

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".

PALESTINE MONITOR

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GAZA

Extrajudicial killings

After 19 months of ongoing genocide in Gaza, the amount of Palestinians killed has been increasing this month. As the [United Nations](#) stated, “while states debate terminology - is it or is it not genocide” the occupation forces “continue its relentless destruction of life in Gaza”. The attacks done by the ‘iof’ is through land, air, and sea, which is causing the “massacring” of the surviving population during this genocide. Experts of the United Nations have stated that “this is one of the most ostentatious and merciless manifestations of the desecration of human life and dignity”. Nearly half of the killed in Gaza are children, where the United Nations has cited over 52,535 deaths, of which 70 percent continue to be women and children” - this statistic came from May 4th. However, a new report came out by [Unicef](#) on the 27th of May which stated that [“more than 50,000 children reportedly killed or injured in the Gaza Strip”](#) counted from October 2023.

However, reports and new articles throughout the 19 months have shown the world that the occupation forces have deliberately killed journalists to silence them. Which has happened again during May, when a report of [al Jazeera](#) stated the ‘iof’ admitted to carrying out a “targeted attack” on the Nasser Medical Complex, where they killed two Palestinians - one of them being journalist Hassan Eslaih. It was the second time Eslaih had been targeted by ‘israel’, as he was already attacked on April 7 when the occupation army struck a media tent located next to the hospital. Furthermore, a report from [‘Reliefweb’](#) showcased to the world that the occupation forces purposely targeted a civilian “for refusing to cooperate” with ‘israel’ on May 6. The civilian in Gaza who was targeted by ‘israel’ was Tabasi, who was 24- years-old, and he was a sanitary worker at a field hospital in the central Gaza town of Az-Zawayda. Before he was killed by ‘israel’, he was harassed by the ‘israeli’ intelligence to cooperate with them, which started a month before he was targeted in a strike.

During the first time he was called, the man on the other end said “we want to help you with your marriage and provide money because we understand your difficult living conditions. Your father is unemployed, you bear the responsibility of covering household expenses, and your job as a hospital cleaner does not meet your family’s daily needs. We need your cooperation in providing the information we request”. At first, Mohammad thought it was a joke done by a friend from Egypt and therefore he laughed and provoked the caller. The ‘Israeli intelligence’ responded with “you animal” which caused fear to Mohammad and therefore he hung up. “After that, he was called three more times, but Mohammad did not answer—twice on the day before he was targeted in a strike.” Mohammad was killed on a dune while he was on the phone where his body was found in pieces.

In the aforementioned paragraphs I mentioned two deliberate killings done by the ‘IOF’. However, the month of May has seen hundreds of Palestinian being deliberately killed by ‘Israel’. Throughout the 19 months of genocide, we have seen that the bombings of the ‘IOF’ do not differentiate between civilians and military targets, as explained by Abu Ghali, a Palestinian living in Gaza. Which can be clearly showcased in a new operation ‘Israel’ has started on Gaza, named **‘Operational Gideon’s Chariots’**. The intention of this operation is to launch a major ground offence by the occupation forces on Gaza which comes on top of the hundreds of Palestinians being killed due to air strikes. The occupation justifies their attacks based on the fact that they want to put “*tremendous pressure*” on Hamas while also wanting to expand operational control in Gaza. Furthermore, this operation is also put into action to push Gazans out of the Gaza Strip.

This statement can clearly be seen in the amount of Palestinians being murdered by 'israel' in the following table:

