warfare, which is illegal under international law, Israel continues to carry out its crime of genocide against all Gaza Strip residents by depriving them of the resources necessary for survival, particularly in the northern section of the Strip, in a systematic and



With the hunger in the northern Gaza Strip getting worse, Palestinians are able to obtain bags of flour from an aid truck near the Kuwait roundabout. Photo: Hossam Azzam, TPX IMAGES January 27, 2024

severe manner and with the ultimate goal of eradicating the population. Israel commits additional crimes and uses illegal means to carry out the crime of starvation, including enforcing a strict blockade over the entire Strip; cutting off fuel, electricity, and water;

destroying local food production sources; demolishing agricultural land and crops; and consistently preventing and obstructing the entry of humanitarian aid.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant stated that Israel has used starvation as an official political decision since the first day of the genocide. This decision was made in a number of coordinated stages, such as tightening the siege and closing the crossings, preventing the entry of commercial goods, destroying all local production and food sources, and consolidating the need for humanitarian aid so that it becomes the main source of food for Gaza Strip residents.

Hunger and food insecurity have been linked to several deaths in the Gaza Strip among the elderly and children; as stated earlier in this report, 3,500 children are at risk of dying as a result of malnourishment, lack of immunisations and nutritional supplements, and epidemics that are circulating among them. These children are suffering greatly from emaciated bodies, unnaturally pale faces, and protruding eyes.

Israel has deliberately destroyed crops and agricultural lands; slaughtered livestock; attacked fishing boats and equipment; water tanks and their extensions; and bombed bakeries, shops, markets, and other aspects of Gazan life during its genocidal war. Over the course of a full year of the genocide, the levels of food insecurity have been steadily increasing throughout the Strip as a result of Israel's insistence on committing the crime of starvation and using it as a weapon of war. All of the roughly 2.3 million people who live in the Gaza Strip—half of whom are children—are at risk of starvation and severe malnutrition due to the nearly complete closure of the crossings and the prohibition of humanitarian aid from entering the area. This threat is heightened in the northern Gaza Valley.

In parallel, Israel has demolished and bulldozed over 75% of the Gaza Strip's agricultural land, destroying not only the region's food supply of fruits, vegetables, and meat, but also all other aspects of the local food production system. This was either the consequence of

Israel's deliberate isolation of the Strip, or a pretext for Israel's unauthorised annexation of Gazan land to the buffer zone. One such instance occurred last month, when farmers in Beit Lahia replanted 500 dunams with vegetables, only to have them bulldozed by Israeli forces on 24 September 2024.

The Israeli occupation army has destroyed livestock, poultry farms, and agricultural land in a methodical manner consistent with the intention of starving the populace, denying them access to local food sources, and forcing them to rely on Israeli decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of humanitarian aid.

A road and buffer zone separating Gaza City from its centre have been constructed by Israel, taking up approximately three square kilometres, and Israeli forces have bulldozed and destroyed all agricultural lands along the security fence separating the eastern and northern Gaza Strip to a depth of approximately two kilometres, removing approximately 96 square kilometres in an attempt to annex them to the buffer zone by force, in violation of the mandatory rules of international law.

In addition, the entire Gaza Strip is experiencing a water shortage and a collapse of the sewage system due to the ongoing Israeli crimes of depriving the populace of necessities for survival, as demonstrated by the destruction of over 700 wells and water desalination plants since the start of the genocide. Meanwhile, the remaining areas endure a fuel shortage due to Israel preventing fuel from entering the Strip, despite the fact that a large number of people, including children, have died from infectious diseases and epidemics brought on by the accumulation of contaminated water after Israel's targeting of sewage stations.

The ongoing devastation and destruction by the Israeli occupation army has rendered the Gaza Strip uninhabitable, particularly after the destruction of nine out of 10 water tanks and half of the Strip's water networks, or 350 kilometres out of 700 kilometres.

According to the recognised international classification, the Integrated Food Security

Phase Classification (IPC), the nutritional situation in some areas of the Gaza Strip approaches the definition of famine. In its second report, the working group responsible for this classification, which addressed the nutritional situation in the Strip, confirmed that every person living in the enclave is in the third or higher phase of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, with half of them falling into the fifth phase, or the disaster/famine phase.

The majority of people living in the Strip are already experiencing severe levels of hunger, according to all reports from international organisations. Thousands of children and elderly people, in particular, are suffering from emaciation, i.e. being extremely thin for their height, and the population as a whole has lost thousands of tons of weight in recent months.

The Gaza Strip is home to 18,239 children who have been diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition, including 145 who have had significant medical complications as a result of their malnourishment, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Food supplies that are stranded due to high temperatures are at greater risk of spoiling and becoming contaminated as a result of Israeli attacks and access restrictions, which are causing severe shortages of relief goods necessary to support humanitarian operations.

Additionally, the food security response must be improved by immediately addressing winter needs in other sectors, such as shelter, water and sanitation, health, and logistics. The UN warns that an integrated, multi-sectoral response is essential to address food insecurity, especially during the upcoming winter.

Israel has not stopped starving Palestinians, nor has it altered its arbitrary policies that prevent humanitarian aid from entering the Strip, suggesting that Israel intends to subject Palestinians to harsh living conditions that will ultimately result in their actual death, despite the widespread famine and malnutrition and consequent increased risk of death.

c) Blocking humanitarian assistance

By limiting the quantity of aid that is permitted to enter the Strip and placing arbitrary restrictions on the kinds and categories of aid that are permitted, the Israeli occupation army continues to obstruct and hinder the entry and arrival of humanitarian aid supplies to the greatest extent possible, particularly to Gaza City and the north.



A UN aid truck targeted by the Israeli navy on its way to the northern Gaza Strip, Source: Thomas White, Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza - February 2024

In order to prevent Palestinians from receiving aid in quantities sufficient to satiate their hunger or prevent them from dying from it, Israel has persistently and severely obstructed the entry of aid into the Gaza Strip. It has done this by subjecting aid to arbitrary and drawn-out inspection standards and procedures, targeting it while it is in trucks and in storage and distribution centres, and attacking those who are waiting for it and those responsible for securing and distributing it. By lacking mechanisms to monitor and secure the distribution of this aid, Israel has also injured or even killed people; Israel has refused to collaborate with international institutions working in this field, and has attempted to dissolve UNRWA, the main international agency in charge of distributing humanitarian aid within the Strip.

Even when aid is permitted to enter, Israel restricts its amount, kind, and accessibility, bombing food warehouses, shopping centres, and even aid workers and those defending them. It also bombs residents who are waiting for aid trucks, killing and maiming hundreds of hungry people in the process.

Dispatching aid to the north of Gaza needs day-to-day approvals from Israeli authorities. During the long waits at the Wadi Gaza checkpoint, truck convoys face looting and are frequently turned back. If they do get through, there is a high risk of more looting along the difficult route north, according to the World Food Programme.

d) Creating environmental and health hazards

Israel's arbitrary crimes and policies have caused the destruction of 70 kilometres of sewage networks; the disruption of all six wastewater treatment plants and systems; the closure of approximately 65 sewage pumps; and the disposal of an estimated 130 thousand cubic metres of sewage per day without treatment—with some of it seeping into roads and refuges for the displaced throughout the Gaza Strip.

In addition to having catastrophic and long-lasting effects, the Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip has caused and continues to cause indescribable humanitarian suffering. It has severely damaged the environment, causing hazardous dust to be released into the air from destroyed buildings, waste management facilities collapsing, water treatment facilities being destroyed, and waterborne illnesses spreading.



Extensive damage to a water tank in the Tal al-Hawa area, southwest of Gaza City, following Israeli shelling, Source: Gaza Municipality on Facebook - May 12, 2024

Furthermore, the buildup of 10s of thousands of tons of waste threatens to contaminate soil and groundwater and fosters the growth and reproduction of bacteria. It is estimated that the Israeli attacks have produced at least 900,000 tons of toxic waste,

which includes heavy metals, pesticides, radioactive and carcinogenic materials, and other chemicals that are released through the use of military munitions and building destruction and endanger all living things, including plants and animals.

Damaged or destroyed infrastructure in the Gaza Strip includes drinking water wells; water networks such as pumps and towers; sanitation and hygiene facilities; sewage networks; desalination plants; storm water infrastructure; sea sewage outlets; and sewage treatment plants.

Oxfam International reported that by mid-November 2023, fuel shortages had forced the closure of the majority of Gaza's 65 sewage pumping stations and all five of the enclave's sewage treatment plants. Prior to the ongoing genocide, Gaza sent 13,000 cubic metres of raw sewage into the sea each day. However, this number has now reportedly increased to 130,000 cubic metres per day, according to the UN Environment Programme.

Gaza's population is forced to use salty, contaminated water for cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene, due to the disruption of sewage treatment facilities. Drinking contaminated water has disastrous health effects—particularly for children, who make up 47% of the population—and increases the risk of cholera, typhoid, polio, and other water-related diseases.

Israel's wilful and systematic denial of hygiene supplies and equipment to all Gaza Strip residents resulted in a massive health crisis that spread quickly. This crisis has been made worse by the population's forced, widespread, and repeated displacements, as well as their lack of personal hygiene supplies and disinfectants, particularly in the camps and shelters that are home to hundreds of thousands of displaced people and in the absence of sanitation services (the Israeli army has destroyed these facilities).

