

A photograph of a person sitting on a traffic light, holding a Palestinian flag. The person is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with red accents and a black backpack. The background shows a brick building and trees. In the foreground, there are several protest signs, including one that says "ISRAELI OCCUPATION IS ILLEGAL" and another that says "STOP KILLING". A sign with a quote from Albert Einstein is also visible. The overall scene is a protest or demonstration.

PALESTINE MONITOR

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GAZA

Extrajudicial killings

The new year began in Gaza the same way last year ended, with indiscriminate and extrajudicial killing and violence at the hands of the 'israeli' occupation. On New Year's Day the occupation's forces carried out widespread attacks [killing 28 Palestinians](#). The victims of the iof's terror included women and children. By the following day the [death toll rose to at least 63 people](#) in one of its deadliest attacks since October. Among those murdered was [photojournalist Hassan al-Qishaoui](#) bringing the number of journalists and media workers directly targeted by 'israel' to over 217. The iof bombed tents in al-Mawasi camp known as a designated 'safe zone' in southern Khan Younis at least 34 times. Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) stated that this attack was just ["another reminder that there is no humanitarian zone let alone a safe zone \[in Gaza\]."](#)

Moreover, two more Palestinians, [including a journalist, Mohammad Hijazi](#) were killed and several others injured on January 5 when iof airstrikes targeted northern Gaza and the southern city of Rafah. This genocide has displayed 'israel's' blatant disregard for international law in many instances including that of the lives of journalists. Journalists are entitled to protection as civilians under international humanitarian law. [Article 79](#) of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, codifies a customary rule, journalists in war zones must be treated as civilians and protected as such. Therefore, targeted attacks and killings of journalists are war crimes.

Dozens of women and children were murdered when the occupation forces [massacred over 51 people and injured 78 others in 24 hours](#) as it continued to strike tents sheltering displaced people in al-Mawasi. As the ceasefire talks were ongoing the iof [continued its slaughter of the Palestinian people across Gaza](#). A strike on a Gaza City park killed five people and an attack on a school sheltering displaced people in Jabalia killed four. In central Gaza, at least 10 people including women and children were killed in a strike on a family home in the Bureij refugee camp. In the first week of 2025 at least [74 children have reportedly been killed](#) in relentless violence in the Gaza Strip by the iof.

An independent study on the death toll in Gaza between 7 October 2023 and 30 June 2024 by researchers from the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine \(LSHTM\)](#), suggests the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza [underreported the death toll due to violence by approximately 41%](#). The findings of this study were reported by [The Lancet](#). The findings estimated 64,260 deaths due to traumatic injury during the study period, suggesting the Palestinian Ministry of Health under-reported mortality by 41%. The annualised crude death rate was 39.3 per 1000 people. Women, children (aged <18 years), and older people (aged ≥65 years) accounted for 16,699 (59.1%) of the 28,257 deaths for which age and sex data were available. Further, this study still underestimates the reality of the genocide in Gaza as the figures do not account for non-trauma-related deaths resulting from health service disruption, food insecurity, and inadequate water and sanitation. Moreover, it was said that, recent commentary suggests a potential excess [all-cause death toll of 186 000](#). Zeina Jamaluddine, lead author at LSHTM, said: “Our findings suggest that the traumatic injury death toll is underreported by around 41%. These results underscore the [urgent need for interventions to safeguard civilians and prevent further loss of life.](#)”

This month a ceasefire was finally agreed upon but while the people of Gaza began to celebrate the airstrikes continued. The ceasefire unbeknown to many was not to come into effect for a few days after the news broke. Since the ceasefire, [over 248 people have been added to the death toll](#), including 183 bodies found under the rubble. [Al Jazeera's](#) Anas al-Sharif, reporting from Gaza City, said there had been intense attacks that “extinguished” the joy people felt at the initial announcement of the ceasefire. The IOF continued striking hospitals, shelters and homes with direct air strikes.” The ‘Israeli’ occupation army has carried out several attacks across the strip, [firing live bullets](#) at the beach of Gaza and directly targeting civilians, says the Palestinian news agency Wafa. According to reports, [booby traps were put in houses](#) and other infrastructure just hours before the ceasefire began, including one instance in a [home](#) in northern Gaza that left several people wounded.

After the past 15 months of orchestrated kinetic horror and genocide the Gazan people were given a xglimmer of hope that they could at least temporarily live and sleep without bombs dropping overhead. However, as has been well documented the occupation has no moral or legal principles so it is unsurprising that they have already violated the provisions of the [ceasefire](#) agreement several times since it came into effect on 19 January. For instance, at least [two Palestinians have been killed](#) by iof tank fire in the Tal as-Sultan neighbourhood, west of Rafah in southern Gaza. It is doubtful that this ceasefire agreement will remain past the first phase given the [statements](#) of senior 'israeli' politicians including Bezalel Smotrich who said that; "If, God forbid, the war is not resumed, I will bring the government down," Smotrich told reporters.

If the airstrikes and extrajudicial killings of the Gazan people and children stop, the death toll will quickly rise as Palestintians will be able to start searching for their loved ones through the rubble. The number of people whose bodies remain trapped under rubble is certainly in the thousands. The iof and its leaders have systematically targeted every facet of civilian life in their brutal genocidal campaign over the last 15 months. Countless war crimes and crimes against humanity have been broken and international law has been entirely ignored. Further, since long before this genocide began, since 1967, 'israel' have [illegally occupied](#) Gaza and deliberately thwarted the autonomy and self-determination of the Palestinian people. Over [41,161 identified human beings](#) have been murdered by 'israel' in Gaza alone. The extrajudicial killing and lack of protection and right to life of Palestinian people has been blatantly ignored for far too long. The ceasefire must be upheld and complied with by the iof and the perpetrators of this genocide must be brought to justice and stand trial in the Hague.