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
1st of May	<p><u>"At least eight Palestinian civilians were killed"</u> on Thursday in 'israeli' airstrikes, which were targeted in Rafah and Khan Yunis.</p>
2nd of May	<p><u>"Gaza rescuers say 42 killed in 'israeli'"</u></p> <p>Nine were killed when an 'iof' airstrike hit a home in Bureijee refugee camp in central Gaza.</p> <p>6 people killed in a 'iof' strike which targeted the al-Masri family home in Beit Lahia.</p> <p>6 people killed in Gaza City on a targeted attack on a community kitchen.</p> <p>21 more killed across the Gaza Strip in similar attacks.</p>
3rd of May	<p><u>"israel's blockade starved 57 Palestinians to death in Gaza"</u></p> <p>The 'iof' using starvation and malnutrition as a weapon of war by blocking all humanitarian aid.</p> <p>'iof' denying necessities such as food as well as healthcare.</p> <p><i>400,000 Palestinians are in the phase of malnutrition.</i></p>
4th of May	<p><u>"Gaza rescuers say 'israeli' strikes kill 16, including 3 children"</u></p> <p>6 were killed in overnight air strikes in Khan Yunis. Which included two boys aged five and two.</p> <p>10 more were killed in a strike on a tent in Al-Mawasi.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
5th of May	<p><u>"20 Palestinians killed in 'israeli' airstrikes on Gaza"</u></p> <p>Killed early Monday after 'israeli' warplanes bombed large areas across Gaza.</p> <p>15 killed and recovered after 'iof' warplanes targeted several apartments in Ramuz building in the northwest of Gaza City.</p> <p>4 killed when 'iof' warplanes bombed the home of the Al-Attar family in the Al-Sultan neighborhood.</p> <p>1 killed by an 'iof' drone in the east of Jabalia.</p>
6th of May	<p><u>"strike on school shelter kills 30"</u></p> <p>The' iof' hit the school in Al Bureij which caused a fire, making it difficult to evacuate.</p>
7th of May	<p><u>"israeli attacks kill more than 60 as Gaza blockade accelerated starvation".</u></p> <p>The' iof' killed at least 61 Palestinians since dawn, when they have been targeted in crowded places.</p> <p>Drone strike in an area near the Thai and Palmyra restaurants in Gaza City.</p> <p>Two missiles fired at two locations at the same time, which were 100 metres apart.</p> <p>Another attack on the al-Karama school in the Tuffah neighbourhood killed 13.</p> <p>lof strike different areas across Gaza such as houses and tents.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
8th of May	<p><u>“Several Palestinians killed in ‘Israeli’ bombing of several areas”.</u></p> <p>Several were killed in the early morning on Thursday morning across Gaza due to shelling.</p>
9th of May	<p><u>“Multiple Palestinians killed, including infant in ‘Israeli’ airstrikes and shelling across Gaza”.</u></p> <p>The ‘IOF’ launched a series of airstrikes and artillery attacks on various areas in Gaza.</p>
10th of May	<p><u>“Children among 21 killed in ‘Israel’s’ attacks on Gaza amid aid blockade”.</u></p> <p>4 killed during an ‘IOF’ attack hit a tent sheltering in Deir el-Balah.</p> <p>5 killed (3 children and their parents) when an ‘IOF’ warplane bombed a tent in the Sabra neighbourhood.</p> <p>6 killed during a drone attack in the Tuffah neighbourhood.</p> <p>1 killed in the Sheikh Radian area due an apartment bombing.</p> <p>1 killed during heavy fire fired from gunboats on the shore of Rafah.</p>
11th of May	<p><u>“Israel kills 13, including children, amid dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza”.</u></p> <p>3 killed in a drone strike on a vehicle</p> <p>2 killed in a bombing near a residential tower located west of Khan Younis.</p> <p>2 killed in an artillery shelling of a home in the Zeintoun neighbourhood.</p> <p>1 body recovered near the Bureij refugee camp.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
12th of May	<p><u>“One killed, others injured in an ‘Israeli’ airstrike east of Gaza City”.</u></p> <p>The ‘iof’ targeted a group of civilians in the Friday market in the Shuja’iyya neighbourhood.</p>