An estimated 680,000 women and girls who menstruate live in the Gaza Strip and are not provided with sanitary pads or any other basic menstrual supplies. They also face challenges such as limited access to water and toilets, a lack of privacy, and the necessity

of using contaminated or unsterilised materials, which puts them at risk of developing infections that can lead to infertility, uterine cancer, and infections of the reproductive system and urinary tract.

This increases the risks caused by a lack of basic cleaning supplies for the home and personal hygiene, given the desperate need for personal hygiene and cleaning after more than two million people were forced to flee their homes—the majority of them more than once—and the hundreds of thousands of people who are currently living in makeshift shelters and tents devoid of the necessities for survival, personal hygiene, and health care. There is also the risk of further waste building up and more sewage overflowing into roads and marketplaces, because Israel has completely cut off electricity to the Gaza Strip and has prevented fuel from entering the region to power alternative generators, in addition to the destruction of most of the Strip's essential infrastructure, including sewage networks.

Euro-Med Monitor reiterates that Israel purposefully aggravates the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip by blocking the entry of supplies for personal hygiene, sanitary equipment, and sterilisation, as well as numerous other vital necessities. The lack of these basic necessities subjects the Strip's population to living conditions that could actually cause their death, such as by creating an environment that encourages the spread of hepatitis and other serious infectious diseases.

e) Comprehensive Destruction

By extensively demolishing homes, communities, and residential neighbourhoods, the Israeli occupation army forces are methodically trying to reduce the Gaza Strip to an uninhabitable pile of rubble. Estimates place the damage at between 70–80% of the Strip's buildings.

With the intention of making life difficult and impossible for Palestinians both now and in the future, the destruction has also impacted the majority of colleges and universities,

a number of hospitals and health centres, commercial buildings, and infrastructure, including streets, water, electricity, and sewage networks.

4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group



Satellite images show the extent of the extensive damage caused by the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip, Source: Maxar Technologies

It is evident from Israel's practices in Gaza that it is intentionally implementing specific measures to prevent births in Gaza as part of the crime of genocide. Data from the Ministry of Health in Gaza indicates a noticeable decline in daily birth rates since May 2024, reflecting Israeli measures aimed at preventing births in Gaza.

In this regard, Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, confirmed that the specific harm inflicted on hundreds of thousands of children, pregnant women, and girls "can only be explained as clear evidence of a systematic intent to destroy Palestinians as a group."⁽¹⁵⁾

The most prominent measures Israel has implemented to prevent childbirth in Gaza include:

a) Expanding the killing of individuals of reproductive age

For an entire year, Israel has continued committing the crime of genocide, killing thousands of Palestinian men and women in Gaza, most of whom are of reproductive age, including pregnant women, and thousands of children, including infants. Civilian victims

15 <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/03/1129576>

make up approximately 92% of the total casualties, including thousands trapped under the rubble. Additionally, around 100,000 others have been injured, which will negatively impact population growth rates and reproductive capacity among Palestinians in Gaza for generations to come. The number of dead and injured amounts to over 6% of the total population of Gaza.

b) Dispersing Palestinian families

Israel forcibly displaced about two million Palestinians in Gaza, many of whom were forced to flee multiple times, either through forced displacement orders or by the overwhelming physical force of Israeli military attacks, which severely violated the rules of distinction, proportionality, and necessary precautions. Most of Gaza's residents were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in tents and shelters, including hospitals and schools not designed for this purpose. This situation led to the separation of Palestinian families, with many having to sleep separately based on gender due to overcrowding and lack of privacy in these places.

These circumstances will inevitably reduce reproductive opportunities for Palestinians in Gaza, both in the short and long term, especially considering the severe physical and psychological injuries inflicted by the attacks, as well as the massive destruction of private civilian property and homes. Reuniting these families under a safe and private roof will be impossible in the near future.

c) Destroying the embryo preservation laboratory

As part of Israel's attacks on Gaza aimed at undermining reproductive capacity in the context of the genocide campaign, Israeli forces destroyed the main fertility clinic in Gaza through a direct strike targeting the frozen embryo preservation lab. The lab contained 4,000 embryos and about 1,000 samples of sperm.

While assisted reproductive technologies are used to preserve these samples at special

temperatures of up to -196 degrees Celsius, the explosion tore apart the covers of five liquid nitrogen tanks, causing the gas to evaporate quickly and raising the temperatures, thus destroying all the stored samples.

The destruction occurred in two phases: The first during the first six to seven weeks of the attack, which began on 7

October 2023. During this period, it was impossible to refill the tanks with liquid nitrogen, which gradually evaporated, turning into gas, leading to the depletion of the tanks and the destruction of the samples. The second phase occurred in late December 2023, when a shell fired by an Israeli tank hit the embryo lab at the Basma Center. This attack completely destroyed the lab, including all equipment and devices, and containers of frozen embryos and sperm.



Israeli aircraft target the Al-Basma Medical Center, the main fertility clinic in the Gaza Strip

d) Destroying the healthcare system

Women and children are particularly affected by the crimes Israel is committing against the population of Gaza. Pregnant women, those giving birth, and new mothers continue to face harsh difficulties due to the absence of essential healthcare and the interruption of specialized medical services, with most hospitals being out of service, difficult to access, and severely overcrowded, leading to the spread of diseases and epidemics.

As a result, Palestinian women are forced to give birth in unsafe conditions, in tents, shelters, and even public bathrooms, often without the necessary medical assistance. If they manage to reach hospitals, they suffer from severe overcrowding, poor hygiene,

and a lack of sterilization, increasing the risk of infection and medical complications for both mother and child. According to CARE International, Gaza has seen a 300% increase in miscarriages due to weakened healthcare services, stress, and premature births.⁽¹⁶⁾

Many pregnant women have had to undergo cesarean sections without anesthesia, and some have had to undergo hysterectomies due to bleeding during childbirth and the absence of specialized medical care and essential drugs to stop the bleeding, preventing them from being able to have children in the future. With the lack of maternal and child healthcare, there has been an increase in newborn deaths in Gaza from preventable causes, such as diarrhea, cold, and infectious diseases, in addition to deaths from starvation due to the lack of formula and mothers being unable to breastfeed due to hunger, dehydration, and malnutrition.

e) Imposing harsh living conditions, starvation and malnutrition

The forced displacement and living in tents or shared rooms due to Israel's genocidal campaign have imposed harsh living conditions on Gaza's residents, particularly women. These conditions have added severe burdens on women in daily life, such as baking, cooking over fire, fetching water, and other tasks that have emerged due to living in tents and shelters.

Many women have had to take contraceptive pills to stop their menstrual cycles due to the lack of sanitary products, personal care items, and painkillers, as well as the dangers of pregnancy in a war environment, repeated displacement, fear, and lack of hygiene supplies.

The famine imposed by Israeli forces on hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, especially in northern Wadi Gaza, has had specific additional effects on pregnant women and nursing mothers, increasing cases of miscarriage due to malnutrition. According to the World Health Organization, 95% of pregnant women and nursing mothers in Gaza face acute food insecurity due to a lack of sufficient food.

A group coordinated by the United Nations, comprising 15 international organizations and UN agencies investigating the hunger crisis in Gaza, reported on 18 March 2024, that “all evidence points to a rapid increase in deaths and malnutrition,” especially in northern Gaza, where about 70% of the population faces catastrophic hunger.⁽¹⁷⁾

In March, World Health Organization officials found “children dying of starvation” in Kamal Adwan and Al-Awda hospitals in northern Gaza. In southern Gaza, where aid is more available but still grossly insufficient, UN agencies reported in mid-February that 5% of children under two years old suffer from acute malnutrition.

In summary, the reproductive violence imposed by Israel on all Gaza residents, especially women, is designed to prevent their ability to reproduce and will have severe consequences for Palestinians in Gaza as a national and ethnic group for generations, according to the definition of genocide as outlined in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

¹⁷ [GAZA STRIP: Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people, half of Gaza, experience catastrophic food insecurity | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(ipcinfo.org\)](#)



10%

of the population is either killed, injured, missing, or detained.

50,292
Killed

The killed number includes those presumed dead under the rubble.

Ministry of Health Records	41,900
Civilians	45,155
Children	16,577
Women	10,488



33%

of the casualties are **children**



21%

of the casualties are **women**



9 out of every 10 people killed are **civilians**



172
Journalists killed



83
Civil defense workers killed



90%

of the population was **forcibly displaced**

Since 13 October 2023, Israel has issued dozens of forced displacement orders, forcing the vast majority of the population to relocate in schools and makeshift tents. According to the Israeli military, those who don't comply with the orders "may be identified as accomplices of a terrorist organisation"

2,217

Healthcare professionals

987 killed
1230 injured
80 Doctors Killed



97%
of the per capita share of water has decreased due to the extensive destruction of water infrastructure



96%
of the population face high levels of acute food insecurity². Around 100 Palestinians, including 42 children, have died due to severe malnutrition



60%
of organized international humanitarian missions to the northern Gaza Strip have been prevented or obstructed by Israeli authorities

The Gaza Strip

More than 2.2 million people live in the Gaza Strip, an area of about 365 square kilometers, which is divided into five main governorates: North Gaza, Gaza City, Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and Rafah.

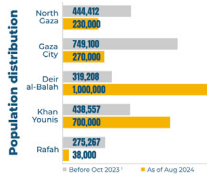


Splitting the strip

On 13 October 2023, the Israeli military issued forced displacement orders to residents of North Gaza and Gaza City, instructing them to move to the central and southern governorates of the strip. A few weeks later, Israel completely separated the northern governorates from the central and southern regions, preventing the displaced from returning to their homes and executing dozens of civilians who attempted to return.