Impact on Infrastructure

The toll of 'israel's' war on Gaza after 15 months of indiscriminate bombing has been devastating: [more than 46,000 Palestinians](#) have been killed and about 10,000 are thought to be buried under the rubble. Many more have died of starvation, lack of shelter, hypothermia, infectious diseases and because of the collapse of the healthcare system, caused by the 'iof's' targeting of health facilities and blocking of humanitarian aid.

The 'iof's' brutal campaign of indiscriminate and widespread bombing has rendered whole neighborhoods inhabitable. According to the [latest report published by OCHA](#), 92 percent of housing units are destroyed or severely amaged. Some experts have called for classifying the large-scale destruction as a new category of war crime, namely '[domicide](#)'.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of people now live in overcrowded tent cities with scarce access to sanitation and clean water, while still at times being targeted by bombardments.

Additionally, about 65 percent of the road network has been either destroyed or damaged .

Experts have predicted that a clean-up operation of the tons of debris, boobytraps and unexploded bombs could take over a decade. Moreover, it could cost up to [USD\\$40 billion](#) to rebuild all the destroyed and damaged infrastructure.

Damage to infrastructure has had a dramatic impact on access to healthcare and education. Hospitals have been continuously attacked and deprived of essential supplies. [As of January 8](#), only 47 percent of Gaza's hospitals are partially functioning and 24 percent of UNRWA's health centers. At least 88 percent of school buildings require either full reconstruction or rehabilitation and schools that remain standing are being used as shelters, being 9 out of every 10 Palestinians displaced. Moreover, all of Gaza's university buildings have been destroyed.

Clean water has also always been a limited resource in the strip, mostly reliant on desalination plants. [According to a recent analysis](#), most of these facilities have been either destroyed or damaged by the occupation forces' indiscriminate bombing. Wastewater treatment plants have also been severely impacted: 4 have been damaged or destroyed and the remaining 2 forced to shut down due to lack of fuel. These plants are crucial to prevent the build-up of sewage, which can lead to the spread of severe diseases. According to Dr. Natalie Roberts, executive director of Doctors Without Borders UK, the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure is responsible for disastrous health consequences for the population. Cases of diarrhoeal disease, a [leading cause of child mortality](#), have risen and traces of Hepatitis A and Poliovirus have been found in sewage water, which is alarming given the dismantled state of sewage lines. The large-scale destruction has also had a grave environmental impact. Air, soil and water have been contaminated, and this will lead to long-term impacts on the health of residents and on the agricultural sector.

Deteriorating health

The following tracks both the biggest threats to health this month and the methods the IOHR have employed to produce these threats.

1. Risks to health in Gaza

This month, the 'Israeli' government, as the occupying power in Gaza, has continued to violate the right of every Palestinian to the highest attainable standard of health. Frequent attacks on hospitals and health care professionals combined with egregious humanitarian aid bans have caused life-threatening risks to health and have permeated every aspect of Palestinian wellbeing. The current ceasefire has begun to alleviate some aspects of the health emergency, however the ongoing implementation of the UNRWA ban, imposed at the end of January, threatens any meaningful health prospects for those in Gaza.

1.1 Food insecurity and malnutrition

The IOF's refusal to allow sufficient fuel and agricultural supplies into Gaza has resulted in significant levels of acute malnutrition. The majority of the population continue to be at imminent risk of dying from famine, with children and women who are pregnant and breastfeeding particularly affected.

On 14 January, [OCHR](#) reported that 91% of the analysed population are facing acute food insecurity, with more than 345,000 people experiencing "catastrophic" levels of food insecurity. The majority of families rely on [one cooked meal per day](#) as their main source of food intake, and only [6%](#) of the 1.7 million people estimated to be in central and southern Gaza received flour supplies as part of the emergency distribution plan.

The occupation's unlawful weaponization of starvation and consequently the significant lack of diet diversity available to Palestinians in Gaza has resulted in over 96% of women and children aged between 6-23 months not meeting the threshold for adequate nutrition. Many are fully reliant on feeding and micronutrient supplements and are at [heightened risk](#) for developing anaemia, eclampsia, haemorrhage and sepsis.

Promisingly, the [World Food Programme](#) reported that it delivered more food into Gaza during the first 4 days of ceasefire than it could previously have dispatched in the average month. Since the [22 January](#), 274,350 litres of fuel has also been distributed to critical humanitarian facilities. Bakeries across Gaza are now operating at 100% capacity and more than 210,000 metric tonnes of food supplies are currently under procurement. However, the majority of these food supplies, and fuels such as cooking gas, have been restricted entry into the Gaza strip or have been unable to reach certain areas because of logistical challenges.

1.2 Water and sanitation

Damaged water networks and poor sanitation facilities have resulted in significant exposure to waste, sewage and pests, with the [OCHA](#) reporting “alarming rates of microbiological contamination”. An estimated [1 million people](#) are exposed to sanitation-related health problems and 1.4 million people lack access to the recommended 6 litres per day of water. All [medical facilities](#) in Gaza have been forced to operate in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions.

[Electronic Intifada](#) recently highlighted how the accumulation of wastewater and poor hygiene has caused many normal health conditions in Gaza to turn chronic. For example, Marwa Eid, during her second forced displacement and after the IOF prohibited the delivery of adequate hygiene supplies, had resorted to using locally produced soaps in order to wash and clean. She developed severe eczema and was unable to access medicine. In the article, Marwa’s sister explains watching her sister in both physical and psychological pain every day, describing her suffering as “perfectly encapsulating” the pain everyone in Gaza has experienced.