13th of May	<p><u>“Israel bombs two Gaza hospitals, killing at least 18 Palestinians”.</u></p> <p>The two hospitals that have been bombed are the ‘European’ and ‘Nasser’ hospital.</p> <p>Nine ‘iof’ missiles have hit into and around the courtyard of the European Gaza hospital - killed 16.</p> <p>Some of the bodies are unable to be recovered.</p> <p>4 killed due to ‘iof’ attack on a house in Jabalia.</p> <p>The ‘iof’ carried out a “targeted attack” on the Nasser Medical compound killing 2 - included the journalist Hassan Eslaih.</p>
14th of May	<p><u>“Israel intensifies Gaza bombardment, kills 80, as Trump visits Gulf”.</u></p> <p>The ‘iof’ killed at least 80 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip. Where most of the Palestinians who were killed were women and children.</p>
15th of May	<p><u>“Israeli military strikes killed at least 85 people in the Gaza Strip on Thursday”.</u></p> <p>Most of the victims of the ‘iof’ were women and children in the area of Khan Younis where airstrikes hit homes and tents.</p> <p>One of them was ‘Hassan Samour’ who was a journalist and he was murdered among 11 of his family members.</p> <p>In the North of Gaza in Jabalia the ‘iof’ struck the Al-Tawba medical clinic which killed 15.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
16th of May	<p><u>“Israel launches major offensive in Gaza after airstrikes that killed more than 100”.</u></p> <p>The ‘iof’ launched a wave of airstrikes on the territory killing more than 100 as part of a new strategy to “achieve all the goals of the war in Gaza”.</p>
17th of May	<p><u>“Over 92 Palestinians killed in israeli on Gaza since the beginning of the day”.</u></p> <p>‘iof’ strikes continued to pound the Gaza Strip since dawn.</p>
18th of May	<p><u>“Israel begins Gaza ground operation, kills 144 in relentless bombardment”.</u></p> <p>Homes and hospitals were intensely bombarded.</p> <p>36 killed when the ‘iof’ warplanes bombed a tent camp in al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis.</p> <p>135 killed in the heavily bombed northern parts of Gaza - 5 journalists among the victims whose houses were bombed.</p>
19th of May	<p><u>“Israel kills dozen in Gaza; allies issue warning to halt assault”.</u></p>
20th of May	<p><u>“Pregnant woman among victims of ‘israeli’ airstrike on Gaza school shelter”.</u></p> <p>During this airstrike dozens of Palestinian children were killed including a pregnant woman.</p>
21st of May	<p><u>“Gaza death toll nears 53,700 as ‘israel’ kills 82 more Palestinians”</u></p> <p>A ministry statement coming out of Gaza states that “82 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours”. But that many victims are still under the rubble and therefore the amount of Palestinians killed on the 21st of May is likely to be higher.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
22nd of May	<p><u>“Palestinian health minister reports 29 ‘starvation-related’ deaths in Gaza”</u></p> <p>The 29 starvation-related deaths are among children and elderly people. This is the consequence of an 11-week total blockade on the territory which already had “spurred warnings of mass famine”.</p>
23rd of May	<p><u>“Israeli attacks kill at least 60 people in Gaza as aid agencies warn of famine”.</u></p> <p>60 people have been killed in ‘israeli’ strikes across Gaza in a period of 24 hours. 10/60 people were killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, 4/60 were killed in the town of Deir al-Balah and 9/60 were killed in the Jabaliya refugee camp.</p>
24th of May	<p><u>“Israel kills Palestinians in Gaza ‘safe zone’ as famine fears rise”.</u></p>
25th of May	<p><u>“Israeli strikes over past 24 hours killed at least 38 people in Gaza, Palestinian officials say”.</u></p> <p>However, the likelihood of the people killed are more since “<i>people are still under rubble after attacks on Deir al-Balah and Jabaliya</i>”. The attacks took place on a tent housing in the city of Deir al-Balah killing a mother and two children Another strike was in Jabaliya in Northern Gaza killing five including a child. In Nuseirat two more people were killed by an attack on tents which included a 7-month pregnant woman. Furthermore, the journalist Hassan Majdi Abu Warda and his family have been killed in a targeted attack on their family home.</p>