A year of genocide in Gaza

On 7 October 2023, following a military attack by Palestinian factions in Gaza on Israel, Israel launched a devastating war on the Gaza Strip. Since then, Israel has committed hundreds of violations that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, which the International Court of Justice has described as a plausible genocide.



Buildings destroyed or damaged

Since the onset of its war on Gaza, the Israeli military has pursued a scorched earth policy, decimating the strip's civilian infrastructure, property, and essential buildings.

Housing units	516,500
Schools	489
Industrial facilities	2,830
Mosques	814
Churches	3
Heritage sites	203
Press headquarters	182

101,700
Injured

Several thousand have suffered amputations or permanent impairments, with over 10,000 children losing at least one leg.



3,600
Detainees/forcibly disappeared

Euro-Med Monitor conducted interviews with 100 released detainees from Gaza, and documented 42 forms of torture and inhuman, humiliating and degrading treatment practiced against Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention centers, including:

- Rape
- Sexual assaults
- Electric shocks
- Spitting/urinating on detainees
- Strip searches
- Willful killing under torture



89%

of hospitals have been destroyed or damaged, leaving only 32 out of 36 hospitals across the strip still operational at approximately 930 of their capacity



70%

of the buildings have been destroyed or damaged



80%

of the schools and universities have been destroyed or damaged

Six indicators Israel failed to comply with ICJ ruling

On 26 Jan 2024, the International Court of Justice issued a decision ordering Israel to implement specific provisional measures to prevent the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. However, Israel has failed to comply with the ruling, as evidenced by six fundamental indicators of its violations of the ICJ's decision:

- 1** Mass killings
- 2** Causing serious physical/mental harm
- 3** Imposing inhuman living conditions
- 4** Using starvation as a weapon
- 5** Imposing an environment meant to prevent childbirth
- 6** Public incitement to genocide

¹ As of 2023. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

² As of June 2024. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee

B. The Palestinian People as a Protected Group under the Genocide Convention

Numerous UN resolutions that have called for full respect for the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, particularly their right to self-determination, and have confirmed that the Palestinian people are recognised as a distinct "national, racial, ethnic, and religious group".

The Palestinian people are a protected group under Article II of the Genocide Convention as a "distinct national, racial, ethnic, or religious group", and the International Court of Justice confirmed this in its ruling on 26 January 2024, in the Genocide Case. The over two million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip are a significant portion of this protected group, and as such, the provisions of the Convention, including their right to protection from the crime of genocide, apply to them.

C. Mental Element: The Specific Intent to Commit Genocide by Israel in the Gaza Strip

According to the previously stated definition, any of the listed acts must be carried out with the express purpose to completely or partially eradicate a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. This goal can be demonstrated directly, through means such as public speeches and declarations made by state representatives, particularly those that dehumanise the opposition party. It can also be demonstrated by indirect means, which include the general context; the scale and nature of the crimes; the systematic targeting of victims based on their membership in a particular group; other criminal acts committed systematically against the same group; or the repetition of destructive and discriminatory acts.⁽¹⁸⁾

Since 7 October 2023, the evidence has been overwhelming that Israel intends to exterminate the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as a whole. This is apparent from the way that Israeli military operations have been conducted, from the occupying

18 <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/55/73>

forces' distinct behavioural pattern to the way that Israeli officials have spoken about the military operation in the Strip.

Based on the Israeli occupation army's actions in Gaza, the only conclusion that can be made is that there is unquestionably an intention and pattern of behaviour that justifies the label of acts of genocide. Among these acts committed by Israel are mass murders, the number of civilian casualties—including children—that is extraordinarily high, and coordinated schemes to systematically deny the Palestinian people their rights. Israel's extensive blockade; the staggering extent of forced relocations; starvation of a population; the excessive and continuous denial of life-saving supplies and services; the extreme brutality and widespread physical destruction of residents' homes, and the general devastation and destruction that the entire Gaza Strip has experienced in every way as a result of the Israeli military operations.

Israeli political and military statements also make it apparent that they intend to carry out genocide against the Palestinian people living in the Gaza Strip. These statements, in particular, dehumanise the Palestinian people by calling them "giants", or call for and incite the infliction of the greatest possible harm and destruction, or even the eradication of Gaza from the face of the earth.

When these statements are combined with the enormous amounts of death, injury, displacement, and destruction that are taking place on the ground, their genocidal intent becomes even more clear. Furthermore, Israel has not held those responsible for these remarks accountable, despite the fact that they clearly and directly encourage genocide. There is concrete proof that these remarks have had an impact on and motivated the actions of Israeli military personnel stationed in the Gaza Strip.

Most notable statements:

Genocidal sentiment in the Israeli government and mainstream has been vocally expressed for long before October 7, 2023. Only a few months before, Israel's Finance Minister and de facto West Bank ruler Bezalel Smotrich called for "wiping out" the

entire Palestinian village of Huwara in March 2023⁽¹⁹⁾. The year before, Israel's religious services minister Matan Kahana wished that he could "press a button" and expel all Palestinians⁽²⁰⁾

Since October 7, however, such genocidal rhetoric exploded and became a daily routine. On that same day, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu said "Gaza is the city of evil, we will turn all the places in which Hamas deploys and hides into ruins. I am telling the people of Gaza – get out of there now. We will act everywhere and with full power⁽²¹⁾".

Likud Knesset Member, Tally Gotliv, echoed that sentiment on the same day and said "Bring down buildings!! Bomb without distinction!! Stop with this impotence. You have ability. There is worldwide legitimacy! Flatten Gaza. Without mercy! This time, there is no room for mercy!⁽²²⁾"

The day after, October 8, another Likud MK, Ariel Kallner, said "Nakba to the enemy now! This day is our Pearl Harbor. We will still learn the lessons. Right now, one goal: Nakba! A Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of 48. A Nakba in Gaza and a Nakba for anyone who dares to join!⁽²³⁾"

On October 9, Israel's Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, boasted: "We will end things inside Gaza [...]. I have removed all restraints," a message he repeated to IDF soldiers in Gaza the day after. Also, on October 9, Gallant announced: "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⁽²⁴⁾."

Immediately, after that statement, similar dehumanizing references became more widespread in the Israeli government. Israel's Education Minister, Yoav Kisch announced

19 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-should-wipe-out-palestinian-town-of-huwara-says-senior-minister-smotrich/>

20 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/14/israeli-mk-says-wishes-to-press-button-and-expel-palestinians>

21 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/13/israel-darkest-day-24-hours-of-terror-hamas-gaza>

22 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1714301964886917631>

23 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1714301966761771362>

24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbPdR3E4hCk>

“Those are animals, they have no right to exist. I am not debating the way it will happen, but they need to be exterminated⁽²⁵⁾”. Minister Kisch added “This [attack] is not enough, there should be more, there should be no limits to the response, I said it a million times, until we see hundreds of thousands fleeing Gaza, we, the IDF has not achieved its mission, this is a phase that should happen, I am saying this because these are instructions that were said to the IDF”.

The deputy speaker of Israel's Knesset and Likud MK, Nissim Vaturi declared the same day “Erase Gaza. Nothing else will satisfy us. It is not acceptable that we maintain a terrorist authority next to Israel. Don't leave a child there expel everyone⁽²⁶⁾.”

Israel's Education Minister also described Gazans as “Amalek” on that same day, a clearcut genocidal reference. He said: “Every Jew knows the saying ‘Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way’... I relate to them like Amalek.”

The same Amalek reference was then invoked by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, in a speech to the Israeli public and military on October 28, 2023⁽²⁷⁾, after which it became widely used in the Israeli mainstream, by journalists, public figures, artists, and IDF commanders and soldiers.

The relevant biblical passage reads as follows: “Now go, attack Amalek, and proscribe all that belongs to him. Spare no one, but kill alike men and women, infants and sucklings, oxen and sheep, camels and asses”⁽²⁸⁾

On October 10, Defense Minister Gallant announced “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. There is no way that our brothers, our children, our parents will be killed, and we won't react because we are a state, — they will regret it⁽²⁹⁾.”

25 <https://law4palestine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2-Database-of-Israeli-Incitement-to-Genocide-15th-January-2024-LEGISLATORS.pdf>

26 <https://x.com/nissimv/status/1711261388809568458>

27 <https://x.com/mtracey/status/1718360354764238929?s=20>

28 Sefaria, I Samuel 15:1-34, JPS, 1985, https://www.sefaria.org/I_Samuel.15.1-34?lang=bi.

29 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkCoIUXbvOc>

On October 12, Israel's then Economy Minister and current Foreign Minister, Israel Katz, threatened "Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter Gaza until the Israeli abductees are returned. No one will preach morals to us⁽³⁰⁾." Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, declares to Gaza's population "You wanted hell, you will get hell⁽³¹⁾."

The day after, Israel's President, Isaac Herzog, declares "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true. They could've risen up, they could have fought against that evil regime⁽³²⁾." May Golan, Israel's Minister for the Advancement of the Status of Women also declared on October 13 "I don't care about Gaza. I literally don't care at all. They can go out and swim in the sea. I want to see dead bodies of terrorists around Gaza⁽³³⁾." Knesset Member, Almog Cohen, told Channel 7 "Destroy a neighborhood in Gaza every day the abductees are in their hands. If we blink, we run out of global credit. Every day that the abductees are with them, a neighborhood must be destroyed on its inhabitants. and I will be called cruel. It is a Middle Eastern language⁽³⁴⁾."

