

Facts about Palestine

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Published by Moonstone Minarets, 2023.

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FACTS ABOUT PALESTINE

First edition. November 6, 2023.

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ISBN: 979-8223504177

Written by Abdul Haqq.

To the Palestinian children killed since the Belfour Declaration
of 1917.

About

In 2023, Israel launched a severe attack and siege on Gaza. In the current global climate, it's difficult for many of us who are not deeply concerned about the situation, to discern facts from the propaganda, fake news, and rhetoric.

This book is for you if you're interested in finding out facts about what's going on in Palestine and Gaza. Most facts contain direct quotes, and all stem from reputable sources, such as human rights organizations and major news outlets.

Please note that:

- I refer to Gazans, Palestinians, and Palestinian Muslims interchangeably.
- This book was published during the ongoing attacks against Palestine in 2023. Recent statistics are already out-of-date.

What is the Nakba?

To understand the ongoing conflict in Palestine, we need to briefly divulge into some of the historical context of the region, courtesy of Wikipedia.^[1]

- Palestine existed as part of the Ottoman empire, from 1516 through to the 20th century.
- The British government “issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, favoring the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.”^[2] Shortly thereafter, they captured Palestine.
- In 1948, the UN recommended dividing Palestine into two states: one Arab (Palestinian), and one Jewish. Jews declared the independence of Israel.
- War ensued between Israel and the nearby Arab countries. “Israel not only prevailed but also conquered far more territory of the Mandate than envisioned by the Partition Plan.”^[3]
- 700,000, or about 80% of all Palestinians fled or were driven out of the territory that Israel conquered, and were not allowed to return, in an event that became known as the *Nakba* (“Catastrophe”) to the Palestinians.”^[4]
- After the war, only two parts of Palestine remained in Arab control: the West Bank (and East-Jerusalem), [...] and the Gaza Strip. [Both] were conquered by Israel during the Six-

Day War in 1967. Despite international objections, Israel started to establish settlements in these occupied territories.^[5]

Palestinians refer to the events of 1948 as the “nakba” (disaster, catastrophe, cataclysm). Reasons may include:^[6]

- Israel declared 78% of the area previously referred to as Mandatory Palestine as the state of Israel
- At least 700,000 Palestinians fled, or were expelled out of their homes by Zionist militias
- Between 400-600 Palestinian villages were destroyed
- Israelis poisoned village wells as part of a biological warfare program, resulting in a typhoid epidemic in some areas
- Israelis looted properties to prevent Palestinian refugees from returning
- Israelis renamed several sites to Hebrew names (geographical erasure)
- Denying Palestinians the Right of Return to their homes

Some historians describe the expulsion of Palestinians as ethnic cleansing.^[7] As of 2023, more than 60% of the estimated 14.3 million Palestinians are displaced.^[8]

Israeli Settlements are Illegal Under International Law

Numerous UN resolutions and prevailing international opinion hold that Israeli settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are a violation of international law, including UN Security Council resolutions in 1979, 1980, and 2016.^[9]

Israeli settlements contribute to serious human rights abuses against Palestinians living in Palestine, including^[10]:

- The right to life
- The right to adequate housing
- The right to equality and non-discrimination
- The right to liberty and fair trial
- The right to an effective remedy
- The right to security of person and to health
- The rights of children
- The right to water
- The right to education
- The right to peaceful assembly
- Labour rights
- The right to freedom of movement

Israel is Committing Apartheid Against Palestinians

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, writes: "Our report reveals the true extent of Israel's apartheid regime. Whether they live in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, or Israel itself, Palestinians are treated as an inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights."^[11]

Amnesty International writes: "Palestinians facing the brutality of Israel's repression have been calling for an understanding of Israel's rule as apartheid for over two decades. Over time, a broader international recognition of Israel's treatment of Palestinians as apartheid has begun to take shape."^[12]

They define apartheid as "a violation of public international law, a grave violation of internationally protected human rights, and a crime against humanity under international criminal law"^[13] and state that "Apartheid can best be understood as a system of prolonged and cruel discriminatory treatment by one racial group of members of another with the intention to control the second racial group."^[14]

The United Nations analyzes the situation "through the internationally-understood legal definition of apartheid – the system of institutionalized racial segregation practiced in South Africa prior to its dismantling in the early 1990s."^[15]

They state that "Israel [...] conforms to the definition [of apartheid] as a 'political regime which so intentionally and clearly prioritizes fundamental political, legal and social rights to one group over another, within the

same geographic unit on the basis of one's racial-national-ethnic identity.”^[16]

They continue that “leading international figures – including former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, and former Israeli Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair – have also all described Israel's occupation as apartheid.”^[17]

In October 2023, the Director of the New York office of the UN high commissioner for human rights left his post, citing “genocide” of Palestinian citizens as the reason.^[18]

“The director of the New York office of the UN high commissioner for human rights has left his post, protesting that the UN is “failing” in its duty to prevent what he categorizes as genocide of Palestinian civilians in Gaza under Israeli bombardment and citing the US, UK and much of Europe as “wholly complicit in the horrific assault.”^[19]

“Mokhiber, who was stepping down having reached retirement age, wrote: “Once again we are seeing a genocide unfolding before our eyes and the organization we serve appears powerless to stop it.”^[20]

Systemic Racism Against Palestinians

Wikipedia contains two pages about racism in Palestine, which highlight the systemic, government-sponsored, and majority-supported racism against Arab Palestinians.

One page, titled “Anti-Arab Racism,” includes a sub-section on Israel; and one page, titled “Racism in Israel,” also discusses the topic. Below are some excerpts from both pages, quoted verbatim.