Date	Extrajudicial Killing
26th of May	<p><u>"At least 73 people killed in deadly israeli strikes in Gaza"</u></p> <p>Online images showcased "burned bodies" where many of those burned bodies were children.</p> <p>31 killed including 18 women and 6 women when the occupation forces struck the Fahmi Al-jirjawi school. With the consequence of a fire happening.</p> <p>19 killed in an occupation strike on Jabalia town.</p> <p>6 killed in a drone strike on a home in eastern Jabalia.</p> <p>4 killed including a municipal worker in northern Gaza.</p> <p>12 killed in Khan Younis due to airstrikes.</p>
27th of May	<p><u>"Gaza influence, 11, among dozens of children killed by recent 'israeli' strikes"</u></p> <p>The 11 year old killed by the occupation forces is Yageen Hamad who was Gaza's youngest social media influencer. During her time as influences she tried to "bring a bit of joy to the other children so that they can forget the war".</p>
28th of May	<p><u>"Heinous crime: 'israel kills 10 desperate aid seekers in Gaza in 48 hours"</u></p> <p>The occupation forces "opened direct fire on hungry Palestinian civilians who had gathered to receive aid" which led to 62 to be injured as well. A site that should have been for aid "transformed into death traps under occupation gunfire".</p>

Mass arrests & detention centers

In May, no information was released on mass arrests in the Gaza Strip. However, **'The Middle East Monitor'** has released an article that " Hamas warns of 'israeli' detention camps in southern Gaza under guise of aid". The article states that Hamas is warning Gazans about the establishment of detention camps made by the occupation forces in the southern part of Gaza, where the detention centres are "under the guise of providing aid". Therefore, the aid that has not been let into Gaza for the past **"11 weeks"** has been a **"political and security tool"** as a strategy of "engineered starvation" . Hence giving the ability to create detention camps in the south under the name of getting aid into the strip. 'israel' has been continuing to starve the people of Gaza and used it as a tactic in their genocide which caused that the "current aid is nothing more than a drop in the ocean compared to the humanitarian needs" and thus "famine is expanding day by day". Although, an increase in starvation and malnutrition has been occurring because of 'israel'. 'The prime minister of israel' announced that 'tel aviv' is "just days away from implementing a new aid system for Gaza" in this plan a "sterile zone" which should be free of Hamas, "where civilians will be relocated and supplied with basic necessities". Yet this is a strategy of 'israel' to undermine the consequences of their actions regarding starvation and malnutrition and thus "whitewash the ongoing genocide". It is also a way to torture more Palestinians in Gaza.

Destruction of Infrastructure

Since **the end of the ceasefire** in Gaza between 17 and 18 March 2025, the "israeli occupation forces" (iof) have upscaled ground operations and bombardements leaving hundreds of Palestinians dead or injured, further damaging key (civilian) infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and residential buildings, in a blatant **breach of international humanitarian law.**

A [report](#) published on May 7 2025 by Education Cluster outlines the extent of damages to schools in Gaza. Since 7 October 2023:

- **95,4% of all school buildings were damaged** in Gaza and 72% of them were “directly hit” by ‘israeli occupation forces’.
- **88,8% (501 out of 564)** of all school buildings will need **full** or major rehabilitation or **reconstruction** work to be opened again.
- **88,4%** of the total student population in Gaza is left with damaged or destroyed school facilities.
- **62% of school buildings** which have been used by Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) as shelters have been “directly hit” by the ‘israeli occupation forces’.

The **attacks and bombings of schools hosting IDPs have substantially increased** in May 2025. On [6 May 2025](#), the “iof” bombed twice an UNRWA school turned into a shelter for Palestinian civilians. [On 7 May 2025](#), a school in Eastern Gaza City hosting IDPs was hit by ‘israeli occupation forces’. [On the same day and the day after](#), another school sheltering IDPs in Gaza city was hit three times by the ‘iof’. [On 10 May and 12 May 2025](#), a school in Gaza City and a school in North Gaza were hit by the ‘israeli occupation forces’. On [19 May 2025](#), the ‘israeli occupation forces’ attacked a school in eastern An Nuseirat and a school in Khan Younis. [On 20 May 2025](#), a school in Ad Daraj and a school in Beit Lahiya were bombed by the ‘iof’.

Moreover, the ‘israeli occupation forces’ have continuously targeted health infrastructure in Gaza. The [situation update](#) provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) states that, as of 7 May 2025, 122 health facilities have been affected by 686 health attacks, during which **33 hospitals were damaged**. [In May](#), **10 of the 19 functioning hospitals in Gaza were attacked** by the ‘iof’. [Between May 13 and May 19 2025](#), the European Gaza Hospital, the Palestine Red Crescent Society’s Al-Qarara Medical Clinic, the Indonesian Hospital, the Sheikh Hamad Hospital for Rehabilitation and Prosthetics and the Kamal Adwan Hospital were rendered non-functional and the Al Awda Hospital, the Nasser Medical Complex Hospital, the Al Kuwaiti Field Hospital and the Al Aqsa Hospital were (severely) damaged by “israeli occupation forces”.

The 'iof' also continues to target civil infrastructure taking into account the killing of hundreds of innocent Palestinian civilians.

Between May 2 and May 7 2025, many residential buildings in Deir al Balah (including refugee camps), North Gaza, Gaza City and Khan Younis were attacked by 'israeli occupation forces'.