After the first week of the war, genocidal incitement continued to spread in the Israeli government exponentially. On October 15, President Herzog declared "we will uproot evil so that there will be good for the entire region and the world." The next day, Likud MK Boaz Bismuth echoed Minister Kisch's Amalek reference "We must not show mercy to cruel people, there is no place for any humanitarian gestures – we must erase the memory of Amalek⁽³⁵⁾". Meanwhile, MK Oded Forer from the opposition party, Yisrael Beiteinu, asserted "There cannot be any humanitarian aid in there while there are hostages in the Gaza Strip who are not receiving any humanitarian aid and are not receiving any visits,

30 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/no-electricity-water-fuel-for-gaza-until-israeli-prisoners-return-home-energy-minister/3016648>

31 https://x.com/mazenmahdi/status/1713269549548650557?s=46&t=JaT3Sau_w01LZ8_9xYILA

32 <https://x.com/Sprinter99800/status/1713064886027063584>

33 <https://x.com/PODEMOS/status/1712749638770438487>

34 <https://www.inn.co.il/news/618433>

35 <https://www.inn.co.il/flashes/954554>

not from the Red Cross, and no one has any idea what is happening to them⁽³⁶⁾.” Also, MK Ohad Tal declared “We cannot go back to the same conception... we need to exact a territorial price from them, including returning Jewish settlements at least to the north of Gaza Strip⁽³⁷⁾.”

On October 17, prominent Israeli politician, Moshe Feiglin, asserted “if the goal of this operation is not destruction, occupation, deportation and settlement, we have done nothing. In the end, the whole country will be Be’eri⁽³⁸⁾.” Feiglin added “It is not Hamas that should be eliminated. Gaza should be razed and Israel’s rule should be restored to the place. This is our country.” Likud MK Gotliv also declared: “a leadership that has mercy on monsters who massacred us is not worthy of leadership. A ceasefire for several hours is surrender, it is weakness, humiliation ... Without crushing Hamas and razing Gaza, we will not have the right to exist⁽³⁹⁾.”

Israel’s Heritage Minister, Amichai Eliyahu, remarked “With Nazis and their assistants, you don’t talk. You eradicate evil from the world. Do you want your population [in Gaza] to drink? Release the hostages. Now⁽⁴⁰⁾.” Additionally, Omer Bar-Lev, Former Minister of National Security, asserted “A complete siege on Gaza. No water, no electricity, no food. Like in Beirut 1982. Water for the south of the Gaza Strip - only in exchange for the return of the kidnapped children and women⁽⁴¹⁾.”

Two days later, October 19, Likud MK Vaturi, Deputy Speaker of Knesset, declares “Nakba? Expel them all. If the Egyptians care so much for them — they are welcome to have them wrapped in cellophane tied with a green ribbon⁽⁴²⁾.”

On October 21, Israel formally escalates its genocidal rhetoric with the IDF deeming any

36 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1717219194675093849>

37 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1717219196788973576?s=20>

38 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1714301995002020296>

39 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1714302002111430835>

40 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1717219198605168707>

41 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1717219178896331132>

42 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1717219172281631058?s=20>

Gazan who had not by then abandoned their homes and moved to the Southern half as a “terrorist” and thereby a legitimate target. The IDF dropped leaflets on Gaza that read “everyone who hasn’t evacuated from northern Gaza to the south might be treated as a member of a terrorist organization. Your presence to the North of the Gaza valley increases your chances of death⁽⁴³⁾.”

On October 23, Likud MK Gotliv declares: “Without hunger and thirst among the Gazan population, we will not succeed in recruiting collaborators, we will not succeed in recruiting intelligence, [or]... in bribing people with food, drink, medicine, in order to obtain intelligence⁽⁴⁴⁾.”

On 28 October 2023, as Israeli forces prepared their land invasion of Gaza, The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, invoked the Biblical story of the total destruction of Amalek by the Israelites, stating: “You must remember what Amalek has done to you, says our Holy Bible. And we do remember”.⁽⁴⁵⁾ On 3 November 2023, The Prime Minister referred again to Amalek in the letter sent to Israeli soldiers and officers.⁽⁴⁶⁾

November 11, Gallant admitted to deliberately harming civilians in Gaza collectively in a threat to Lebanon and said “I am saying here to the citizens of Lebanon, I already see the citizens in Gaza walking with white flags along the coast... If Hezbollah makes mistakes of this kind, the ones who will pay the price are first of all the citizens of Lebanon. What we are doing in Gaza, we know how to do in Beirut⁽⁴⁷⁾.”

Israel has not taken any measures to prevent genocidal remarks or hold accountable those who incite genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. To date, no political or military officials or civilians involved in such incitement of genocide against Palestinians in the Strip have been held accountable, even though their statements have been

43 <https://x.com/m7mdkurd/status/1715764117145784734>

44 <https://x.com/YehudaShaul/status/1723375950673449198>

45 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIPkoDk6isc>

46 https://x.com/IsraeliPM_heb/status/1720406463972004198

47 <https://x.com/omarrahman/status/1723449658179977278?s=20>

documented and widely published by many local and international media outlets; some have even recorded and aired video clips of themselves unmistakably and clearly inciting genocide against Palestinians.

Furthermore, Israel has not taken any significant action to stop new statements encouraging genocide from being released. Instead, a number of statements are still being made from time to time that make it clear that Israel will not stop committing the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip, and that it will not alter its military tactics in a way that would protect Palestinian civilians.

Israel's responsibilities under the Genocide Convention and the provisional measures imposed by the International Court of Justice in the South Africa case pertaining to the genocide in the Gaza Strip are violated by direct and public incitement alone. Further, Israel is in violation of both the Convention and the Court's provisional measures for failing to punish and stop incitement.



Extensive damage was left in the largest medical complex in the Gaza Strip, Al-Shifa Hospital, after withdrawal of Israeli forces following a two-week aggression, Photo: Daoud Abu Al-Kas, Reuters - April 1, 2024

IV. Consequences of the Genocide in the Gaza Strip

Israel has completely destroyed the Gaza Strip on all fronts. Over the course of a full year of the genocide, satellite images show the unprecedented scope of the massive destruction inflicted on the Gaza Strip by the Israeli occupation army. Along with the civilian infrastructure and the destroyed commercial, religious, educational, cultural, and historical landmarks, the majority of homes, residential neighbourhoods, and streets depicted in these photos have been reduced to ashes and debris.

With the explicit and planned aim of destroying the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in every manner, including destroying their homeland and making it unlivable, the Israeli occupation army has been conducting large-scale, systematic, and deliberate

destruction operations against all aspects and forms of life in the Strip for a full year. Apart from the exceptionally high number of deaths and injuries—roughly 6% of the total population—the devastation has impacted every aspect of Gaza Strip life.

A. Forced Displacement

The forced displacement that came about as a result of the application of coercive physical force on the ground was largely caused by the Israeli occupation army's evacuation orders, as well as the military's grave and deliberate violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality, and taking necessary precautions. The most serious evacuation order, issued on 13 October 2023 and ordering the evacuation of the Gaza/Gaza City and North Gaza governorates, was followed by extensive bombing, fire belts, and a serious, all-encompassing starvation campaign. As a result of these systematic evacuation plans, the population in these governorates dropped from about 1.1 million to just 400,000.

Intense bombing with fire belts, the breakdown of services, famine, and infiltration into neighbourhoods are other factors that have contributed to the mass forced evacuation across the entire Gaza Strip.

The population numbers underwent significant demographic changes as a result of this mass displacement. Rafah's population increased by more than five times, reaching approximately 1.7 million in April 2024. This is also the case in Deir al-Balah, where families and individuals from various areas have crowded into the area. The social effects of this overcrowding and moving from place to place have been numerous, in addition to the suffering brought on by the war and displacement.

The Israeli military started to discuss implementing a military plan to completely force Palestinians north of the Gaza Valley out of the area and turn it into a military zone, even though the plan to empty the Gaza/Gaza City and North Gaza governorates had failed, with hundreds of thousands of residents remaining despite daily killings, starvation, and siege.

B. Destruction of homes and residential buildings

Through the systematic and widespread use of explosives, bulldozing, or airstrikes, the Israeli occupation forces completely destroyed homes and residential neighbourhoods. Although precise numbers regarding the number of homes destroyed in the Gaza Strip are unknown, numerous local and international organisations have attested to the fact that 70–80% of the region's buildings have been totally destroyed as a result of the aggression. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics affirmed that Israel has totally demolished 297,000 housing units and damaged another 87,000.

A study by the American Bloomberg Agency stated that the conflict has destroyed about 70% of Gaza's civilian housing, leaving 42 tons of debris in its wake. However, Euro-Med Monitor estimates indicate that the number of destroyed or partially destroyed areas is higher than this. The majority of buildings have been destroyed, according to observations made by the Euro-Med Monitor field team in a number of cities, including Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, Zaytoun and Sabra neighbourhoods in Gaza City, Khuza'a in Khan Yunis, and Tel Sultan in Rafah. The destruction strategy makes it abundantly evident that there is no military or security necessity—rather, the destruction is being done purely for the purpose of destroying.

In Khan Younis, Gaza, and North Gaza, observations reveal that even severely damaged homes (as opposed to destroyed homes) are frequently too damaged to live in. Still, residents risk doing so even though most of the homes are vulnerable to collapse. This was the evident on 23 September 2024, when a nearby home damaged by prior shelling collapsed, killing and injuring several people.