Racism against Arab citizens of Israel on the part of the Israeli state and some Israeli Jews has been identified by critics in personal attitudes, the media, education, immigration rights, housing segregation, and social life. Nearly all such characterizations have been denied by the state of Israel.^[21]

Geography textbooks used in Israeli schools were found to portray Arabs as primitive and backwards, with the Nakba, the destruction of Palestinian society in the 1948 Palestine war, disregarded entirely. History textbooks likewise portrayed the Palestinian population negatively, showing them as primitive and collectively to be an enemy. Contrasted with the portrayal of Jews, who were shown to be heroic and progressive, Israeli textbooks delegitimized Arabs and used negative stereotyping of Arabs nearly uniformly.^[22]

In a number of occasions, Israeli Jewish demonstrators and rioters used racist anti-Arab slogans. For example, during the Arab riots in October 2000 events, Israelis counter-rioted in Nazareth and Tel Aviv, throwing stones at Arabs, destroying Arab property, with some chanting “death to Arabs”.^[23]

According to a 2001 report by Human Rights Watch, Israel's school systems for Arab and Jewish children are separate and have unequal conditions to the disadvantage of the Arab children who make up one-quarter of all students. Israeli law does not prohibit Palestinian Arab parents from enrolling their children in Jewish schools, but in practice, very few Palestinian Arab parents do so.[30][32] The report stated that "Government-run Arab schools are a world apart from government-run Jewish schools. In virtually every respect, Palestinian Arab children get an education inferior to that of Jewish children, and their relatively poor performance in school reflects this."^[24]

According to the 2004 U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for Israel and the Occupied Territories, the Israeli government had done "little to reduce institutional, legal, and societal discrimination against the country's Arab citizens." The 2005 U.S. Department of State report on Israel wrote: "[T]he government generally respected the human rights of its citizens; however, there were problems in some areas, including ... institutional, legal, and societal discrimination against the country's Arab citizens."^[25]

In 2004, Yehiel Hazan, a member of the Knesset, described the Arabs as worms: "You find them everywhere like worms, underground as well as above."^[26]

According to a 2006 poll conducted by Geocartographia for the Centre for the Struggle Against Racism, 41% of Israelis support Arab-Israeli segregation at entertainment venues, 40% believed "the state needs to support the emigration of Arab citizens", and 63% believed Arabs to be a "security and demographic threat" to Israel. The poll found that more than two thirds would not want to live in the same building as an Arab, 36% believed Arab culture to be inferior, and 18% felt hatred when they heard Arabic spoken.^[27]

In 2007, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel reported that anti-Arab views had doubled, and anti-Arab racist incidents had increased by 26%.[110] The report quoted polls that suggested 50% of Jewish Israelis do not believe Arab citizens of Israel should have equal rights, 50% said they wanted the government to encourage Arab emigration from Israel, and 75% of Jewish youths said Arabs were less intelligent and less clean than Jews. The Mossawa Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel reported a tenfold increase in racist incidents against Arabs in 2008. Jerusalem reported the highest number of incidents. The report blamed Israeli leaders for the violence, saying "These attacks are not the hand of fate, but a direct result of incitement against the Arab citizens of this country by religious, public, and elected officials." [28]

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) published reports documenting racism in Israel, and the 2007 report suggested that anti-Arab racism in the country was increasing. One analysis of the report summarized it thus: "Over two-thirds of Israeli teens believe Arabs to be less intelligent, uncultured and violent. Over a third of Israeli teens fear Arabs all together ... The report becomes even grimmer, citing the ACRI's racism poll, taken in March 2007, in which 50% of Israelis taking part said they would not live in the same building as Arabs, will not befriend, or let their children befriend Arabs and would not let Arabs into their homes." The 2008 report from ACRI says the trend of increasing racism is continuing. [29]

Another 2007 report, by the Center Against Racism, also found hostility against Arabs was on the rise. Among its findings, it reported that 75% of Israeli Jews do not approve of Arabs and Jews sharing apartment buildings; that over half of Jews would not want to have an Arab boss and that marrying an Arab amounts to "national treason"; and that 55% of the sample thought Arabs should be kept separate from Jews in entertainment sites. Half wanted the Israeli government to encourage Israeli

Arabs to emigrate. About 40% believed Arab citizens should have their voting rights removed.^[30]

A March 2010 poll by Tel Aviv University found that 49.5% of Israeli Jewish high school students believe Israeli Arabs should not be entitled to the same rights as Jews in Israel. 56% believe Arabs should not be eligible to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament.^[31]

An October 2010 poll by the Dahaf polling agency found that 36% of Israeli Jews favor eliminating voting rights for non-Jews. In recent polling (2003–2009) between 42% and 56% of Israelis agreed that "Israeli Arabs suffer from discrimination as opposed to Jewish citizens"; 80% of Israeli Arabs agreed with that statement in 2009.^[32]

A 2012 poll revealed widespread support among Israeli Jews for discrimination against Israeli Arabs.^[33]

A poll in 2012 revealed that racist attitudes are embraced by a large majority of Israelis. 59% of Jews said they wanted Jews to be given preference in admission to public employment, 50% wanted the state to generally treat Jews better than Arabs, and over 40% wanted separate housing for Jews and Arabs. According to the poll, 58% supported the use of the term apartheid to represent Israeli policies against Arabs. The poll also showed that the majority of Israeli Jews would not want voting rights extended to Palestinians if the West Bank were annexed by Israel.^[34]

In 2013, Nazareth Illit mayor Shimon Gafsou declared that he would never allow that an Arab school, a mosque, or a church be built in his city, despite the fact that Arabs account for 18 percent of its population.^[35]

In 2018, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel published a report about anti-democratic legislation passed in Israel. Their report touches

on racism, which “erodes the democratic framework of the country as a whole:

“In the 20th Knesset the Basic Law: Israel – The Nation State of the Jewish People was proposed (P/20/1989) by MK Dichter and Others. [...] The law, which in effect is now part of the constitutional framework of the state of Israel, does not deal with [...] human rights obligations, and, in fact, grossly violates the balance between Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. Not only does this law not guarantee human rights to all of its citizens, but specifically infringes the right to equality, the right to language and culture, and the rights of the minority. [...] The law anchors already- present discrimination and racial segregation in renting and buying real estate, violates the right to language, culture and identity to one fifth of the country’s citizens, and includes many discriminatory provisions that open the door to widespread practices of racial discrimination in all spheres of life. There is much concern that a Basic Law of this nature will harm the human rights of all Israeli citizens, as it erodes the democratic framework of the country as a whole.”^[36]

In 2021, Israel began to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to its own citizens, but not to Palestinians.