Since the ceasefire, [10,000 litres of fuel](#) have been delivered to the PWA, enabling operations on sewage pumps and water wells to begin and [UNRWA and UNICEF](#) teams have now distributed hundreds of hygiene and water supplies. Waste collection efforts are also currently underway.

1.3 Winter weather and lack of adequate shelter

Throughout early January, heavy rains, inadequate shelter, and lack of medical supplies have continued to significantly impact the health of individuals in Gaza. Between December 26 and January 10, [8 newborn babies died](#) from hypothermia. The paediatrics unit at Nasser Medical Complex has further reported receiving more than [five cases per day](#) of children suffering from hypothermia. During this period, [‘iof’ denied 70% of humanitarian](#) missions, the highest denial rate in 6 months.

1.4 Maternity and neonatal care capacity

The IOF's relentless attacks on healthcare professionals and hospitals, combined with the authority's refusal to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza has resulted in serious and life-threatening complications for pregnant women and girls. On average 183 women in Gaza give birth every day. Very few locations are able to give **neonatal care** and there are no longer any neonatal specialists in the region. As of January 2025, only **7 out of the 18 partially functioning hospitals** remaining in Gaza provide emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Information regarding the survival rate of newborns or the number of women during pregnancy, birth or postpartum, is obscure. However, a doctor from Rafah's maternity hospital recently described how the significant lack of incubators has meant that 4 or 5 babies are placed in the same incubator. He stated that "most of them don't survive".

A report published by **HRW on 28 January** highlighted one case of a pregnant woman, who, during the early stages of her pregnancy would repeatedly faint because of food deprivation. 4 hours after giving birth she described being utterly "exhausted", "unable to walk" and waiting hours for a car to help her travel home. A few days after arriving, she was forced to evacuate to a tent in Khan Younis, where her newborn baby began to experience severe bouts of diarrhoea. Her testimony is paradigmatic of the extraordinary health challenges that almost all pregnant Palestinian women face.

Despite the current ceasefire, medical and human rights professionals are **pessimistic** that the conditions for pregnant women in Gaza will improve.

1.5 Mental health in young Palestinians

The psychological fallout of the genocide has been overwhelming. In January, UNICEF estimated that at least **1 million children** are urgently in need of mental health support and a recent **HRW report** revealed that over 50% of young people feel unsafe. As a result, many young people have reported sleeping problems. One young girl explained that she couldn't sleep at night because "there is no safety and we live in constant fear of losing more [family members]".

At a UN Security Council meeting on 23 January, [Bisan Nateel](#), who works for an organization helping Palestinian children use art to express themselves, described how children are “unable to say a word about the horrific sights seen in their displacement journey”. She cited the cases of multiple young children, explaining that it was no longer possible for them to know “what it means to live, to be human”. Nateel’s testimony reflects the ultimate degradation of human identity, to which mental wellbeing is so essential.

UNRWA are currently providing [mental health services](#), with close to 12,500 sessions and activities provided between 20 and 26 January. However, the extent of suffering experienced is likely to permeate the mental livelihoods of many young Palestinians from Gaza.

2. Causes of deteriorating health conditions

Every case cited above is the result of the complete impunity and immunity enjoyed by the IOF. Bombardments of hospitals, the killing and arrest of health workers, and restrictions to aid access occurred frequently throughout January. Notably, attacks on health facilities and workers continued in the latter half of the month, despite the onset of the ceasefire. The recent implementation of the UNRWA ban further threatens to render futile many of the health benefits that the ceasefire was expected to deliver.

2.1 Destruction of hospitals and health workers

Earlier this month reports by the UN and the WHO highlighted a [pattern](#) of destruction on Gaza’s health system. IOF have repeatedly been “cutting off supplies, sparking fire in several departments – including the surgery, intensive care and maternity wards -, storming the hospitals, and forcing many of the remaining staff and patients to strip almost naked [before] detaining them.” The [WHO](#) has reported that 20 of Gaza’s 36 hospitals are closed, and the remaining 16 are operating at significantly limited capacity. More than 1,057 Palestinian healthcare professionals have also been killed.

On 8 January, in Jabalia Refugee Camp the Al-Awda Hospital was besieged by IOF for more than 5 days. IOF fired at the hospital continuously and prevented entry and exit from the hospital. On the 12 January a paramedic in the same governorate was killed in an 'Israeli' airstrike and on 13 January the Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahia city sustained large scale damage across its second floor. Many have died in attacks within the vicinity of health centres, and the Chief of Nursing Staff at Al-Awda hospital was killed along with 20 others in an Israeli strike on 14 January.

On the first day of the ceasefire there were another 2 incidents where IOF attacked health care facilities. A PCRS ambulance evacuating injured individuals and the Al-Quds Hospital were targeted and attacked. Health care professionals also continue to be arbitrarily arrested and Dr. Abu Safiya, the Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital who was abducted by IOF in late December, remains in detention despite overwhelming calls for his release.

2.2 Restriction of humanitarian aid

On 29 January, 'Israeli' legislation banning UNRWA began to impact operations in the region. The legislation, passed in October, concurrently bans the agency from implementing humanitarian aid missions in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West bank, and prohibits communication between Israeli authorities and the UNRWA. The ban itself is unprecedented, and the health effects of implementing the ban enormous.

Already, UNRWA staff have had to relocate to Amman, Jordan, as a result of visa bans and remaining national staff are expected to face hostile and aggressive conditions.