Large-scale residential neighborhood devastation, which is part of a deliberate policy to prevent forcibly displaced people from returning to their areas of residence, will make it impossible for Palestinians to live in a safe residential area even after the genocide ends.

C. Destruction of civilian objects

Without providing any military rationale, Israeli forces have persisted in their deliberate and systematic devastation of all civilian property in the Gaza Strip, with the intention of causing as much harm and destruction as possible in order to upend livelihoods.

Below are statistics on the losses caused by the war of extermination, up to the date of this report's publication:

Health sector: The Israeli aggression forced 34 hospitals—25 of which were destroyed by bombing and storming—out of service. It also destroyed 131 ambulances, dozens of health care facilities, and governmental, civil, and private clinics.

Places of worship: 610 mosques and three churches were destroyed.

Government headquarters: More than 200 government buildings were demolished, including the police and service ministries. This suggests that Israel intended to establish an organised chaos state and prevent local authorities from offering any kind of support service that would lessen the costs of the genocide.

Education sector: For the second year running, regular education is disrupted, as Israel has completely destroyed 122 schools and universities and partially destroyed 334 schools and universities, all of which are now closed; the remaining facilities have been turned into shelters.

Eighty-five per cent of Gaza's schools have been bombed or destroyed since the start of Israel's genocidal war. To function again, they must be completely rebuilt or significantly restored. The same applies to UNRWA-run schools. Almost 70% of UNRWA schools were bombed during the ongoing genocide, some of them more than once. Many have suffered significant damage, and some have been flattened. At the time of their bombings, 95% of these schools were serving as shelter centres housing displaced people, including children. Schools have been turned into places of death and suffering, going from being

safe havens for children under siege, prior to 7 October 2023, to overcrowded shelters for displaced people. In July 2024, 21 attacks targeted schools-turned-shelters across the Gaza Strip. As a result, more than 270 people were killed and dozens more injured, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Infrastructure: Bombing and destruction have destroyed thousands of kilometres of Gaza's streets; the majority of the city's electricity, communications, and Internet networks; water facilities; sewage networks; solar energy systems; and water wells and tanks.

Economic sector: Whether through the demolition of business and industrial buildings or the blockade and its effects on employment, Israel has systematically destroyed the Gaza Strip's economic sector. The severe economic decline in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been compared to previous escalations (2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021) in a recent report by UNCTAD. The report highlights the rising rates of inflation, rising unemployment in Gaza, and diminishing sources of income, all of which have left Palestinians living in extreme poverty.

Eighty to 96 per cent of Gaza's agricultural resources had been destroyed by early 2024, which significantly reduced food production and exacerbated food insecurity. With 82% of businesses either destroyed or seriously damaged, the private sector has also been badly hit. In the final quarter of 2023, Gaza's GDP dropped by 81%, translating into an annual contraction of 22%. By mid-2024, the economy had shrunk to less than one-sixth of its 2022 size. By January 2024, two-thirds of the jobs that were available prior to October 2023 (201,000) had disappeared, making the humanitarian and economic crises even worse.

Since thousands of people will be forced to flee the Gaza Strip in search of a safe and livable place should the war end, Israel will have succeeded in its goal of forcibly displacing the population as part of its ongoing crime of genocide. This is evident from the previous report, which showed how Israel has systematically worked to destroy the livelihoods of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and render it uninhabitable.



The International Court of Justice is examining a lawsuit filed by South Africa accusing Israel of committing genocide in the Gaza Strip, Source: Reuters - January 26, 2024

V. International Judicial Response to the events in the Gaza Strip:

Numerous international and local judicial frameworks have moved in response to Israel's grave and continuous crimes in the Gaza Strip, particularly with regard to the crime of genocide against the Palestinian population there, which is committed in full view of the world. The decisions made by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), two crucial international legal bodies, will be examined in this chapter.

According to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), there is a «reasonable risk» of genocide in the Gaza Strip, necessitating immediate preventive and punitive actions by states under the Genocide Convention.

Meanwhile, there is growing pressure on the ICC to look into these claims and potentially issue arrest warrants for Israeli officials linked to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan has stated that there is enough evidence to prove Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Galant's criminal charges for these crimes.

1. International Court of Justice

On 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rendered a ruling requiring Israel to implement certain preventive measures in order to avoid committing the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The ICJ based this ruling on its determination that the actions of Israel in the Strip pose a real and immediate threat to the Palestinian people, as well as a possibility of irreversible consequences and harm to their right to be protected from the crime of genocide, as stipulated in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

This ruling came in response to the request made by the Republic of South Africa, which initiated and included in the lawsuit against Israel for breaching its obligations under the Genocide Convention in the course of its military operations in and against the Gaza Strip and its Palestinian population since 7 October 2023.

The ICJ declared the following as interim measures in its ruling:

1- The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular:

- (a) killing members of the group;
- (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

(c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and

(d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group

2- The State of Israel shall ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts described in point 1 above;

3- The State of Israel shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip;

4- The State of Israel shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip;

5- The State of Israel shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of Article II and Article III of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide against members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip;

6- The State of Israel shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one month as from the date of this Order.

On 16 February 2024, the ICJ reaffirmed that Israel must fully, promptly, and effectively adhere to its obligations under the Genocide Convention and to the interim measures outlined in its 26 January ruling. This includes guaranteeing the safety and security of Palestinians residing in the Gaza Strip. This affirmation was made in response to South Africa's second urgent request to the Court to examine Israel's declared intention to increase military operations in the Rafah Governorate and to implement the additional

temporary measures required to stop future imminent violations of Palestinian rights in the Gaza Strip that could put them at risk of genocide.

The Court acknowledged in the text of its response that any Israeli military action in the current circumstances would violate its decision of 26 January and that the military attack that Israel planned against the Rafah Governorate would worsen the already tragic situation and endanger the lives of Palestinian civilians. Nevertheless, the Court did not issue any additional provisional measures as requested in the request. In this regard, the Court simply reaffirmed Israel's obligation to carry out its international obligations under the Convention and the previously mandated temporary measures.

On 28 March 2024, the International Court of Justice issued an order granting the addition of further interim measures in response to South Africa's third request in its lawsuit against Israel for the implementation of the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip. The Court declared that the previously ordered measures did not adequately address the ramifications of the changes in circumstances, which justified the modification of these measures, particularly in light of the drastic decline in the disastrous living conditions of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the prolonged and widespread deprivation of food and other basic necessities suffered by Palestinians there, and the fact that famine was not only a threat but was already manifesting itself for Palestinians in Gaza.

Additional interim measures included in this Court's ruling required Israel to promptly and fully cooperate with the UN in order to enable Palestinians in Gaza to have widespread, unhindered access to basic necessities and critically needed humanitarian aid, such as food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, medical supplies, and medical care. This included expanding the number and capacity of land crossing points and maintaining their openness for as long as possible. Along with providing much-needed humanitarian aid, these measures included seeking Israel's immediate guarantee that its armed forces would not do anything that would infringe upon the rights of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, who are a protected

group under the Genocide Convention. The Court requested that Israel submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to the Order, within one month as from the date of the Order. The Court upheld the actions outlined in its 26 January ruling.

On 24 May 2024, in response to South Africa's fourth request, the ICJ issued an order granting further provisional measures. These included a demand that Israel immediately cease its military offensive on Rafah and any other action in the southern Gaza Strip governorate that might subject the Palestinian population in the Strip to conditions of life that could result in their physical destruction in whole or in part. The Court also demanded that the Rafah crossing be kept open for the provision of essential services and urgently needed humanitarian assistance on a large scale for the benefit of the population, and that unfettered access to the Gaza Strip be granted to any commission of inquiry, fact-finding mission, or other investigative body authorised by the competent organs of the UN to look into allegations of genocide. The ICJ also decided in its Order that Israel submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to the Order, within one month as from the date of the Order. Additionally, the Court upheld the earlier orders it had issued in its rulings dated 26 January 2024 and 28 March 2024.

Despite the ICJ rulings being legally binding, it has become evident through the efforts of the Euro-Med Monitor team, which keeps track of and documents Israel's crimes and violations in the Gaza Strip, that Israel has not complied with these rulings. Numerous other international organisations have also confirmed this.⁽⁴⁸⁾

Israel has violated the majority of the precautions outlined in these orders and has proceeded to carry out the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip at the same rate as before these decisions were made. As a matter of fact, Israel has committed more violations in some instances than it did in the time frame leading up to the Court's rulings. This is especially true when it comes to Israel's ongoing and even more egregious obstruction

48 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/israel-defying-icj-ruling-to-prevent-genocide-by-failing-to-allow-adequate-humanitarian-aid-to-reach-gaza/>; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/05/israel-must-comply-with-international-court-of-justice-order-calling-it-to-immediately-halt-military-operations-in-rafah/>; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/02/26/israel-not-complying-world-court-order-genocide-case>; <https://www.icj.org/gaza-one-month-on-israel-fails-to-comply-with-the-order-of-the-international-court-of-justice/>; <https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/israeli-non-compliance-with-icj-provisional-orders/>

of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, Israel violated the Court's order to cease military operations in Rafah and proceeded to wage a full-scale military campaign against the Palestinians there, which left thousands of people dead or injured and forced to flee from the governorate.⁽⁴⁹⁾

2. The International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has failed to fulfil its role in prosecuting and holding accountable the serious international crimes committed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Court's failure to respond effectively to these crimes and to take any effective action to halt the rapid deterioration of the situation in Palestine and prevent the occurrence of further crimes that fall within its purview have caused irreparable damage to the rights of the Palestinian people and to the overall administration of justice in the Palestinian case. This is especially true in light of the crime of genocide that Israel has committed in the Gaza Strip on a daily basis for a full year.