According to Physicians for Human Rights:^[37]

“As vaccination campaigns against COVID-19 expand and intensify worldwide, we are witnessing clear systemic discrimination and inequity around who receives life-saving vaccines and who does not. Such vaccine inequity is particularly disturbing in the Israeli/Palestinian context, where Israel, the occupying power, has ignored its responsibilities under international law to provide for the health of the population in the territory it occupies.”^[38]

“Although Israel has been praised for rapidly vaccinating a significant percentage of its citizens, it has failed to fulfill its legal and moral obligations to provide COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. By early March, Israel had fully vaccinated more than half of its citizens, including Israeli settlers illegally living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Meanwhile, Palestinians living under Israeli control are still, by and large, ineligible to receive these life-saving inoculations – a separate and unequal system that leaves them exposed to infection and death while Israeli citizens develop immunity, amid the worst global health crisis in a century.”

The UN Office of Human Rights writes: “UN human rights experts* today called on Israel, the occupying power, to ensure swift and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for the Palestinian people under occupation.”^[39]

Gaza is the World's Largest Open-Air Prison

According to Human Rights Watch, Gaza is - and has been since 2007 - the largest "open-air" prison in the world. "Israel, with Egypt's help, has turned Gaza into an open-air prison."^[40]

"Since 2007, Israeli authorities have, with narrow exceptions, banned Palestinians from leaving through Erez, the passenger crossing from Gaza into Israel, through which they can reach the West Bank and travel abroad via Jordan. Israel also prevents Palestinian authorities from operating an airport or seaport in Gaza. Israeli authorities also sharply restrict the entry and exit of goods."^[41]

Slate Magazine writes: "Gaza became a resource-starved and overpopulated open-air prison, forced to rely on Israel for food, water, electricity, trade, mail delivery, access to fishing, medical care, or contact with the outside world. From then on, Israel has effectively treated Hamas as the prisoner organization responsible for preventing the inmates—none of whom have been placed on trial, and all of whom have life sentences—from harming Israel or Israelis."^[42]

"This relationship has been enforced by punishing incursions into the strip by the Israeli military [...] [and] in the process, killing more than 6,400 Palestinians between 2008 and September 2023, and inflicting billions of dollars of damage."^[43]

Palestinians Can't Leave Palestine

Bloomberg News published an article in their Opinion category, explaining why Palestinians can't just leave Gaza^[44].

"It is not unreasonable to wonder why the 2.3 million civilians living in the tiny enclave don't flee to safer ground [...] The short answer to that question is: They can't."^[45]

"At 139 square miles, the Gaza Strip is approximately the size of Philadelphia, with a third more people. There is very little open space within the enclave where 2 million people can hunker down and wait for the fighting to end."^[46]

"Many Gazans are being forced out of their homes and neighborhoods, but there's nowhere safe for them to go."^[47]

"Egypt is solicitous about the problems of Palestinians but doesn't want them on its soil. Cairo is already trotting out its usual excuses of poverty and security: Egypt can't afford to host refugees, and they might cause trouble."^[48]

"Other Arab nations offer variations of those lines. Jordan already has too many Palestinians (they make up more than half the population of the kingdom) and too many refugees from other places, such as Syria. Turkey, which is sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, likewise has its hands full of refugees from other parts."^[49]

"The Gulf Arab states have plenty of land and no shortage of money; Saudi Arabia is currently spending hundreds of billions of dollars build-

ing a city it doesn't really need. Their traditional excuse for not taking in Palestinians is that it would let Israel off the hook."^[50]

"The civilians in Gaza can't leave, and it's a tragedy twice over that nobody wants them anyway."^[51]

Israeli Forces Killed Palestinian Children

According to the Internationally accepted rules of armed conflict mentioned in the Geneva Convention in 1949, which were ratified by Israel in 1951, children must be protected and treated humanely.^[52]

Wikipedia states: “In the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising against Israel, “the Israeli army killed from 1162 to 1204 (or 1,284) Palestinians, 241/332 being children.”^[53] That amounts to between 21-27% of all Palestinians killed.

B’Tselem statistics record 2869 Palestinian children killed from September 29, 2000 to October 6, 2023.^[54] This accounts for around 21% of all deaths in that period.

The Economist reports that in the period spanning from October 7th, 2023 to October 27th, according to the Palestinian health ministry, 2900 children were killed (40% of the total death toll of more than 7000 and rising).^[55]

Israel Blockaded and Starved Palestinians

In 2023, Israel began a siege blockade against Gaza. A panel of UN experts on human rights made the following statements about the situation in Palestine^[56]:

"The [panel of UN] experts raised serious humanitarian and legal concerns over Israel tightening its 16-year siege of the enclave and its population and long-standing occupation, depriving 2.2 million people of essential food, fuel, water, electricity and medicine. An estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, are in desperate need of prenatal and postnatal care. The number of internally displaced people across the Gaza Strip is estimated at around one million."

"The complete siege of Gaza coupled with unfeasible evacuation orders and forcible population transfers, is a violation of international humanitarian and criminal law. It is also unspeakably cruel."

"They recalled that the UN Security Council has repeatedly condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, which is prohibited under international humanitarian and criminal law. The unlawful denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival are also a violation of international humanitarian law, the experts warned."

Israeli Army Repeatedly Bombed Civilian Buildings

According to the Middle East Eye, Israel repeatedly bombed several civilian buildings in Gaza in 2023. B'Tselem and Al Jazeera reported similar (higher) statistics. They made the following statements:

"Israel is carrying out a widespread, systematic bombing campaign of Gaza's civilian infrastructure."^[57]

"Israeli air force dropped some 2,000 munitions and more than 1,000 tonnes of bombs on Gaza, the army said, having shelled 20 high-rise residential buildings, mosques, hospitals, banks and other civilian infrastructure."^[58]

"At least 10 mosques have been demolished in Israel's bombardment of Gaza so far, according to the Islamic affairs ministry in the enclave."^[59]

"Palestine's Ministry of Islamic Affairs in Gaza announced on Monday that Israeli bombing destroyed the headquarters of the Holy Quran radio station."^[60]

"The Islamic National Bank of Gaza was bombed during live television coverage of Israel's bombardment."^[61]