Between May 7 and May 14 2025, a lot of residential buildings and IDP tents in North Gaza (including refugee camps), Deir al Balah (including refugee camps) and Khan Younis were hit by the 'iof'.

Between May 15 and May 18 2025 numerous residential buildings and IDP tents in Khan Younis, North Gaza, Beit Lahiya and Deir al Balah were attacked by the 'israeli occupation forces'. Moreover, **on 20 May 2025**, the 'iof' hit and destroyed the coastal Water Well No.6 further increasing the water scarcity in Deir al Balah, whose water sector is on the brink of collapse.

Lastly, according to the **United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) Comprehensive Damage Assessment**, as of 4 April 2025, **174 526 structures were damaged** amounting to **53 466 870 tons of debris**. UNOSAT estimations indicate that it will take 22 years to clear all debris using 105 trucks every day with a **total cost of 1 022 451 068 US\$**.

Consequences of violence on the health and well-being of Palestinians

In addition to 'israel's' relentless bombardment of Gaza this month, the forced starvation of civilians, deprivation of medical care, and destruction of water infrastructure has inflicted deadly living conditions upon Gazans. The 'iof's' persistent destruction of any means of survival works to systematically dehumanise and reduce the dignity of the population, a central instrument in its genocide against Palestinians. The restriction of access to vital necessities has **resoundingly affected vulnerable members of society** such as the elderly and children, demonstrating the gravity of collective punishment in Gaza. Under the **ICC's Rome Statute**, wilful killing of civilians through deprivation or denial of medical care constitutes a war crime, and systematic starvation and dehydration align with conditions of genocide as codified in **Article II of the 1948 Genocide Convention**.

Despite a limited **resumption of aid flow into Gaza** on the 18th of May, the humanitarian situation remains dire, severely impacting the wellbeing of Gazans and resulting in widespread starvation and health issues. In what has been described as **weaponization of hunger** and **"cruel collective punishment"**, 'israel's' 11-week blockade of any aid entering Gaza has killed at least **57 children** and a further **930,000 children** are at risk of famine. This violation of international law has received extensive criticism from humanitarian organisations; UN Secretary-General António Guterres labelled the blockade a **"policy of siege and starvation" that "makes a mockery of international law"**.

Furthermore, on the 20th May, UN Humanitarian Chief Tom Fletcher's shocking statement that **14,000 babies in Gaza could die over a 48-hour period** without aid garnered widespread attention from various international news sources. In keeping with a broader pattern of attempting to justify genocidal actions, **'israel' has attempted to refute this claim**, diminishing accountability for their instigation of one of the world's worst hunger crises: the entire population of **2.1 million face food shortages** and more than **three quarters of the population** are experiencing either "emergency" or "catastrophic" food deprivation.

Food insecurity is not the only deprivation that detrimental impacts Palestinians in Gaza. 'Israel's' destruction of water sources and **targeting of civilians digging wells** has caused drastic water shortages – nearly **91%** of the population is experiencing water scarcity. As of February 2025, 'israeli' bombardments destroyed nearly **1,700 kilometres** of WASH networks, representing nearly **70%** of Gaza's water infrastructure. As stated by **Oxfam**, attacks on water infrastructure have reduced water quantity per capita to just 5 litres; in order to lead a normal life, 100 litres per day is required. This underscores another method of dehumanising and taking away the dignity of Palestinians. Historically, targeting water infrastructure has been a key mechanism of 'israeli' oppression. Between 2008 and 2009, Israel destroyed approximately **1,000 water wells and 243 water pumping facilities**. UN Special Rapporteur Pedro Arrojo-Agudo accurately sums up the depravity of this tactic, stating **"cutting off drinking water to the population is equivalent to dropping a terrible silent bomb on them ... silent but lethal."**

Civilians in Gaza are trapped in a cycle where food, water shortage, and disease exacerbate one another, creating enduring and embedded ramifications on the population. The scarcity of safe drinking water has triggered a **significant increase in water-borne disease such as cholera and dysentery** and resulted in kidney failure and extreme dehydration, whilst severe malnutrition hinders the ability to fight off disease. Moreover, malnutrition can have lifelong consequences, including stunted growth, reduced cognitive abilities, and chronic health issues – leaving a lasting impact on generations. The prevalence and fatality of disease is further intensified by 'israel's' destruction of medical infrastructure and blocking of medical aid. Since the onset of the genocide in October 2023, the UN has documented over **686 attacks** on healthcare and **UNRWA record** that over a third of essential medical supplies are out of stock. **Al Jazeera reports** how a lack of basic medical supplies has caused unnecessary deaths in Gaza.