It is worth noting that even before the ban multiple humanitarian missions have been denied by Israel this month. On 14 January, UN missions to deliver crucial supplies and evacuate patients in both Jabalia Refugee Camp and other parts of the North Gaza governorate, were denied by 'Israeli' authorities. Notably, the amount of rejected humanitarian missions in January was at its highest in 6 months, at a 70% denial rate.

In Gaza, the UNRWA is the most fundamental humanitarian aid provider. Halting all operations will systematically deny Palestinians in Gaza the resources essential to their survival. Most dishearteningly, it risks rendering the ceasefire's implications on health futile.

Several Arab leaders will be meeting on the 1 February to discuss ways to support the UNRWA.

Mass arrests in Gaza

On January 24, the [CJP](#) released that about 75 journalists were arrested from the West Bank and Gaza combined since October 7th 2023. **Numerous** journalists have been taken from Gaza to detention centres in the occupied territories and West Bank. When asked about the arrests of journalists, the occupation argues that they do not arrest Gazan journalists for “doing their job” or for “simply being journalists” but rather because the occupation accuses them of being involved in “terrorist activities”.

One of the many arrested was the journalist **Islam Ahmed**, who was a photographer in Gaza. Through his photography work, he was showcasing the genocide going on in Gaza, as he was a freelancer who worked for multiple news outlets such as: i. TRT and Anatoly Agency (Turkish state-owned outlets), ii. Al Jazeera, and iii. Reuters. On December 27 he was arrested by the occupation forces, who forced him to take off all of his clothes and remain to stand in his underwear.

The occupation forces have increased their beatings on young men compared to women. However, the beatings tend to be even more intensified and violent once the occupation forces realise you are a journalist or working for newspapers. Islam Ahmed was one of many who also had to endure and still is enduring these violent beatings from the occupation forces. Men who were arrested among Islam Ahmed were released earlier and they were able to confirm the intensive beatings Islam Ahmed had gone through. Furthermore, they were also able to confirm that he was assaulted along with Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya.

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya is another Gazawi man who got arrested under the excuse of being labeled as a potential “[terrorist](#)” leading to his arrest. Dr. Hussan Abu Safiya worked for the “last functioning major medical facility in the North Gaza government.” From his position he provided the world with comprehensive and reliable information about the health care situation in Northern Gaza. On the [27th of December 2024](#), he among other medical staff and patients were detained by the occupation forces under the pretext of ‘terrorism’. Although his family knew he was detained, the occupation forces told the world they did not know anything of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya’s detention. However, this changed when [a few days later](#) the occupation confirmed his arrest.

[The Euro-Med Human Rights](#) Monitor received information that Dr. Abu Safiya's mental and physical health has **deteriorated** due to the torture and severe beatings he has endured. An example, that the Monitor gave about his intense torture was regarding the occupation forces making him strip off his clothes while then being subjected to severe beatings which included being “*whipped with a thick wire commonly used for street electrical wiring*”. While the occupation forces are denying all these accusations, other detainees who were released earlier confirmed the severe beating Dr. Abu Safiya went through and that his health is deteriorating - stating that he is “mentally and physically exhausted”. The Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor have stated they are scared for his life and pointed out a pattern of deliberate killings and deaths under torture especially happening to previous doctors and medical staff. For him specifically, they are scared that he will be executed.

Currently, Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya’s detention was extended until February - where he has not been allowed to see a lawyer. It should be noted, that cases such as Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya are prevalent and have become more common and intense during the genocide. He has not been the only healthcare worker that has been detained. From Gaza alone, hundreds of healthcare workers are detained in masses without charges or trial but rather on ‘accusations’ without evidence. However, men in Gaza also have been continuously arrested for terrorism. They will endure intense torture in different detention camps, that have been known for breaching several Human Rights laws.

Consequence of the violence on the well-being of Palestinians

Gazans' well-being has been impacted negatively by the genocide. While since the ceasefire there may have been tiny bits of hope, it will never take the mental and physical damage away from what has happened over the past 15 months.

Minutes before the ceasefire

Although the ceasefire was approved between the occupation forces and resistance forces, it was delayed. As a consequence, families were still being massacred till the last minute before the delayed ceasefire started. The ceasefire was supposed to start on Sunday January 19 2025 at 08:30 local time but was delayed to 11:15 local time. However, families such as the Al-Qidras family experienced the horrific effects of the ceasefire being delayed as that gave the green light to the occupation forces to continue bombings in the area. The Al-Qidras family was displaced from Khan Younis but since the ceasefire was announced they wanted to return to their home, as many other Gazan families wanted to do as well. However, the occupation forces were still flying above Gaza “ready to drop their bombs” within the 2 hours and 45 minutes the ceasefire was delayed. These bombs were also dropped and killed 3 members of their family including two children. Al Jazeera reports, that the Al-Qidras family was not the only family who lost their loved ones in the last few hours before the ceasefire, but that the occupation forces killed 19 Palestinians.

Return Home

The United Nations reported that many of the Gazans who returned home to their houses were confronted with the mountains of rubble from their houses which were left by the occupation. A report revealed that approximately 90% of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged, making the genocide even harder on the people of Gaza, as they tend to have little to nothing left after 15 months of Genocide. Additionally, the aforementioned report declared on January 21 that there was a critical shortage of essential goods in Gaza such as water, food, and the efforts to deliver vital aid to the region was limited. Regardless, of the ceasefire being implemented and the violence by the occupation being halted, the lives of hundreds of thousands Palestinians remain dependent on Humanitarian aid.