"A year after it was last bombed, the Palestine Tower, a 14-storey residential building in the middle of Gaza City with panoramic views, has been flattened. Survivors told Middle East Eye that they had saved and borrowed thousands of dollars to rebuild their homes after Israel's last bombing."^[62]

This aligns with previous actions taken by Israel. For example, in 2014, Amnesty International wrote: “[Israel destroyed] four multistorey buildings [...] in contravention of international humanitarian law.”^[63]

“Both the facts on the ground and statements made by Israeli military spokespeople at the time indicate that the attacks were a collective punishment against the people of Gaza and were designed to destroy their already precarious livelihoods.”^[64]

“Even if the Israeli authorities had good reason to believe that a part of a building was being used for military purposes, they had an obligation to choose means and methods of attack that would minimize harm to civilians and their property,” says Philip Luther. “The Israeli army have previously conducted air strikes on specific apartments in high-rise buildings without their complete destruction.”^[65]

Palestinian Children and the Six Grave Violations

In 1999, the United Nations Security Council passed the first resolution on children and armed conflict. They identified and condemned six grave violations affecting children the most in times of war.^[66] These are:^[67]

- killing and maiming of children
- recruitment or use of children as soldiers
- sexual violence against children
- abduction of children
- attacks against schools or hospitals
- denial of humanitarian access for children

For the period from October 7-23, 2023:^[68]

Killing and Maiming:

- At least 3038 Palestinian children were killed
- Over 6000 were injured

Attacks on Schools and Hospitals: the World Health Organization (WHO) documented at least 76 attacks on health care, including:

- 20 hospitals damaged

- 24 ambulances damaged
- At least 16 health care workers killed
- At least 30 health care workers injured
- 12 out of 35 hospitals in Gaza are no longer operational
- At least 219 educational facilities (schools) have been damaged

Denial of Humanitarian Access:

- An estimated 1.4 million Palestinians in Gaza are displaced
- Gaza experienced a full electricity blackout after Israeli authorities cut the electricity and fuel supply on October 7 (20 days and counting)
- At least 45 percent of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been damaged or completely destroyed
- Israel cut off food, water, electricity and fuel from Gaza

Many of these points are independently reported on, and expanded upon, in other sections.

Israeli Army Bombed Several Palestinian Hospitals

Middle East Eye, Al Jazeera, and B'Tselem also note that several hospitals have been attacked, destroyed, or disabled.

"Numerous hospitals and medical centres have been attacked."^[69]

"Palestine's health ministry announced that the children's section of the Shifa hospital complex had been damaged by Israel's bombing and that the shelling had caused parts of the ceiling to collapse and fall."^[70]

"The Beit Hanoun Hospital had been rendered out of service due to constant Israeli bombing in close proximity to the building."^[71]

"Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the humanitarian organisation also known as Doctors Without Borders, said that Israeli forces struck Gaza's Indonesian hospital, as well as an ambulance in front of the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza."^[72]

According to the UN human rights office, in 2023, Israel issued two warnings that an airstrike was imminent unless the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City was evacuated. They bombed it, and killed 470 civilians.^[73] This is contrary to the Israeli narrative that Hamas bombed their own hospital.

"The [Israeli army] strike against Al Ahli Arab Hospital is an atrocity. We are equally outraged by the deadly strike on the same day on an UNRWA school located in Al Maghazi refugee camp that sheltered some 4000 dis-

placed people, as well as two densely populated refugee camps,” a group of UN experts said.^[74]

The World Health Organization (WHO) documented more than 136 attacks on health care services in the occupied Palestinian territory, including 59 attacks on the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death of at least 16 health workers, between October 7th and 20th.^[75]

Israel Bombed Refugee Camps Multiple Times

In October 2023, Israel bombed the Al Maghazi refugee camp, targeting a school inside the camp^[76]. Later in November, they bombed the refugee camp again. Time Magazine writes:

“Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens. [...] Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others, the Health Ministry said.”^[77]

Israel Illegally Used Phosphorus Bombs

According to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, a number of photos and video evidence confirm that Israel illegally used white phosphorus bombs against Palestinians [78] [79], which are prohibited under the U.N. convention on weapons.[80]

White Phosphorus bombs can burn through metal and bone, can "burn down houses and cause egregious harm to civilians"[81], especially when airburst in densely-populated urban areas.[82] [83]

"Any time that white phosphorus is used in crowded civilian areas, it poses a high risk of excruciating burns and lifelong suffering."[84]

Israel Bombed a School

According to the UN human rights office, Israel bombed a school inside a refugee camp in 2023.

"The [Israeli army] strike against Al Ahli Arab Hospital is an atrocity. We are equally outraged by the deadly strike on the same day on an UNRWA school located in Al Maghazi refugee camp that sheltered some 4000 displaced people, as well as two densely populated refugee camps," a group of UN experts said.^[85]

Israel Bombed Gaza's Oldest Church

According to Al Jazeera, at least 18 people died after Israel bombed Gaza's oldest church, the Saint Porphyrius Church in Gaza City^[86]:

"The Greek Orthodox church – the oldest in the city, located in the Zaytoun neighbourhood – has traditionally served as a sanctuary for both Christians and Muslims during Israel's periodic wars against Gaza.

"The church was sheltering hundreds of people when an Israeli bomb severely damaged one of the four buildings in its compound on Thursday evening, causing its ceiling to collapse and leaving dozens trapped under slabs of concrete, according to witnesses.

"By Friday afternoon, the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem told Al Jazeera at least 18 people were confirmed to have been killed, including several children.