Alongside the deterioration of physical health caused by 'israeli' blockades and assaults, Gaza is witnessing an extreme mental health crisis. For decades, 'israeli' oppression has shaped the mental health of Palestinians, eroded by cycles of violence and instability, and worsened by limited access to care. The genocide has further exacerbated this phenomenon – beyond the severe PTSD caused by relentless bombing, mass displacement has dilapidated societal support networks and family cohesion. The UN has shared that **1 million children** in Gaza require mental health support for depression and anxiety and **over half of children are experiencing symptoms of PTSD**. Cases have even been recorded of children's hair turning grey due to extreme stress caused by airstrikes, **8-year-old Lana al-Sharif was diagnosed with vitiligo** after suffering from extreme panic attacks. In general, mental health support is seldom prioritised over physical healthcare. Whilst Gaza's health infrastructure continues to be compounded by 'israeli' violence, it remains unlikely that Palestinians in Gaza will receive sufficient mental health support.

After receiving notable international criticism, 'israel' has permitted an insufficient quantity of aid to enter Gaza. The aid received was described as a **"drop in the ocean"** compared to the amount required to restore adequate conditions in Gaza. Moreover, **the aid model formulated by 'israel' and the US** acts as a mechanism to prolong the restriction of aid and represents a grotesque display of oppressive biopolitics in the control of the livelihoods of civilians as a weapon of war.

THE WEST BANK

Destruction of Infrastructure

The month of May 2025 has witnessed continued accounts of systematic destruction of infrastructure across the West Bank, resulting in further displacement of Palestinians. The ongoing settler violence and the 'iof' "Iron Wall" campaign has intensified the humanitarian crisis, particularly in refugee camps and rural communities. As stated by Palestinian resident Mahmoud Sabbagh, "it's painful to see this sight, but this is what Israel is trying to do, it's trying to not only displace us once again, but to destroy the entire landscape of the camps which are the spine of the Palestinian cause." In other words, 'israeli' destruction of infrastructure can be analysed as a method of psychological warfare, driving Palestinians into prolonged uncertainty while preventing communities from offering each other assistance or solidarity. This is exacerbated by psychological warfare tactics such as sudden raids, 24-hour eviction notices, and the assaults on camps, all of which contribute to long-term trauma and societal fragmentation.

Since the launch of "Operation Iron Wall" on January 21st, 'israeli' military actions have forcibly displaced more than 45,000 Palestinians, primarily from refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nur Shams. In Jenin, over 20,000 have been displaced from one refugee camp alone and have had to survive for more than 100 days with little shelter or belongings. Many of those displaced are descendants of Palestinians who had to flee their homes in 1948 due to terror attacks by Haganah, Irgun, and Palmach militias in Haifa. This symbolises the scale of generational trauma in Palestine inflicted by 'israeli' oppression, and the focus on refugee camps is a tool in a larger campaign of depopulating the West Bank. Many displaced children have been out of school for months, and access to food, water, and medical care is limited. Furthermore, the 'iof' have destroyed roads and sieged hospitals, reducing access to basic necessities for survival.

Between the 13th and 19th of May, the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** documented the demolition of 25 Palestinian structures by the 'iof'. The occupying forces claimed that the destruction was justified due to their lack of 'israeli'-issued building permits which are nearly impossible to obtain, demonstrating again how 'israeli' policy oppresses Palestinians. These demolitions resulted in the displacement of eight households, including 20 adults and 22 children. This represents a wider trend of Palestinians being forced to demolish their own homes under threat of financial penalties. Between the 13th and 19th May, at least 28 attacks perpetrated by 'israeli' settlers led to casualties or property damage including the vandalism of at least 100 Palestinian-owned olive trees and 26 vehicles and other property. Furthermore, on 19th May, the 'iof' demolished a three-story residential building, displacing 16 Palestinians, including three newly born babies. The families were given only a 24-hour notice.