Regardless of the incredible hardships the people of Gaza had been going through, they show great resilience. Especially since the ceasefire, there has been a [“glimmer of hope in Gaza”](#). Because for the first time since the Genocide began, people were in the streets - cleaning the roads and trying to rebuild their lives. The people in Gaza are showing a strong desire to return to work and resume their lives. While showcasing incredible resilience, the road to return to their lives as it was before is hindered by a significant amount of barriers as a result of 15 months of Genocide. As previously depicted, most of the population still relies on humanitarian aid and is suffering from a significant shortage of fuel. [Another report of the United Nations published on January 16th](#) stated that the relentless bombing caused the solid waste system to collapse, leading to serious environmental dangers as well as health risks for the Gazan people, which can have long-term effects.

The people of Gaza had [“enough death and destruction”](#) and deserve a peaceful and safe *“future”*. However the report remains critical that although houses, streets and schools can be rebuilt, the mental suffering will continue, as they have seen things that no-one should ever see and/or go through.

The mental health of the people in Gaza

The genocide in Gaza destroyed communities, forced families to leave their houses and become displaced on multiple occasions, wearing down the mental health of many Gazans and especially of young people. [A report by UNPA](#) found that approximately half of Gaza’s young people feel unsafe while at the same time they are also dealing with a significant amount of mental health conditions. Since the genocide there has been a significant rise in psychological cases such as anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The people of Gaza have seen the worst of the worst in the past 15 months. An example is that at times they would just be sitting somewhere and [“suddenly there’s a bombing next to you, with the cries of children and body parts of people killed”](#). Children are scared to lose more people from their families and a study showcased that they are scared to sleep as they are living in *“constant fear and hopelessness”*.

Before the genocide, Gaza had great school attendance and high literacy but since almost all school buildings have been demolished and hundreds of teachers been killed the younger population faces a “*steeper uphill struggle to secure the futures they deserve*”. [UNFPA aims](#) to set up youth centres and girl’s tents throughout Gaza to offer support regarding mental health, education and health care products such as menstrual hygiene products.

[The United Nations chief](#) stated that at least one million in Gaza are in need of mental health and psycho-social support. Children during the conflict have been starved, frozen to death and killed, while also they have been orphaned and separated from their families. An estimated 17,000 children are living without their families. Therefore, although the people are resilient and want to return to their homes and rebuild Gaza, the psychological impact will stay with them for years and generations.

The medical staff their mental health

[The World Health Organisation](#) stated that only 36 hospitals remain partially operational after 15 months of genocide in Gaza. Since the ceasefire was implemented on the 19th of January 2025, it was the first time in months that healthcare workers in Gaza have not seen dead and wounded people streaming into hospitals. During the genocide, healthcare workers had to treat patients in the most horrific conditions while healthcare workers were either just starting their jobs or even still training. Every day, they were performing surgeries and at times there was not enough capacity causing them to have performed surgeries on the floor. Many healthcare workers are exhausted, however, despite there being a ceasefire they are cautious for the possibility of violence “reigniting”.

THE WEST BANK

Extrajudicial killing

The ACHRS welcomes the announcement and implementation of the ceasefire in Gaza this month. However, the violence that broke out in Jenin late last month has now escalated and spread to other areas of the West Bank. On December 5th last month, the Palestinian Authority Fatah launched their operation against “outlaws” connected to Hamas and Iran inside the refugee camps surrounding Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarm. However, PA’s operation quickly resulted in death and suffering to civilian populations. [Shatha al-Sabbagh, a 22-year-old Journalist, was killed by a PA sniper late last month. The total death toll as a result of PA’s operation stands at 7 when last reported at the end of December,](#) among them is one PA security personal. Speaking to the Guardian, the 23-year-old student Mariam describes the situation as a “Civil war.” A member of staff at the Jenin Hospital describes the situation as “When the ‘israelis’ come, it is tough, but we know what to expect. In this raid, this kind of fighting we have not seen before. It’s like there are no rules,” [The raid is believed to be the largest operation launched by PA since its formation thirty years ago.](#) Due to The PA operations over the last two more and more people are now seeing the PA as a [‘tool of occupation’.](#)

On January 23, the iof, which has been carrying out airstrikes in aid of PA, joined the ground raid on refugee camps in the Jenin governorate. A total siege of the camp has been placed, with some residents ordered to evacuate. [The death toll caused by ‘iof’ as of January 26th stands at 12. The ‘iof’ is also tightly controlling the access of medical personnel.](#) Ambulances and Paramedics are interrogated and searched before they are allowed to go into the camp to carry out medical aids. This process causes frequent delays which leads to wounded and sick dying from preventable causes. [Many non-critical residents also opt to help themselves by walking to ambulances or medical personnel](#) rather than waiting for them to eventually arrive. [Palestinian groups have also accused ‘iof’ of conducting field executions](#) in their ongoing raid of Jenin camps.

The news station Al Jazeera was taken off air back on New Year's Day for their coverage of PA's raid on Jenin. The PA has since partially restored their service, but Al Jazeera staff are now prohibited from entering the Jenin governorate. Al Jazeera has been banned in "israel" since May 2024 due to their coverage of the Gaza genocide and criticism of "israel." Now, the PA has also joined "israel" in its suppression of one of the region's largest press. The suppression of Al Jazeera across Palestine poses a critical threat to the freedom of the press in the region.