"About 200 children, women, elderly and sick people were taking shelter at the church when Israeli warplanes targeted the building with two raids."^[87]

Israel Forced Eviction and Demolition

In 2021, Israel forced eviction and demolition in the town of Sheikh Jarrah, which is a predominantly Palestinian neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

"The UN's human rights office called on Israel to immediately halt all forced evictions, including those in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem."^[88] The eviction violates Israel's obligations under international law.^[89]

Israel forced eviction of Palestinians, and confiscated private property, which is illegal under international law [3], in violation of the Geneva Convention ^[90], and a "prima facie war crime."^[91]

Israeli Aircraft Destroyed Palestinian Crops, Farms

B'tselem, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Euromed Rights, and The Guardian report that on several occasions, from as early as 2013,^[92] Israeli crop-dusters sprayed "unknown" herbicides into Palestinian lands and farmlands, without prior notification or warning.^[93]

According to Al Mezan, "the Israeli military's aerial spraying of herbicides constitutes a violation of both Israeli constitutional and administrative law, as well as of international humanitarian and human rights laws."^[94]

The effects of spraying on Palestinians included asthma, loss of consciousness, rash; resulted in the death of hundreds of animals^[95]; caused leaf blight, lost crops, and the destruction of arable land^[96]; and ultimately caused "unpredictable and uncontrollable damage."^[97]

In 2015, aerial spraying of herbicides destroyed or damaged 187 hectares of crops. The Ecologist writes: "The spraying has had a devastating effect on the farmers by imposing on them total or near total loss of farm income, leaving many of them deep in debt for the cost of agricultural inputs."^[98]

As well as suffering the immediate loss of crops and income, some of the farmers may now be forced out of agriculture altogether, unwilling to repeat the risk of losing their crops again."^[99]

While Israel ostensibly sprayed in the "buffer zone" between Israel and Gaza, sprays reached as far as 700 meters away.^[100]

The buffer zone itself covers roughly 35% of Gaza's arable land, making agriculture a risky activity for Palestinians^[101] who are already facing a blockade of food (in 2023).

Israel Tortured Palestinians

According to Wikipedia: “According to Lisa Hajjar (2005) and Dr. Rachel Stroumsa, the director of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, torture has been an abiding characteristic of Israeli methods of interrogation of Palestinians. [...] Reports of torture as a means of extracting confessions arguably began early in the occupation, on evidence for the first decade.”^[102]

Reports on methods of torture include^[103]:

- Stripping prisoners naked
- Subjecting them to cold showers and cold
- Hanging prisoners from meat hooks
- Daily beatings with fists and sticks
- Alternate immersions of the victim in hot and cold water
- Beating of genitals
- Applying electrical devices to prisoners
- Applying high frequency sonic noise to prisoners
- Refrigeration
- Prolonged hanging by the hands or feet
- Inserting objects into their private parts
- Being smeared with vomit or urine

- Being confined in a "coffin"
- Suspension by the wrists
- Denial of food, water, and access to toilets
- Being threatened to have their sisters, wives or mothers raped

Children are also tortured in some cases.^[104]

According to a communication by the International Federation for Human Rights and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI): "Over 1300 complaints of torture by Israeli authorities were submitted to Israel's Justice Ministry between 2001 and June 2021. These have resulted in two criminal investigations and no indictments."^[105]

"The methods used during [...] interrogations include methods explicitly prohibited by the Israeli High Court of Justice since 1999 [...]. These include shackling detainees to chairs in various stress positions, e.g., the so-called 'banana' and 'frog' positions, sometimes while shaking, slapping or beating them, or pulling limbs in unnatural directions. Sleep deprivation is particularly common, sometimes by multiple prolonged interrogations each lasting over 30 hours, as well as interrogation or accommodation in extremely cold temperatures, and detention in filthy, insect-infested cells, with constant artificial lighting. PCATI has documented cases of nude interrogation; denying access to toilets; and sexual intimidation, as well as threats to family members. These different methods are often used simultaneously or in cyclical repetition, over a period of several days. PCATI received testimony from detainees who said that they had provided false confessions in the hope of putting an end to interrogations."^[106]

78-80% of a sample of detainees in 1985 said they had been sexually molested.^[107]

Israel Cut Off Electricity Despite an Energy Crisis

Palestine, and Gaza in particular, face an energy crisis. Wikipedia describes it as “an ongoing and growing electricity crisis faced by nearly two million residents of the Gaza Strip, with regular power supply being provided only for a few hours a day on a rolling blackout schedule.”^[108]

Palestine largely depends on the Israeli Energy Company for electricity. Wikipedia states that “Palestine produces no oil or natural gas and is predominantly dependent on the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) for electricity.”^[109] Additionally, “almost all of liquid fuel used in the Palestinian territories is supplied by or via Israel.”^[110]

Human Rights Watch says^[111] “international humanitarian law requires Israel, as the occupying power in Gaza, to ensure that the basic needs of the civilian population are provided for,” and calls deprivation of electricity “a war crime.” They also say “It is cruel and contrary to international law.”

Israel cut electricity to Palestine on several occasions:

- In 2015: Wikipedia states: “On 23 February 2015, [the Israeli Energy Company] intentionally cut off the West Bank power for about 45 minutes due to unpaid bills. Two days later it again cut off power, stating it was a warning to the PA to begin paying down the debt, which at that time was NIS 1.9 billion.”^[112]

- In 2016: Wikipedia writes: “On 31 March 2016, IEC again cut power to parts of the West Bank, in the Jericho area, because of the NIS 1.7 billion debt. On 4 April, IEC cut power in the Bethlehem area, and the following day it cut power in the Hebron area.”^[113]
- In 2021: Human Rights Watch writes: “During the first nine months of 2021, families in Gaza on average had to make do without centrally provided electricity for more than 11 hours a day, according to OCHA.”^[114]
- In 2023: “Al Jazeera writes: “Israel cut off the electricity supply and blocked the entry of food and fuel to the Gaza Strip as part of a ‘total siege’ strategy.”^[115]

Israel Blacked Out Internet in Gaza, then Attacked

In October 2023, as a result of heavy Israeli ground strikes,^[116] Palestinians experienced a total communication blackout:

“Palestinians are experiencing a total communication blackout in Gaza, according to civil society groups and journalists on the ground.”^[117]

The blackout affected internet, cellular and landline services.^[118] This also affected the Palestine Red Crescent emergency medical services in the area, “due to the Israeli authorities cutting off all landline, cellular and internet communications.”^[119]

The Telegraph writes^[120]:

“The Israeli military has defended the complete telecommunications blackout on the Gaza Strip, saying that it will do whatever it has to do to protect its forces.

“The entire of the Gaza Strip was knocked offline on Friday night before Israel extended its ground incursion into the north of the besieged enclave.

“Asked whether Israel had knocked out cellular services at the start of the ground offensive that began on Friday night, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said: ‘We do what we have to do to secure our forces for as long as we must, temporary or permanent, as much as we need to and we will not say anything further about that.’”