The same period has seen a continuation of settler-perpetrated violence and harassment, often with tacit or active complicity from 'israeli' security forces. On the 23rd May, around 40 'israeli' settlers forced approximately **150 Palestinians to flee the village** of Mughayyir al-Deir by establishing an illegal outpost adjacent to Palestinian homes, prompting residents to dismantle their homes and leave. The five-day intimidation campaign was conducted under the watch of 'israeli' policy and army that failed to intervene. The attacks were a collective punishment for the **shooting of a pregnant 'israeli' woman**.

The convergence of military action, legal demolition, and settler violence has created a systematic environment of coercion and erasure. These actions constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and demand urgent attention and accountability from the global community.

Illegal Settlements

The occupation forces have been occupying Palestine for 77 years, and throughout the years they have continued to steal more land from the Palestinian people. According to international law, the settlements in the West Bank are illegal as it contravenes with fundamental rules of international humanitarian law such as “displacing the local population”. Article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention states “the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”, as well that it prohibits “deportations of protected persons from occupied territory”. However, we have seen the occupation forces undermine this international rule with impunity where most of the world turned a blind eye to their actions. Because, since 77 years now the world has watched Palestinian showcasing how their homes have been taken away by illegal settlers from Europe and the United States - where Palestinian villages have completely disappeared. This is now replaced by big illegal settlements.

In May ‘israel’ has once again undermined International Law and approved a land settlement plan in the West Bank. The approved plan is the resumption of “its Land Settlement Plan” in the occupied West Bank, and thus increasing their annexation efforts. This specific plan used to be suspended as it was “seen as a legal and administrative foundation for the eventual annexation of large areas classified as Area C under the Oslo accords” which makes up 61 % of the land. However the occupation forces have been outspoken on how they want to annex the West Bank as it is part of their “homeland” - leading to the resumption. Thus, the occupation is facilitating further expansion of illegal ‘israeli’ settlements which includes freezing Palestinian land registration. Consequently, it leads to an increased dispute of remaining unregistered lands - “constituting about 66% of the West Bank”. Leading to the circumstance that Palestinians will be undermined and are not given any form of opportunity to register for land that is belongs to the Palestinians.

Furthermore, the 'israeli security cabinet' **"approved the construction of 22 new illegal settlements on Palestinian land"** in the West Bank. The illegal settlements of "Homesh and Sa-Nur", will be re-established, where those illegal settlements were originally dismantled under "israel's 2005 unilateral disengagement plan". The re-establishment of these illegal settlements violates international law as stated in the Fourth Geneva Convention but simultaneously increases tensions in the region. Consequently it does create more cycles of violence and undermines the Palestinians living on the land which they rightfully belong to.

Arbitrary arrest & mass detention

According to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9**, guarantees that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile." This international standard was not complied with during May 2025 in the West Bank region. Several violations of this article have been observed and reported.

General Situation

Despite that there exist several sources and different exact numbers, the Beirut-based Palestine Centre for Prisoners' Studies published on May 5 that during April **550 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem have been arrested by 'israeli forces'**.. Among these were 14 women and 52 children. Additionally, two prisoners have died in occupational jails during this period as a result of intentional medical negligence. The centre claims that the 'iof' carried out mass arrest campaigns targeting Palestinian areas, notably the villages of Kobar and al-Tabqa, the Dheisheh and al-Fawwar refugee camps, as well as the cities of Adh Dhahiriya, Qalqilya, and Jabba. Furthermore, the centre revealed testimonies from released prisoners from Gaza, evidencing that they were subjected to severe physical torture and systematic starvation inside jails.

Beginning of May 2025 the “[UN Special Committee to Investigate \[Israeli\] Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories](#)”, composed of the three Member States Malaysia, Senegal and Sri Lanka, concluded their annual field mission in Amman (their report will be presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2025). But the newly published press release shows that the Special Committee has first-hand evidence for ‘iof’ mass murder of civilians, enforced disappearances, ethnic cleansing and the total subjugation of those under its occupation and apartheid system. “According to testimonies, it is evident that the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including sexual violence, is a systematic practice of the [Israeli] army and security forces, and is widespread in [occupational] prisons and military detention camps,” the [Special Committee wrote](#). Furthermore, the three Member States conclude, that “[Israel] clearly feels it has full impunity to commit horrendous crimes and will never be held accountable for its actions, policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syria Golan.” The committee is warning of a second Nakba.

