

| The Gaza Ceasefire: |

A Fragile Pause in Humanity's Deadliest Conflict

AH! Start from where, as of today, the whole world knows it. October 7, 2023; a horrific day for humanity, not only for Muslims marked the beginning of “*An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian groups.*” It wasn’t the first war but the fifth since 2008. However, this time it became serious; we can call it the “*Deadliest war for Palestinians in the Israel-Palestinian Conflict.*” Hamas, a Palestinian armed group and political movement in the Gaza Strip, started as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987. Its name means Islamic Resistance Movement.



The war was initiated by Hamas. It was a deadly move from the Palestinians, and the reaction to that step was even worse for humanity and the Ummah. It will be remembered for decades. Hamas attacked Israel in revenge for past Palestine-Israel conflicts. It was a massive operation by the Palestinians. According to sources, Hamas “spokesperson Khaled Qadomi” stated:

“The group’s military operation is in response to all the atrocities the Palestinians have faced over the decades.”

Further, he said:



“We want the international community to stop atrocities in Gaza, against Palestinian people, and our holy sites like Al-Aqsa. All these things are the reasons behind starting this battle.”

On October 7, when Hamas attacked Israel, about 1,200 people were killed, and more than 250 hostages were taken. At the time, the group’s main leader was ‘Ismail Haniyeh’, based in Qatar, where the group has headquarters. Tragically, he was assassinated in an explosion while visiting the Iranian capital, Tehran, in July 2024, a great loss for Muslims. He was replaced by ‘Yahya Sinwar’, who had been the leader of Hamas in Gaza since 2017. Known as *“Israel’s most wanted man,”* Sinwar was also killed by **Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)** soldiers in Gaza in October 2024.



With this move by Hamas, the devastating war fully erupted. Since the start of the Israeli offensive, over **46,000** Palestinians in Gaza have been reported killed, over half of them women and children, with thousands more trapped under the rubble. Estimated a total of **70,000** direct deaths due to traumatic injuries. More than **100,000** Palestinians have been injured, resulting in the world’s highest rate of child amputees. Israel’s tightened blockade cut off necessities, causing a severe hunger crisis, with a high risk of hunger persisting as of November 2024. This is an example of “Hitting back twice as hard” as by mid-December, the health minister of Gaza reported that the toll had surpassed 45,000, including children, women, and men.



On January 13, 2025, the contract or deal was drafted but not finalized due to negotiations from both sides. Sources reported that the long-sought, tortuously negotiated “Gaza ceasefire deal” was achieved in part through a remarkable collaboration between President Biden and President-elect Donald J. Trump, who temporarily set aside mutual animosity to achieve a shared goal.

On Wednesday, January 14, it was officially announced that Hamas and Israel had agreed to a ceasefire, pausing the deadliest war. This was confirmed by the U.S. and Qatar. The deal involves several terms and conditions, including the release of Israeli hostages, providing medical aid to Palestine, and allowing food and refugee trucks from different countries. President Biden said the ceasefire was “*one of the toughest negotiations I’ve ever experienced.*” He further stated:

“The Palestinian people have gone through hell. Too many innocent people have died. Too many communities have been destroyed. With this deal, the people of Gaza can finally recover and rebuild.”

But what about the losses that are entirely one-sided? What about the innocent lives lost, the destruction, and the more than 365 days Palestinians endured without enough food, shelter, water, medical aid, and so much more? It’s not just a loss for Palestine but a huge loss for humanity. While the heart weeps for the destruction, it also rejoices in the relief for innocent

Palestinians.