Israel Killed Journalists

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in October 2023 alone^[121]:

- 29 journalists were confirmed dead: 24 Palestinian, 4 Israeli, and 1 Lebanese
- 8 journalists were reported injured.
- 9 journalists were reported missing or detained.

Causes of death of the journalists^[122]:

- 16 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, along with ten family members
- 2 killed, along with family members, in Israeli missile strikes that targeted their family's house
- 1 killed in a shelling attack from the direction of Israel near the Lebanon border
- 3 killed when Israeli warplanes struck an area housing several media outlets
- 2 shot and killed in Gaza
- 1 shot and killed at Erez Crossing
- 3 killed in a Hamas attack on Israel

- 1 found dead

This is the official count, which is likely an undercount, according to CPJ. In addition, they report:^[123]

- 100 additional reports of journalists killed, missing, detained, or threatened
- 48 media facilities in Gaza were hit or destroyed

According to CPJ, the death of Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh of Al Jazeera, who was shot and killed wearing a helmet and vest that was labeled as press, “was not a one-off, but rather part of a long, devastating pattern. The organization's report found that at least 20 journalists have been killed by Israeli military fire since 2001 for which ‘to date, no one has been held accountable.’”^[124]

Israel and Israelis Attacked and Censored Media

In addition to killing journalists, Israel also attacked, arrested, threatened, and censored several journalists. According to CPJ research: “there were more than 10 incidents of assaults, arrests, threats, cyberattacks and censorship targeting journalists as they carry out their work in Israel and in the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank.”^[125]

From the 2023 conflict alone, assaults include^[126]:

- Journalist Israel Frey “went into hiding after his home was attacked the previous day by a mob of far-right Israelis after he expressed solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.” (Additionally reported by Haaretz and Middle East Eye)
- “[Two] BBC Arabic reporters [...] and their team were dragged from their vehicle, searched, and held at gunpoint by police in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, despite their vehicle being marked “TV” in red tape and [the journalists] presenting their press cards to police.”^[127]
- A reporting team of Sky News Arabia “in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon was assaulted by Israeli police. The channel’s correspondent, Firas Lutfi, described how the police pointed rifles at his head, forced him to undress, confiscated their phones, and escorted them out of the area.”

In 2021, “two unidentified members of a right-wing Israeli demonstration attacked a Kan News team consisting of reporter Yoav Zehavi and

camera operator Rolik Nowitzki, who had been covering the demonstration.”^[128]

Arrests include:

- Six Palestinian journalists arrested in two separate incidents in 2023.^[129]
- The arrest of Hazem Naser, a Palestinian camera operator, in 2021^[130]

Cyberattacks include^[131]:

- Palestinian Authority’s official news agency, Wafa, experienced a cyberattack that disrupted its news website.
- The Jerusalem Post’s website being down due to a series of cyberattacks from the previous day. (The group Anonymous Sudan claimed responsibility for these attacks, according to Time magazine.)

In terms of censorship: “On October 16, the IDF ordered the West Bank-based J-Media agency to shut down, according to the Palestinian press freedom group MADA and New Arab. In a statement, IDF described the media outlet as “an illegal organization” and said the closure was necessary for “the sake of the security of the State of Israel and for the safety of the public and public order,” those sources said, adding that J-Media complied and ceased its operations immediately. J-Media provides footage and media services to broadcasters and covers Palestinian news, according to press freedom group SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom and CPJ’s review of its website.”^[132]

Israel Evacuated a Million Palestinians in 24 hours

In October 2023, Amnesty International reported that the Israeli army gave Palestinians in Gaza 24 hours notice to evacuate from Gaza and Gaza City to the south of the Gaza Strip "for their safety and protection" before they started bombing it. The Israeli army themselves admitted the impossibility of this order, which resulted in panic and a mass forced displacement of more than 1.1 million Palestinian Muslims.^[133]

Israel Rejected International Calls for Ceasefire

During the conflict of October 2023, 120 out of 184 countries in the UN voted for a ceasefire in Palestine.^[134]

Al Jazeera writes: “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also dismissed growing calls for a ceasefire, saying that such action would constitute ‘surrender to terrorism.’”^[135]

“Speaking to reporters on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphatically rejected calls for a ceasefire, saying that ‘this is a time for war.’”^[136]

In November of the same year, Israeli warplanes bombed a refugee camp, “despite U.S. appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.”^[137]

Israeli Settlers and IDF Damage Olive Trees

The Ecologist writes: “The uprooting and cutting down of over a million olive and fruit trees in occupied Palestine since 1967 [until 2015] is an attack on a symbol of life, and on Palestinian culture and survival [... and] a grave crime under international humanitarian law, the arboricide is also contrary to Jewish religious teachings.”^[138]

“Armed Israelis are systematically wrecking trees that have stood for hundreds of years and frequently provide the only livelihood for Palestinian families.”^[139]

The destruction of the olive trees is also a specific violation of Article 54 of the 1977 Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which prohibits the “starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.”^[140]

“Since 1967 some 800,000 olive trees have been uprooted by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank alone, according to research from the Palestinian Authority and the Applied Research Institute Jerusalem. This has threatened the livelihood of 80,000 families.”^[141]

“Over 9000 olive trees have been destroyed in the West Bank since August 2020 [alone], according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).”^[142]

“For years, the ICRC has observed a seasonal peak in violence by Israeli settlers residing in certain settlements and outposts in the West Bank towards Palestinian farmers and their property in the period leading up to

the olive harvest season, as well as during the harvest season itself, in October and November.”^[143]

““Farmers also experience acts of harassment and violence that aim at preventing a successful harvest, not to mention the destruction of farming equipment or the uprooting and burning of olive trees.”^[144]

A Leaked Document from the Ministry of Intelligence

According to WikiLeaks, an organization that “publishes documents of political or historical importance that are censored or otherwise suppressed”, a “Verified document from Israeli Ministry of Intelligence on October 13, 2023, suggests forced displacement of Gaza civilians to Egypt would “yield positive and long term strategic results.””^[145]

The original document is online as of writing.^[146] The document recommends that Israel:^[147]

- “Carry out a full transfer of all residents of the Gaza Strip to North Sinai, as the preferred option among the three alternatives it offers regarding the future of the Palestinians in the [Gaza] Strip”
- “Evacuate the Gazan population to Sinai during the war”
- “Establish tent cities and new cities in northern Sinai, which will accommodate the deported population”
- “Create a sterile zone of several kilometers inside Egypt and not allow the population to return to activity or residence near the Israeli border.”