A new report emerged on the shooting and killing of a father and son who posed no threats back in August 2024. On 28, Augustus Abdallah took his family from Tulkarm refugee camp to the village of Iktaba to escape from an impending raid by the IOF. In the early hours of 2nd September, Abdallah and his 14-year-old son Muhammad attempted to return to their house to check for damages after the raid was reportedly finished on social media. However, they were shot on sight by the 'iof' without any warning. Abdallah was hospitalized for a wound to his torso. But unfortunately, his son Muhammad was pronounced dead on arrival due to shots to his head and back.

Destruction of infrastructure

The assault on the Jenin camp has also led to the destruction of Jenin's infrastructure. The 'iof' bulldozed roads leading in and out of the camp to maintain their siege in addition to some people's houses. Bulldozing infrastructure and housing has been an "israeli" strategy during their raids. Back in November, the same tactic was used at Tulkarm camp. Due to the destruction of roads and other infrastructure, camp residents cannot receive essential supplies such as water, food, and medicine. The Jenin government hospital outside the Camp is also affected. The facilities have been cut off from electricity and water supplies. They are using their backup generator and water tank at the moment. Speaking to the Middle East Eye, an MSF paramedic voiced their difficulty in reaching patients and providing aid due to the destruction of the road. They will also be running out of electricity soon, severely hampering the hospital's ability to provide aid.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, 'iof' continues to disrupt people's lives with new and random checkpoints. Father Bashar Basiel of the Latin Patriarchate Taybeh parish found new checkpoints surrounding his villages. He previously moved in and out of his villages freely, however, just hours after the Gaza ceasefire went into effect, all major roads in and out of his villages were suddenly blocked by lengthy occupation checkpoints. "israel" has ordered IOF to operate a dozen temporary checkpoints like those described by Father Basiel in the first 42 days of the Gaza ceasefire. The Palestinian Wall Resistance Commission reported 17 new checkpoints thus far in January, bringing the total number of checkpoints in the West Bank to 898 and the total amount set up since October 7 to 146.

While the PA security forces were engaged in a low-grade civil war against other Palestinians. A settler riot mob attacked two Palestinian farmers in the occupied town of Silwad. The PA security forces failed to intervene and protect the Palestinian farmers until they were seriously injured and their cars smashed up. Many other such riots broke out in other illegal settlements in the West Bank. Protesters call on the 'israeli' government to not allow Gazans to return home. The riots would spill over into violent attacks on Palestinians that lasted two nights and resulted in dozens of Palestinians being injured. Many Palestinian homes and properties were also burnt down by rioters. Neither the 'iof' nor the security forces of Palestinian Authorities made a credible attempt to protect Palestinian lives and properties. At the same time, the 'iof' and the PA security forces were collaborating in the ongoing Jenin raid.

On January 12, the cabinet of the occupation announced its intentions to use import taxes they collect on behalf of PA to pay for the electricity debt of PA. Since October 7th, 'israel' has stopped sending import taxes they collect to PA, totaling 2 billion US dollars. The funds are being held frozen in Norway as an intermediary. The occupation began cutting electricity supplies to Palestinian cities on a rolling basis in December over the unpaid debt. The PA has agreed for Norway to release 500 million US dollars to 'israel' for the restoration of stable electricity to the West Bank. However, part of the PA's struggle to pay service their debt was due to the occupation withholding their import debt. The PA has also been struggling to pay the full wages of their civil servants due to the reduced revenue. Public sector employees have been only receiving 50% of their wages since October 7th.

Settler violence and colony expansion

This month, [settler attacks](#) on Palestinian villages have continued to increase, injuring several Palestinians. According to the OHCHR spokesperson, homes and vehicles have been set on fire.

A crowd of illegal settlers launched attacks near [Qalqiliya](#) in early January, under the protection of the occupation forces. Illegal settlers also set fire to a vehicle, threw stones, damaged houses, destroyed crops and threw flammable materials at an uninhabited building. Near Bethlehem, settlers threw stones at vehicles.

The UN says that violence against Palestinians by illegal settlers in 2024 was the worst ever recorded. In addition, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) recorded 1,400 incidents committed by illegal settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including physical attacks, raids on Palestinian communities, arson attacks and the destruction of fruit trees. This equates to nearly four incidents per day, in which Palestinians are killed or injured and/or their property is damaged.

Furthermore, according to OCHA, in the [first week of 2025 alone](#), at least 18 Palestinians were injured by illegal settler attacks and more than 50 Palestinians were displaced by home demolitions in the occupied West Bank.

The OHCHR spokesperson also reports that some 'Israeli' officials have repeatedly made comments about plans to expand settlements in the West Bank, in violation of international law. Indeed, Finance Minister [Smotrich](#) holds weekly meetings to allow for a significant increase in the number of land seizures in 2025.

It seeks to expand land seizures across the entire occupied Palestinian territory with the help of a new mechanism that would allow building permits for settlements to be issued every week, whereas previously it took months for them to be approved. Thus these weekly committee meetings would allow for a significant increase in the number of land seizures for the year 2025 compared to previous years.

In fact, in just one week of January 2025, approximately 440 housing units were processed for approval, and the construction of 2,377 units was advanced by the Supreme Planning Council in the last six weeks. A number of far-right 'israelis' are outraged by the use of the Green Line because it significantly slows down settlement construction.

Since 1967, approximately 700,000 illegal' settlers have lived in more than 30 0 illegal colonies in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem. Smotrich is at the heart of this trend, having said that the country should expand "little by little" until its borders include Damascus, the Syrian capital. At the same time, Goldakov, the 'Israeli' housing minister, recently asked the prime minister to facilitate the illegal settlement of a million Jews in the occupied West Bank.