From the beginning, the ICC has generally dealt with the situation in Palestine with repeated and unjustified delays and procrastination. While the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted the ICC to open an investigation in less than a month, it took over six years for the ICC to finally announce the opening of an investigation into the situation in Palestine on 3 March 2021. (This was after the State of Palestine announced on 1 January 2015 that it accepted the Court's jurisdiction to investigate crimes committed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and that it had submitted a referral to the Court to investigate these crimes on 13 June 2014.)

Following Fatou Bensouda's announcement on 3 March 2021 that an investigation into the State of Palestine would be launched, her tenure as the ICC's Prosecutor ended abruptly. Three months later, Karim Khan assumed the role of Public Prosecutor. Since then, no actual action has been taken by the Court, except for the Prosecutor submitting

49 <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/society/%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AB%D8%A9-%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%AD-%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%86%D8%AD%D9%88-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%82%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8B>

requests on 20 May 2024 to the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the Court to issue arrest warrants against three Hamas leaders, namely Yahya Sinwar, Muhammad Diab Ibrahim al-Masri (al-Daif), and Ismail Haniyeh, and two senior Israeli officials, namely Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

At that point, the Prosecutor acknowledged that this request was supported by the evidence gathered and reviewed by his office, which persuaded him that Yoav Gallant and Benjamin Netanyahu are criminally liable for war crimes and crimes against humanity that have been committed on State of Palestine territory (the Gaza Strip) since at least 8 October 2023. The most notable of these war crimes and crimes against humanity include the use of starvation as a weapon of war; extermination; deliberate killing; wilful infliction of severe suffering or bodily harm; wilfully leading attacks against the civilian population; persecution; and other inhumane deeds.

The Prosecutor's requests for arrest warrants have been pending for more than four months, and the period for parties to submit "friends of the Court" statements regarding the Court's jurisdiction over the situation in Palestine expired more than two months ago. Nevertheless, the Court has not yet issued any arrest warrants.

In order to safeguard the Palestinian people from the threat of actual destruction, ensure accountability for the victims, and maintain peace and justice in the region and around the world, Euro-Med Monitor called on the Court to act swiftly and in accordance with the Rome Statute and the procedural and evidentiary rules of the Court. It also urged the Court to revive its role as the competent international judicial body, primarily responsible for holding individuals criminally and civilly accountable for serious crimes they have committed that threaten international peace and security and affect humanity as a whole.

In light of its continued failure to carry out its international obligations to prevent and stop serious crimes and gross violations against the Palestinian people over a period of 76 years, Euro-Med Monitor has repeatedly called on the international community, with all of its components, to work to support the Court's work towards establishing justice

and to refrain from obstructing its procedures, including issuing arrest warrants. This was the very least that could be done.

VI. Clear Complicity: The International Role in Gaza Genocide



A US military aircraft unloads weapons and ammunition at the Israeli Nevatim Air Base, Source: Associated Press - October 13, 2023 Gaza Strip, Source: Reuters - January 26, 2024

Since the beginning of the Israeli assault on Gaza, it has become clear that many international powers, including Western countries, are complicit in a multitude of direct and/or indirect ways in Israel's onslaughts. This includes silence, coverups and condoning; fabrications and propaganda; voicing full support, thereby encouraging Israel to carry on; providing direct financial and military aid to Israel; gathering and providing intelligence on Gaza to Israel; vetoing UNSC resolutions; undermining ICJ and

ICC rulings; and outright threatening the ICC chief prosecutor.

Israel's genocide would have not been possible without such backing, support, and shielding from accountability. In this chapter, Euro-Med will examine how these major powers have contributed to fuelling human rights violations and international crimes in Gaza, and complicity in the genocide of the Palestinians.

- **Weapons, Intelligence and Cash**

As soon as Israel's assault on Gaza started, following the October 7 attack, many Western governments rushed to offer Israel unconditional support in the forms of providing arms and financial aid, intelligence gathering and sharing, and even sending military personnel to advise Israel. For instance, the [US military admitted](#) in early November 2023 that it has been conducting drone surveillance over Gaza since October, which then provides Israel with targeting data and critical intelligence. The US National Security Agency (NSA) [has also continued](#) to provide mass critical information to Israel which is then reportedly used to target Gazans for death.

Similarly, the UK flew over [200 spy drone missions](#) over Gaza between October 2023 – May 2024, which recorded 1,000 hours of footage for “target acquisition”. Both [the US and UK](#) deployed spy teams to Israel, according to Israeli officials, to assist in intelligence gathering and analysis.

Additionally, financial aid has been central to enabling Israel to continue its genocide in Gaza. The US granted Israel an [aid package](#) of \$17.8 billion in April 2024, which [constituted about](#) 40% of Israel's war expenses by then.

Israel generally relies heavily on American weapons and ammunition to fight its wars. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the United States accounted for 69% of Israel's arms imports between 2019 and 2023. Israel mainly uses the US-made F-16, F-15, and F-35 fighter jets in bombing Gaza.

Germany came in second place with about 30% of the weapons that Israel imports from abroad, as it receives German weapons at a discount due to the “special relationship” between the two countries. Israel's war on Gaza was profitable for German companies, which [in 2023 reaped arms](#) supply deals to Israel worth \$351 million, which is ten times the value of German military exports to Tel Aviv in 2022.

Other European countries that provide arms to Israel weapons include Italy, which exported weapons to Israel in [2023 worth \\$14.8 million](#), including \$2.1 million during the months of October through December, despite the Italian government claiming to have halted those exports due to the war on Gaza. There is also UK, which exported [\\$53 million worth](#) of weapons to Israel in 2022 and only imposed a [partial arms ban](#) in September 2024, and Canada, which supplied Israel with about \$15.7 million worth of weapons in 2022 and announced in 2024 that it would halt those exports. [Both Denmark](#) and [the Netherlands also](#) provided Israel with crucial components of the F-35 warplanes during the war on Gaza.

In terms of ammunition, it remains difficult to give an exact number of the missiles and bombs the US has supplied to Israel during the war, because between October 2023 and May 2024, only two American military sales to Israel have been announced out of more than 100 deals.

One of those shipments was for 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition worth \$106 million, and the other for \$147 million worth of components needed to make 155 mm artillery shells. But other shipments of missiles have been leaked from time to time. For instance, between October and December 2023, the [US provided Israel](#) with about 5,000 MK-82 missiles and 5,400 MK-84 missiles. In February, the US supplied [another 1,000 Mark-82](#) missiles, and [another 500](#) in March, in addition to 1,800 MK-84 missiles. The White House approved another shipment of about 2,000 missiles and shells [in early April](#), including an unknown number of Mark-82 missiles.

There are also the 155mm artillery shells made by [General Dynamics](#), which the US has supplied to Israel in the tens of thousands despite severe warnings from human rights organizations. These shells are inherently indiscriminate, unguided, and have a large error range, often landing 25 meters from the intended target, according to a [letter signed by major](#) human rights organizations to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, which he ignored. The letter added that upon impact, 155mm shells throw about 2,000 sharp metal fragments in every direction, exposing civilians to injury, death, and permanent disability within 300 meters of the explosion. The Israeli army adopts a doctrine of putting the safety of its soldiers before the lives of Palestinian civilians. Therefore, before storming any area, the army usually bombs that area intensively with artillery and then invades, which leads to severe damage to buildings and a high cost in lives.

US-made “bunker-busting” bombs are also some of the most prominent missiles used by Israel in Gaza, America has provided Israel with [thousands of missiles](#) of this type. One of the most prominent of these bombs is the BLU-109 missile from the US company General Dynamics. This missile weighs about 874kg and the Biden administration sent Israel about 100 missiles of this type [in December 2023](#), in addition to an unknown number in the following months.

General Dynamics developed a type of BLU-109 missile [called HAMMER](#), which incinerates and vaporizes its target by spreading dozens of burning fireballs when it explodes. Our team [has said in April 2024](#) that we suspect Israel may have used such incendiary missiles in Gaza because there are strong reasons to believe victims' bodies were vaporized or melted in some bombing incidents.

- **Non-stop Vetoes in the Security Council**

The UN Security Council is the main forum for maintaining international peace and security, yet its effective role in ending the Israeli Illegal occupation and its crimes is often hampered by the use of the veto by the United States. The US has, for example,

[vetoed 46](#) UNSC resolutions over the years that would have demanded Israel to comply with international law, called for Palestinian statehood, or held Israel accountable for war crimes, including illegal settlement building. During this ongoing genocide on Gaza, the United States used its veto at least [three times](#) to block resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire, despite broad support from other Security Council members.

Some other European countries, despite their sometimes-different positions, often follow the American line or abstain from voting to avoid disagreement with Washington. For example, [France and the United Kingdom](#) voted in favour of UN resolutions condemning Israeli settlements, but failed to take firmer positions when it came to imposing sanctions or taking concrete measures. This complicity through abstention or following the American ally prevents the international community from taking action to stop Israeli aggression, providing additional cover for these crimes.