Although “the existence of the document does not necessarily indicate that its recommendations are being considered by the security system,” the document “features the logo of the Ministry of Intelligence headed by minister Gila Gamliel of the Likud. An official at the Ministry of In-

telligence confirmed to "Local Talk" that this is an authentic document, which was distributed to the security system on behalf of the Ministry's Policy Division, and "was not supposed to reach the media."^[148]

"The document unequivocally and explicitly recommends carrying out a transfer of civilians from Gaza as the desired outcome of the war."^[149]

Statistics on Palestinian vs. Israeli Deaths

According to statistics from B'TSelem^[150], between December 2000 and September 2023:

- 10,555 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces
- 96 Palestinians were killed by Israeli citizens
- 449 Israeli forces were killed by Palestinians
- 881 Israeli citizens were killed by Palestinians

These numbers total 10,651 Palestinians dead, and 930 Israelis dead - a ratio of 11:1.

Of the dead, 2270 Palestinians were minors (21.5%), as were 145 Israelis (15.5%).

That number is even more staggering when you consider that there are about twice as many Israelis as there are Palestinians. This means, very roughly, that a Palestinian person has been 15 times more likely to be killed by the conflict than an Israeli person [10].

Since 2005 [until 2014], 23 out of every 24 conflict deaths have been Palestinian^[151].

Statistics on Incarceration of Palestinians

In the West Bank, in 2021, “Israel held 4,460 Palestinians in custody for “security” offenses, including 200 children, many for throwing stones, and 492 in administrative detention without formal charges or trial and based on secret evidence, according to figures by the Israeli human rights group HaMoked and Palestinian prisoner rights group Adameer.”^[152]

“More than 1,300 complaints of torture, including of painful shackling, sleep deprivation and exposure to extreme temperatures, have been filed with Israel’s Justice Ministry since 2001, resulting in two criminal investigations and no indictments, according to the Israeli rights group Public Committee Against Torture.”^[153]

According to B’Tselem, as of June 2023, the Israel Prison Service (IPS):

- Held 4499 Palestinians in detention or in prison on what it defined “security” grounds, including 183 from the Gaza Strip.^[154]
- Held 147 Palestinian minors in detention or in prison on what it defined “security” grounds.^[155]
- Held 1117 Palestinians in administrative detention.^[156]

Statistics on Israeli Settlements

Amnesty International provided several statements and statistics around Israeli settlements, spanning from 1967 to 2021:

"Since its occupation in 1967 [until 2019], Israel promoted the creation and expansion of settlements in Palestine, which resulted in:^[157]

- "the appropriation of 200,000+ hectares of Palestinian land;
- "the establishment of 250+ settlements, populated by 600,000+ Israeli settlers;
- "the physical enclosure and segregation of the 3 million West Bank Palestinians;
- "the extension of Israeli laws to the West Bank and the creation of a discriminatory legal regime;

"the unequal access to natural resources, social services, property and land for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank."

According to Human Rights Watch's 2022 World Report^[158], which covers events that transpired in 2021:

- The Israel government issued tenders for more than 4000 new settlements in Gaza
- 2400 Palestinian house units were made uninhabitable in Gaza

- 55,000 Palestinian house units were damaged in Gaza
- Caused property damage in 287 incidents in West Bank

Quotes from Notable Political Figures of Israel

Given the history of human rights violations in Palestine, as well as the vast disparity between Palestinian and Israeli forces, we should ask ourselves why this conflict shows no signs of slowing down, even after 75+ years.

The following quotes, listed chronologically, are from notable figures of Israel, spanning from 1948 to present. To paraphrase PALCIT, “their authors are most often people who have played a direct and important role of political power. This [...] is intended to give a raw material to understand the ideology that has guided the decisions taken since the birth of Zionism to lead to today's Israel.”^[159]

Many of these quotes come from PALCIT. “[Quotes] (in PALCIT) come either from recognized historians or from media that have shed light on the news. [...] The authenticity of the quotations and their sources have been carefully verified.”^[160] All PALCIT points reference their primary source, which I have also listed below, along with any additional sources.

An oft-quoted source is an article^[161] by David Ben Gurion, one of the founders of Israel, which is quoted below as *ibid* DBG.”

Some recent quotes come directly from their authors’ social media accounts.

“When adult males were discovered hiding...-they were killed” (describing how members of several kibbutzes killed the unarmed peasants of Abu Zureiq without a second thought. No investigation was ever decid-

ed upon and the number of Palestinians massacred remains unknown.) (April 14, 1948) ^[162] ^[163]

“As April began, our War of Independence swung decisively from defense to attack.” (David Ben Gurion, April 20, 1954) ^[164] ^[165]

“Save your souls, all ye faithful: The Jews are using poison gas and atomic weapons” (Leo Heiman, May 1964). A Zionist officer who fought in 1948, describing some of the methods used to drive out an unarmed population. ^[166]

“Achieve total victory, the territorial fulfillment of the Land Of Israel.” (Yigal Allon, 1966) ^[167] ^[168]

“Not one single place built ... that did not have a former Arab population” (Moshe Dayan, April 4, 1969) ^[169] ^[170]

“There was no such thing as Palestinians, they never existed.” (Golda Maier, June 15, 1969) ^[171]

“For me the supreme morality is the the jewish people has a right to exist.” (Golda Meir, 1969) ^[172] ^[173]

“The thesis that the danger of genocide was hanging over us in June 1967, and that Israel was fighting for its physical existence is only bluff; [it] was born and developed after the war.” (Israeli Gen. Matityahu Peled, Ha’aretz, March 19, 1972.) ^[174] ^[175]

“It is the duty of Israeli leaders to explain to public opinion, clearly and courageously, a certain number of facts that are forgotten with time. The first of these is that there is no Zionism, colonialization or Jewish State without the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands.” (Yoram Bar Porath, Yediot Aahronot of July 14, 1972.) ^[176] ^[177] ^[178]