In 2024, several sanctions were imposed by former US President Joe Biden against certain illegal 'israeli' settlers present in the occupied West Bank. Under the terms of the sanctions, the targeted individuals and entities were banned from accessing all US property and assets as well as the US financial system. However, after his inauguration in January 2025, the new US President Donald Trump decided to [lift the sanctions imposed](#) on approximately 30 'israeli' settler groups and entities. A decision that was celebrated by the 'Israeli' far right, including Ministers Smotrich and Ben-Gvir.

Arbitrary arrest and detention

In mid-January a ceasefire agreement was signed between 'israel' and Hamas. This includes the release of 'israeli' and Palestinian hostages. Thus 33 'israeli' hostages held in Gaza must be released in exchange for the release of 1000 Palestinians arbitrarily detained in 'israel' since October 8, 2023.

At the same time, 'isreal' Defense Minister [Israel Katz](#) said that due to the release of Palestinians in the West Bank, he had taken the decision to release illegal settlers from administrative detention. According to him, this step "would send a clear message of strengthening and encouraging the settlement, which is on the front lines of the fight against Palestinian terrorism and which faces increasing security challenges . "

Among the first 300 Palestinians released under the ceasefire agreement, there are so far 23 children. This demonstrates the occupation frequent use of abusive administrative detention against Palestinian children in military courts. Indeed, according to Adameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights, a rights group in the occupied West Bank, more than 320 Palestinian children were being held in occupation prisons before the latest hostage exchanges.

Since 2016, 'israeli' law allows children between the ages of 12 and 14 to be criminally responsible, and can therefore be tried as adults and sentenced to prison terms.

Save the Children reports that approximately 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by the 'iof' over the past 20 years. The justifications for these arrests range from participating in an unlicensed gathering to throwing stones.

It must also be understood that Palestinian prisoners are tried and sentenced by military courts and not by civilian courts, even if they are ordinary civilians. However, this system is only valid for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank; the 'israeli' illegal settlers living in the same territory are subject to Israeli civil law. Thus, a large number of Palestinians are imprisoned without even being able to benefit from due process.

Nearly three-quarters of Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank have already been held in detention pending the completion of proceedings.

Some Palestinians have been held in occupation prisons for more than thirty years, including leader Marwan Barghouti, co-founder of Fatah, who has been imprisoned for 22 years now.

In the occupied West Bank, one in five Palestinians has been arrested and charged in his or her lifetime. For men, the rate is twice as high, with two in five men having been arrested and charged.

In total, there are 19 prisons in 'israel' and one in the occupied West Bank holding Palestinians. In addition, the occupation has stopped allowing independent organizations to visit 'israeli' prisons since October 2023, making it more difficult to obtain more information about the number and conditions of Palestinians held there.

'israel' also abuses administrative detention, which allows the occupation forces to hold a Palestinian in prison without charge or trial. Currently, approximately 3,380 Palestinians are being held by the occupation under administrative detention. The duration of the arrest is renewable and can therefore last for many years.

Foreign Aid

After 15 months of conflict, destruction, and death, finally a three-phased ceasefire agreement has been reached between Hamas and 'israel' with the help of Egypt, Qatar and the US on 19 January 2024. The release of hostages, a prisoner exchange, and the delivery of aid trucks into Gaza are the first signs of the truce. According to authorities, more than 46,000 people have been killed, and 111,000 injured. Moreover, 69% of the total infrastructure has been demolished. According to international organizations, the challenges remain huge, because of severe shortages of food, fuel, medical supplies, and homes.

A United Nations Development Programme official said that development in Gaza has been set back by 69 years as a result of the conflict. Rebuilding Gaza's shattered homes will take at least until 2040, but could drag on for many decades, according to a U.N. report released last year. Currently, over 1.8 million people are in need of emergency shelter in Gaza. Palestinian data shows that the conflict has led to the destruction of over 200 government facilities, 136 schools and universities, 823 mosques and three churches. Many hospitals have been damaged during the conflict, with only 17 out of 36 units partially functional as of January, the U.N. humanitarian office's report showed.

The estimated damage to infrastructure totaled \$18.5 billion as of end-January 2024, affecting residential buildings, commerce, industry, and essential services such as education, health, and energy, a U.N.-World Bank report said. It has not provided a more recent estimate for that figure.

According to WHO, more than [\\$10 billion](#) is required to restore Gaza's shattered healthcare system, and substantial international support will be essential to avoid further loss of life and prevent a complete breakdown of the region's health infrastructure. Regarding the infrastructure damage, it could take 21 years and \$1.2 billion to clear up over 50 million tonnes of [rubble](#).

International aid organizations and NGOs have welcomed the agreement. According to the United Nations, an [average of 500 trucks](#) entered the Strip daily before October 7, 2023, yet between October 7, 2023 and January 13, 2025, there was only an average of 115 trucks entering daily. [This was a drop in the ocean to meet the immense needs in the Strip.](#)

A few minutes after the deal entered into force, aid trucks began entering into the Gazas Strip. More than 900 aid trucks entered Gaza on Monday 20. 630 aid trucks on Sunday, 915 on Monday, 897 on Tuesday.

An anonymous Egyptian source revealed that "260 aid trucks and 16 fuel trucks" passed through the occupation-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing between 'israel' and Gaza and the Nitzana crossing between Egypt and 'israel' before entering Gaza. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, whose country helped mediate the agreement alongside Qatar and the United States, announced on Saturday that the deal allows "600 trucks per day to enter the Strip, including 50 carrying fuel." The Rafah crossing, previously a key route for delivering aid, has remained closed since May, when occupation forces took control of its Palestinian side.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Red Crescent spokesperson Nebal Farsakh told AFP on Sunday that "[the israeli authorities control the aid delivery process,](#)" noting that "the mechanisms for receiving the trucks and the entry points for aid remain unclear."