- **Ignoring, Undermining and Threatening International Courts**

The pressure exerted by the United States and its European allies on the International Criminal Court (ICC) is another example of complicity. When the ICC began investigating Israeli war crimes in Palestine, Prosecutor Karim Khan was subjected to enormous pressure and direct threats from the US administration and members of Congress. A dozen Republican senators on Monday [sent a letter](#) warning the ICC Chief Prosecutor not to issue arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials, days after Khan had cautioned against efforts to try to sway the court. “Target Israel, and we will target you,” the senators, led by Sen. Tom Cotton, warned in the letter. “Such actions are illegitimate and lack legal basis, and, if carried out, will result in severe sanctions against you and your institution.” The International Criminal Court’s (ICC) prosecutor [said he received threats](#) while conducting investigations against top Israeli officials with a senior figure telling him the court was «built for Africa and for thugs like Putin,» and not for the West and its allies.

The US and many European countries have also ignored the provisional measures ruling

issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in January 2024 that found the case for genocide in Gaza to be “plausible.” The White House called the case “meritless” and [insisted the court](#) ruling would not change U.S. policy supporting Israel.

When the ICJ made a follow-up ruling on additional [provisional measures](#) that ordered Israel to “immediately halt” its military offensive in Rafah, the US and European member states of the UNSC failed to take any actions to enforce the ruling; leaving it to be mere ink on paper. Ignoring these crucial rulings contributes substantially to the environment of complete impunity that allows Israel to continue its genocide without constraints or fear of accountability.

- **Complicity with Prior Knowledge and Premeditation**

States complicit in Israel’s genocide are not ignorant of Israel’s crimes in Gaza. Internal discussions and communications prove how many Western governments were fully aware of Israeli atrocities and violations, but deliberately chose to ignore and cover them up.

For instance, in one scandal that came to light in January, [leaks showed](#) that the former Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte asked the country’s legal affairs ministry: «What can we say to make it look like Israel is not committing war crimes?». This kind of internal communication reveals a deliberate intention to avoid confronting Israel, even when the crimes are clear.

In March 2024, The British government [received advice](#) from its own lawyers stating that Israel has breached international humanitarian law in Gaza, but the government refused to make these findings public. Legal experts said that concealing those findings would risk putting the UK in breach of international law itself, as it would be seen as aiding and abetting war crimes by a country it was exporting arms to. Such reports concerned the killing of unarmed civilians during Israeli military operations in Gaza. Despite the information being available, the British government took little action to

open an international investigation or to pressure Israel for accountability.

In the United States, the Biden administration and Secretary of State Antony Blinken [received detailed](#) reports from USAID and other agencies that Israel was using food as a tool of war by deliberately blocking humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza. Despite these reports, the US administration has continued to support Israel politically and militarily, ignoring accusations that food and the blockade are being used as weapons to displace and weaken Palestinians.

Additionally, the US government [forced a contractor](#) senior advisor for the USAID, Alexander Smith, to resign or be fired for “preparing a presentation on maternal and child mortality among Palestinians, which was cancelled by USAID shortly before it was due to be delivered”. Similarly, Stacy Gilbert, a senior US State Department adviser, [resigned in May](#) 2024 from her position in protest of the US government deliberately “falsifying” and “whitewashing” a report she worked on to conceal that Israel was obstructing humanitarian aid to Gaza. Also, Major Harrison Mann [resigned from the U.S. Army](#) in June 2024 in protest of how the US government was condoning and covering up the high Palestinian casualty count. Mann was [recently quoted](#) to have said: “the intel community was well aware of the high [Palestinian] casualty counts, from the beginning. There was also concern about being implicated in war crimes, so a decision was made to take the assurances of Israeli intelligence as credible.” These examples paint a picture of the Biden administration systematically and deliberately covering up clear Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity to continue providing Israel with financial and military aid and avoid genuinely pressuring it to end the war.

In the European Union, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, [received](#) a petition from 842 signatures of former and current EU staff, among them diplomatic and foreign policy staff urging her to take a clear stand against Israeli crimes in Gaza. The letter said: “If Israel does not stop immediately, the whole Gaza and its inhabitants will be erased from the planet,” the letter warns, and accuses the

Commission of taking on the premises “of polarized narratives.” The letter ends with a call to the Commission and its president to work for a cease-fire and the protection of civilian lives, leading to a two-state solution. EU diplomats and staff have also held a number of protests at the EU Commission building to highlight the grave violations Israel was committing in Gaza. However, Von der Leyen ignored the petition and protests, demonstrating a deliberate disregard for internal diplomatic warnings about possible complicity in Israel’s war.

Even when EU member states and other Western governments acknowledge Israel’s starvation of Gazans to the brink of death or Israel’s mass killing of civilians, they deliberately do so in the passive voice, such as “Gazans are being starved” or “Gazans are being killed”. This careful choice of words is decidedly designed to evade acknowledging Israel’s commission of serious war crimes and crimes against humanity and thereby avoiding taking any actions against Israel.

- **Statements of Absolute Support, Fabrications and Propaganda**

A prominent form of complicity are public statements made regularly by Western leaders voicing absolute unconditional support for Israel, even when violations of international law are clear. Such statements bolster a culture of impunity and encourage the further commission of war crimes. This can be seen most clearly in the assertion of the German Chancellor [Olaf Scholz in April that](#) “Israel did not violate international law” during its war on Gaza, despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

Many Western leaders also made solidarity visits to Israel where they declared full support, such as Ursula von der Leyen [that rushed to announce](#) “Europe stands with Israel,” right after Israel’s defence minister formally declared cutting all food, water, fuel, medicine and electricity to Gaza. Such visits legitimize aggression and contribute to Israel’s belief that it enjoys unconditional support, which emboldens it to continue its assault unconstrained.

Statements of unwavering support are compounded by explicit statements of incitement or propaganda against Palestinians that aim to justify and cover up atrocities. An example of this is [President Biden deliberately](#) casting doubt on the number of the dead in Gaza, or making misleading demonizing claims to justify US support to Israel and despite it carrying out a genocide. In one of his speeches, Biden [claimed](#) to have seen confirmed of beheaded Israeli babies, a claim that were later proven to [be completely false](#). Similarly, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [told a unsubstantiated](#) and later debunked story in a congressional hearing about an Israeli family being sadistically tortured, in order to generate sympathy for Israel. Such statements not only serve to justify Israeli violence, they also contribute to the dehumanization of Palestinians and the spreading of hate speech against them.

- **Western Media Complicity in the Gaza Genocide:**

Since the outbreak of the Israeli genocide on Gaza, accusations have escalated against Western and international mainstream media of complicity in whitewashing, covering up and turning a blind eye to Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people. Mainstream media has overall been characterized by biased coverage, the promotion of misleading information, and the adoption of official Israeli narratives, which contributed to justifying crimes committed against Palestinian civilians and concealing many facts on the international scene. Disinformation by omission has also been one of the key features of mainstream media coverage of Gaza, where they repeatedly fail to report on multiple serious atrocities. Even when mainstream media reported on some of Israel's atrocities, such reporting was often characterized by a dry and doubtful language of mere claims and allegations as opposed to the sensational and assertive language used when reporting on October 7.

For the past year, Western media played a key role in spreading disinformation, particularly [claims that Palestinian](#) militants had beheaded Israeli children. These reports, which lacked credible evidence, were circulated widely and even [echoed](#) by political figures

like U.S. President Joe Biden. Despite the [absence](#) of any official confirmation at the time, these narratives persisted in media outlets.

In the UK, for instance, the [Daily Mail](#) referred to the violence as a “holocaust plain and simple,” while [The Times](#) and [Metro](#) made unverified claims of «40 babies murdered by Hamas.» [The Telegraph](#) and [Daily Express](#) followed suit, highlighting supposed beheadings, with [The Independent](#) publishing—and later partially retracting—a headline about women and children being decapitated.

An [investigation](#) of BBC One’s coverage found that terms like “murder” and “mass murder” were used frequently to describe Israeli deaths but not those of Palestinians. Similarly, during an Israeli military raid on Gaza’s Al-Shifa hospital in November, Western media repeated Israeli claims that Hamas was operating a vast network of tunnels underneath the facility, though a later [Washington Post](#) investigation found insufficient evidence to support these assertions.

Additionally, media references to Gaza’s Health Ministry as « Hamas-run » seem to delegitimize information coming from Gaza, particularly since international media are largely denied access to the territory.

There were repeated cases of Western journalists entering Gaza embedded with Israeli forces, which allowed them to provide coverage from specific angles that reflected the Israeli army’s point of view. These visits were conditioned on foreign journalists not talking to any Gazans; going only to areas the IDF takes them to and seeing what the IDF wants them to see; and reviewing footage with the IDF before publication. For example, Israel allowed media teams from the BBC to enter Al-Shifa hospital during the Israeli army raid on the place. It was then clear that the scenes were staged, and some guns were put by the Israeli soldiers for the BBC crew to film.

This direct cooperation between Western media and the Israeli army violates the professional standards of independent journalism and makes the media part of the

military propaganda machine.

These disinformation campaigns violate the public's right to accurate information, as outlined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and contribute to the demonization of Palestinians, ultimately justifying Israel's excessive use of force.

The recent crackdown on Gaza severely hampers international efforts to achieve justice for Palestinians. When Israeli aggression is portrayed as "self-defense" or attacks on civilians are justified, the work of international judicial bodies such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, which seek to hold perpetrators of war crimes accountable, is hampered.