"We walked outside, Ben-Gurion accompanying us. Allon repeated his question, 'What is to be done with the Palestinian population?' Ben-Gurion waved his hand in a gesture which said 'Drive them out!'" (Yitzhak Rabin, leaked censored version of Rabin memoirs, published in the New York Times, Oct. 23, 1979)^[179] ^[180] ^[181]

"All the Arabs are the same. They should all be finished off." (Golda Meir 1980)^[182] ^[183]

"Israel wantonly inflicting every possible measure of death" (Former Israeli ambassador to the UN and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eban outbids Menachem Begin in qualifying Israel's genocidal acts.) (June 16, 1981)^[184] ^[185]

"The Palestinians are beasts walking on two legs." (Menahim Begin, in a speech to the Knesset, quoted by Amnon Kapeliouk, in "Begin and the Beasts" (New Statesman, June 25 1982.) ^[186] ^[187]

"To gain control of the area allotted to the Jewish State and ... blocs ... outside those borders" (Indicates that the Dalet Plan (1948) was already aimed at 'controlling' the Palestinian territories beyond the space allocated for a 'Jewish state' in 1947.) (Quotation from the UN / ONU, 1990)^[188] ^[189]

"There was no choice but to kill them. This is not such a big deal" (former Israeli Brigadier General, talking about the massacres of the 1956 Sinai War.) (Arieh Biro, August 21, 1995)^[190] ^[191]

"Drop by drop tactic in which one or two houses are demolished daily" (Edward Said, July 23, 1998)^[192] ^[193]

"Everybody has to move, run and grab as many hilltops as they can to enlarge the settlements because everything we take now will stay ours..."

Everything we don't grab will go to them." (Ariel Sharon, addressing, as foreign minister, a meeting of militants from the extreme right-wing Tsomet Party (Agence France Presse, Nov. 15, 1998))^[194]

"Everything that's grabbed will be in our hands" (Ariel Sharon, November 15, 1998)^[195] ^[196]

"No one has the right to put the Jewish people and the State of Israel on trial." (Ariel Sharon, March 25, 2001)^[197] ^[198]

"They have been ready to make peace with us; it is we who are unwilling." (Yitzhak Frankenthal, July 27, 2002)^[199] ^[200]

"We had to destroy them, otherwise we would have had Arabs here" (Yitzhak Pundak, May 21, 2004)^[201] ^[202]

"We will have to kill them all." (Efraim Eitam, May 24, 2004)^[203] ^[204]

"Commanders and soldiers are safe from tribunals." (Ehud Olmert, January 25, 2009)^[205] ^[206]

"A national duty to prevent the spread of a population that ... does not love Israel." (Ariel Atias, July 2, 2009)^[207] ^[208]

"There is a reason to kill babies." (Yitzhak Shapira, November 9, 2009)^[209] ^[210]

"We must blow Gaza back to the Middle Ages." (Eli Yishai, November 17, 2012)^[211] ^[212]

"I've killed lots of Arabs in my life – and there's no problem with that?" (Moshe Feiglin July 21, 2013)^[213] ^[214]

“What’s so horrifying about understanding that the entire Palestinian people is the enemy” (Uri Elitzur, June 30, 2014)^[215]

“The entire Palestinian people are the enemy, including its elderly and its women.” (Ayelet Shaked, July 1, 2014)^{[216] [217]}

“Gaza will become part of sovereign Israel” (Moshe Feiglin, July 15, 2014)^{[218] [219]}

“Those who are against us ...we need to pick up an ax and cut off his head.” (Talking about Palestinians “citizens” of Israel, during an election rally.) (Avigdor Lieberman, March 8, 2015)^{[220] [221]}

“Maintain a Jewish majority even at the price of violation of rights” (Ayelet Shaked, February 13, 2018)^{[222] [223]}

“There is no such thing as a Palestinian nation. There is no Palestinian history. There is no Palestinian language.” (Bezalel Smotrich, March 20, 2023)^[224]

“Right now, one goal: Nakba! A Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of 1948.” (Ariel Kallner, October 7, 2023)^[225]

“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.” (Yoav Gallant, October 9, 2023)^[226]

“Jericho Missile! [...] Doomsday weapon! This is my opinion.”^[227] “Only an explosion that shakes the Middle East will restore this country’s dignity, strength and security! It’s time to kiss doomsday. Shooting powerful missiles without limit. Not flattening a neighborhood. Crushing and flattening Gaza. Otherwise we did nothing. Not with passwords, with

penetrating bombs. without mercy! without mercy!" (Tally Gotliv, October 9, 2023)^[228]

"Human animals must be treated as such. There will be no electricity and no water [in Gaza], there will only be destruction. You wanted hell, you will get hell." (Ghassan Ali, October 9, 2023)^[229] ^[230]

"We will turn [Gaza] into an island of ruins." (Benjamin Netanyahu, October 9, 2023)^[231]

"It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. This rhetoric about civilians not aware, not involved, it's absolutely not true." (Yitzhak Herzog, October 16, 2023)^[232]

"Be triumphant and finish them off and don't leave anyone behind. Erase the memory of them. Erase them, their families, mothers and children. These animals can no longer live. Every Jew with a weapon should go out and kill them. If you have an Arab neighbour, don't wait, go to his home and shoot him." (Ezra Yachin, October 14, 2023)^[233]

Afterword

The facts and statements above contextualize and highlight the human rights violations, war crimes, and crises in Palestine, Gaza, and the West Bank; both in light of recent events, and historical events that stretch back to 1948. They also illuminate some of the attitudes and beliefs that lead to the ongoing apartheid.

For additional sources, including multimedia information (images and videos), take a look at the following websites. Be advised that these videos are often the raw situation on the ground, and accordingly, may be graphic in nature.

- Reddit's /r/IsraelCrimes: <https://www.reddit.com/r/IsraelCrimes/>
- The Accountability Archive, on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/archivegenocide>
- Mohammed El Kurd, a writer from Jerusalem, on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mohammedelkurd/>
- Plestia Alaqad, a journalist in Gaza, on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/byplestia/>
- The Witness, a UK-based newspaper, on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WitnessNewsUK>

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