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) [dispatched](#) its first convoy trucks carrying nearly 13,000 sleeping mats, 11,000 mattresses, 11,000 blankets, 10,000 pillows with pillowcases, 2,000 plastic sheets, and 1,200 hygiene kits. These supplies will be delivered to different UN agencies to assist around 10,000 people in need.

The United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) aims to get at least [150 trucks](#) into Gaza daily if conditions allow. WFP has enough food pre-positioned along the borders and on its way to Gaza to feed over a million people for three months. UNRWA has enough supplies to support another million. This includes food parcels, wheat flour, commodities for hot meals, and nutrition supplements. WFP can send around 1,600 trucks of food (30,200 tons) each month to facilitate distributions for over 1 million people.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is prepared to enhance its response in collaboration with UN health partners, including UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, and 67 Health Cluster members. To address immediate health needs and begin rebuilding the health system—encompassing the workforce, supply chain, and infrastructure—a significant increase in funding will be required. WHO and its partners plan to implement a 60-day strategy aimed at the urgent restoration and expansion of the health system. This effort will prioritize critical areas such as trauma and emergency care, comprehensive primary health services, child health, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), rehabilitation, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The EU on Thursday announced a [120 million euros](#) (\$123 million) in humanitarian aid for Gaza after the ceasefire deal was struck. The EU monitoring mission would include up to 10 European staff, officials said.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Many Heads of State have welcomed the agreement. Former U.S. President [Joe Biden](#), stated that the ceasefire will bring Palestinians a credible path to have their own State, which will lead to a future normalization for the region with the integration of 'israel' and all its Arab neighbors, Saudi Arabia included.

Newly elected President [Donal Trump](#) expressed support for the ceasefire on his social media platform Truth Social, “finally the hostages will be released to their families shortly”. He also affirmed he will make sure on his term that Gaza will [NEVER](#) become again a terrorist safe haven. On January 25, Trump announced plans to [relocate 1.5 million Palestinians](#) to neighboring countries, such as Egypt and Jordan, citing the complete destruction and uninhabitability of the Gaza Strip. The former property developer proposed constructing housing in a different location where Palestinians could live in peace for a change. This move breaks from the longstanding US foreign policy two-state solution.

[UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres](#) told reporters that the UN was ready to back the deal and start the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

[Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan](#) celebrated the ceasefire and said that Turkish efforts for a two-state solution to this conflict would continue.

Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said the deal was “[merely a step forward](#)”, adding “we will continue to work until all terms of the agreement are applied, until we have achieved peace & are able to turn the last page of war”.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi welcomed the deal and emphasized the importance of the fast delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. On the other hand, Iran’s Parliament speaker, [Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf](#), said in a post on X that “the courageous Palestinian resistance” had prevented the “Zionist entity” from achieving its “strategic goals”. He stated that the world should hold the criminal regime accountable and work to address the suffering of the Palestinian people.

With regard to [Saudi Arabia’s statements](#), the Foreign Minister called for a firm commitment “to halt ‘Israeli’ aggression in Gaza” and to ensure “the complete withdrawal of ‘Israeli’ forces from the strip and all Palestinian and Arab territories ...”

[United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#) highlighted the necessity for both 'Israel' and Hamas to adhere to their commitments to end the suffering of Palestinian prisoners and Israeli hostages.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed her support for the ceasefire, noting that it would reunite hostages with their families and allow humanitarian aid to reach civilians in Gaza. She described the agreement as a hopeful step toward regional stability and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

[British Prime Minister Keir Starmer](#) welcomed the news, stating in an emailed statement, "After months of devastating bloodshed and countless lives lost, this is the long-overdue news that the 'Israeli' and Palestinian people have desperately been waiting for."

Regarding 'Israel's' thoughts and statements on the ceasefire, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu affirmed will resume war if second phase ceasefire talks with Hamas fail, and if so he would have Donald Trump's support to do so. During a televised speech on Sunday 19, he highlighted his success during the military campaign, and the killing of Hamas leader, [Yahya Sinwar](#). Adding that Hamas was completely alone. Over the next few weeks, the 33 hostages are set to be released in exchange for [1,890 Palestinian prisoners](#). Under terms of the agreement, the IOF will also begin pulling back its forces from Gaza.

Discussions about the terms of the second phase of the ceasefire are expected to commence on day 16 of the first phase, focusing on achieving a lasting end to the conflict. While specific details of the second phase remain unclear, it is anticipated that the remaining hostages, including men, will be freed in exchange for more Palestinian detainees. Hamas police—unarmed unless necessary—are expected to oversee the return of displaced Palestinians to northern Gaza. The third phase will focus on Gaza's reconstruction, a process likely to span several years, and the recovery of any remaining hostages' bodies.

The phased nature of the agreement has sparked anxiety among the families of hostages, with some fearing their relatives may be left behind after the initial phase. Cultural Minister Miki Zohar of Netanyahu's Likud party expressed hope that the military campaign in Gaza could eventually be completed. Meanwhile, far-right National Security Minister Itamar [Ben-Gvir](#) strongly criticized the agreement, particularly the release of "life-sentenced terrorists" in exchange for hostages. He urged other ministers to reject the deal and announced that his Jewish Power party would withdraw from the governing coalition if the deal proceeded. However, he clarified that he would rejoin the government if the war against Hamas resumed in full force.

Finance Minister [Bezalel Smotrich](#), another far-right figure, also opposed the deal. He warned that his Religious Zionism party would leave the coalition if the war does not resume after the first phase ends.

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