Claims made by Israeli officials and the Israeli military have often been amplified and reported as facts without verification, despite Israel's record of disseminating misinformation. This includes its previous denial of responsibility for the killing of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in 2022. The insistence on Israel's right to defend itself has often sidelined discussions on Palestinian rights, ignoring Israel's role as an occupying power and its ongoing actions in Gaza and the West Bank.

Against the Gaza Genocide voices and activists have been routinely denounced, misrepresented and targeted by many national media outlets. Some media outlets were hostile towards pro-Palestinian voices, framing them as terrorists' sympathizers and antisemites.

In November 2023, several international human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, issued urgent appeals to Western media outlets to provide more accurate and transparent reporting on crimes committed in Gaza. Despite these appeals, some media outlets have continued to distort the facts, undermining international documentation efforts of violations and obstructing accountability for those responsible.

Western media complicity in the recent genocidal war in Gaza constitutes a serious breach of international legal and human rights standards. By providing biased coverage, promoting misinformation, and ignoring crimes against civilians, the media contributes to concealing crimes and preventing accountability for those responsible. This situation requires a comprehensive re-evaluation of the role played by the media in armed conflicts and ensuring that they adhere to legal and ethical principles to provide impartial and independent reporting that helps achieve justice and end impunity.

VII. Conclusion

The enormity of the devastating Israeli military assault on the Gaza Strip, its context before and after October 7, its nature, the official rhetoric from the Israeli authorities, and the fact that specific intent must be proven—all of which make proving the crime of genocide a fundamental legal challenge—provide strong evidence that the threshold required to consider what is happening as genocide has already been crossed.

Israel has demonstrated through its actions that it is taking a calculated and intentional approach to destroy the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip in order to undermine and eradicate their actual existence. These actions included the following: killing an unprecedented number of horrifyingly high numbers of Palestinian civilians; attacking them directly with military attacks; using weapons that were forbidden, indiscriminate, and highly destructive; severely depriving them of their physical and mental health; imposing starvation; preventing and obstructing humanitarian aid; mass forced displacement; arbitrary mass detention; enforced disappearances; torturing and inhumanely treating victims; sexual violence; denial of health care; separating families; and preventing children from becoming parents.

In addition to systematically destroying the Strip's Palestinian identity, Israel has also directed military attacks against buildings serving historical monuments, hospitals, educational and medical facilities, and gathering places for the sick and injured. These actions have rendered the Gaza Strip uninhabitable and unfit for human habitation, providing Israel with an additional tool with which to carry out the crime of genocide.

A grave breach of the preemptive norms of international law—among which the prohibition against committing the crime of genocide is one of the most important—as well as Israel's obligations as a State Party to pertinent international conventions and treaties, particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide—results from Israel's participation in acts and measures that constitute genocide as well as its failure to stop or punish them.

Furthermore, the ICJ found reasonable grounds to believe that the acts committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip likely constitute genocide under the definition found in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This is in addition to Israel's refusal to follow any of the three rulings rendered in the context of the case brought by South Africa against Israel, as well as its violation of the provisional measures contained therein that the Court imposed to protect the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip from the risk of genocide.

In spite of the overwhelming evidence that Israel has carried out the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip, international reactions have frequently been typified by hesitancy, weakness, or even participation and complicity. The international community has largely failed to take effective action to put an end to this crime, and instead, many countries have

provided military, political, financial, and media support, which constitutes complicity in these crimes.

The last year has seen the Gaza Strip continue to commit genocide, a crime that exposes the hypocrisy of the international system, particularly the international judiciary, which has willfully disregarded Palestinian rights. To be sure, this crime would never have happened if Israel had not benefited from certain Western nations' support and shielding from responsibility—chief among them being the United States. The Palestinian people are thus still victims of the crime of comprehensive genocide, and the international community is still unable to uphold its moral and legal obligations to defend them and hold those responsible for these crimes—both states and individuals—accountable. Not only have Palestinian lives been put in danger, but the international community's credibility in addressing the worst human rights violations has been damaged by this inaction.

VIII. Recommendations for the International Community and Each State:

1. Given that stopping the ongoing crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip is an international legal and moral obligation that all states, without exception, are required to fulfill and that it is an erga omnes obligation of absolute force towards all, it remains the duty of all states, both individually and collectively, to use all available means to do so.
2. Enforcing a total arms embargo against Israel; stopping all military and intelligence cooperation; and suspending licenses and agreements related to arms imports and exports, including those pertaining to dual-use technology and materials that Israel might use to further exploit the Palestinian people and infringe upon their rights.
3. Applying political and economic penalties to Israel and the states that support it, at the UN level and among other countries, such as travel restrictions and the freezing of government funds as well as the funds of government officials, organisations,

and foreign or Israeli individuals involved in crimes against the Palestinian people, particularly the crime of genocide, in order to pressure them to abide by international law, guarantee the crimes do not happen again, and compensate the victims.

4. Stop and refrain from giving Israel any additional support or assistance in relation to the genocide and other crimes against the Palestinian people. This includes ending or suspending contractual, political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, and academic relationships, withdrawing any investments, and halting any support related to the legal or media fields, or other fields that could encourage or enable these crimes.
5. Refuse to acknowledge the legitimacy of any demographic, institutional, or physical changes that Israel has imposed in the Palestinian territory it has occupied since 1967, including the changes it has been attempting to impose since 7 October 2023, and to abstain from offering any kind of support or assistance in upholding these illegal conditions. This includes the Gaza Strip.
6. Ensure that the Israeli occupation army leaves the entire Gaza Strip; demolish all Israeli military installations, barricades, and checkpoints; annul all military and geographical divisions imposed in the Gaza Strip; and pledge to bring the Gaza Strip back to its original geographical unity.
7. Ensure that everyone living in the Gaza Strip has freedom of movement and access, and that those who have been forcibly displaced there return safely, quickly, and unhindered to their homes, including those homes in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip.
8. Immediately lift the illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, open all roads and crossings that lead there, and allow humanitarian aid—including non-food aid—to enter the area. All aid, especially life-saving aid, should be brought in swiftly, without hindrance, and in a way that satisfies the needs of all Gaza Strip residents. It should also be distributed fairly and openly.

9. Bring in specialised teams and the tools they will need—cows, specialised gear, fuel—to clear the debris, look for the bodies of the deceased, retrieve them, identify their owners, and work toward burying them in pre-approved cemeteries in a way that respects their dignity and adheres to their religious rites.
10. Ensure the release of all Palestinian detainees who have been arbitrarily arrested. Apply pressure on Israel to immediately cease the crime of forcibly disappearing Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Gaza Strip. Name all secret detention camps and reveal the names, whereabouts, and conditions of all Palestinians from the Strip that Israel is holding.
11. Demand that the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention carry out their legal responsibilities, especially those outlined in Articles 1, 146, 147, and 148, with regard to guaranteeing that all states uphold the principles of international humanitarian law, i.e. preventing grave violations as well as bringing legal action and enforcing effective penalties against those who, regardless of nationality, commit such grave violations.
12. Support the International Criminal Court's work in investigating the situation in Palestine by providing the Court with specialised factual and legal memoranda on the crimes committed by Israel, cooperating with the Court's efforts to execute arrest warrants for Israeli officials who have committed international crimes against the Palestinian people, and making sure that those who are accused are held accountable for their actions.
13. Help the International Court of Justice in its efforts to uphold international justice by formally joining the case against Israel, which was brought by South Africa. The case alleges that Israel violated the Genocide Convention while conducting military operations in the Gaza Strip and against its Palestinian population since 7 October 2023.

14. Hold nations that collaborate with Israel in committing crimes against the Palestinian people, particularly genocide, accountable before the appropriate regional and international forums. This is what Nicaragua accomplished when it sued Germany in the International Court of Justice, alleging that Germany had failed to carry out its relevant international obligations and had collaborated with Israel in committing crimes against the Palestinian people, including genocide.
15. Encourage the work of fact-finding and investigative committees, Human Rights Council special procedures, and all other international and UN mechanisms entrusted with monitoring and looking into international crimes and human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Additionally, exert pressure on Israel to allow these mechanisms entry into the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the Gaza Strip.
16. States should fulfill their international obligations by apprehending offenders and holding them accountable in their home countries, starting with citizens who incite or aid in crimes against Palestinians. At the same time, they should activate the principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators who are not their citizens, regardless of their nationality or the place where the crimes were committed, to ensure that no one involved in these crimes escapes legal accountability.
17. Reconstruct the Gaza Strip as soon as possible and create a register of individual and collective damages for all natural and legal persons. In compliance with international law, ensure that all Palestinian victims and their families receive compensation and reparations for the harm caused by Israel's crimes against them.
18. Adopt the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion "Legal Consequences of Israeli Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", as well as General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-1024/. Work quickly to address the underlying causes of the 76-year-long suffering and persecution of the Palestinian people. Work

quickly to end the illegal Israeli occupation and Israeli settler colonialism imposed on Palestinian territory, including the Gaza Strip. Evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Destroy the system of isolation and apartheid imposed against the Palestinian people. Ensure that all refugees have the right to return and compensation. Act decisively to support the Palestinian people's liberation process and their ability to exercise their right to self-determination. Redress the harm caused to them as a result of Israel's crimes.



Euro-Med Human
Rights Monitor

الأورومتوسطي لحقوق الإنسان

+41 78 679 24 15

+41 229295703

Regus - Geneva Balexert Tower - Avenue
Louis-Casaï 18 - 1209 - Genève-Switzerland
Geneva- Headquarters

 www.euromedmonitor.org

 Geneva@euromedmonitor.org