Striking Examples Happened in May 2025

The BBC reports that [Ali al-Samoudi](#), a 58-year-old, prominent Palestinian journalist, who has been working extensively with Western media, has been detained during a raid on his son’s home in northern Jenin on April 29. The ‘iof’ asserted that Samoudi was “identified with the [Palestinian] Islamic Jihad terrorist organisation” and “suspected in the transfer of funds” to it. However, the interrogator had no substantial evidence for these claims. After a questioning of half an hour, Samoudi was brought to the hospital, as he had a deterioration in his health.

On May 8, the [sentence on Samoudi was published](#): He faces an administrative detention for six months, as the Palestinian Prisoners Society confirmed.

The [OCHA Humanitarian Update on the West Bank #287](#), which is published every other week, states that on May 2 and 4 'iof' detained several families, who wanted to return to their homes, and at least three journalists were at the entrance of Tulkarm camp for about six hours for interrogation. They go on by stating that these forces continue to impose access restrictions and conduct raids in and around the northern West Bank cities as part of their ongoing annexation operations. This leads to a denial of access to Palestinian journalists in the affected refugee camps.

On May 4, it was published that the 60-year-old [detainee Muhi al-Din Fahmi Saeed Najm died at the Soroka Medical Center in southern occupied territory](#). The Palestinian from Jenin had been imprisoned since August 2023 without charge or trial under the occupation army's policy of administrative detention. Najm reportedly suffered from chronic health problems and was denied proper medical care during his detention.

Another striking example is the [new fence being raised by 'iof' around the outskirts of Sinjil](#), the Palestinian town north of Ramallah. The erection has been taking place since the beginning of May. The barrier – 1.500 meters long and six meters high – is turning the hometown of the nearly 6'000 Palestinians living on-site into an open-air prison. The only accessibility is by crossing a locked gate that is occupied by a single 'iof' soldier. The structure runs along Route 60. This is a highway linking Ramallah and Nablus, frequented by "illegal 'israeli' settlers" travelling between illegal settlements built on the lands around Sinjil. [Ayed Ghafri](#), a local activist against this settlement expansion, observes that this fence structure is a coordinated operation between the 'iof' and the illegal settlers. This act has been seen as a concession of the illegal settler's integrity and the act of forcefully annexing Palestinian land. Ghafri says that with this fence the town has been split into arbitrary fractions, where some houses lie outside of the zone, being isolated from the rest of the town. Due to random access at the gate, he states that he feels "prisoner on his own land".

On May 7, **'Israeli' soldiers physically assaulted the relatives of a slain Palestinian man during a mass detention of Palestinians**, amid a raid on the city of Dura near the West Bank city of Hebron. One soldier was filmed kicking a Palestinian man, sitting on the floor, in the stomach and his head. The detained Palestinian was assaulted to the point of falling onto the ground, simultaneously the punished gave no incidences or provokes that would warrant the 'iof' to physically harm him.

A day later, on May 8, the **occupational army rounded up approximately 45 Palestinian citizens**. According to the Commission of Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner Society, there were minors and former prisoners among the detainees in the raids targeting Hebron, Salfit, and other areas in the West Bank. During the occupational invasions, their forces stormed several homes, vandalised properties and held victims for field interrogation.

Another incident marks the **detention of American journalist and podcaster Eric Maddox** in mid-May. He was documenting a provocative march by dozens of extremist settlers through the Old City of Hebron when he was attacked by them. The same sources prove that later he was forcibly detained and handcuffed by occupational troops. Palestinian anti-settlement activist **Issa Amro stated that this action signals** that "the [Israeli] occupation doesn't want the documentation and disclosure of what's happening in Hebron to the world."

In mid-May, occupational troops forcibly displaced several Palestinian families to turn their houses into military outposts in the West Bank. On May 19, **a minimum of 19 Palestinians were detained in military raids in the West Bank**. The occupational custody arrested two young Palestinians in the Balata refugee camp in eastern Nablus after their houses have been raided. Additionally, an ex-prisoner was arrested again in Tubas after his house was raided as well. The same sources claim that ten more people were arrested in raids in Qalqilya and Bethlehem.

As well in mid-May, several Palestinians were killed near Nablus, and there were mass detentions amid the West Bank Crackdown. According to Al-Jazeera, dozens of young men were detained in overnight raids, while 'iof' carried out widespread arrests and home invasions. In Kafr Malik, northeast of Ramallah, occupational troops stormed the city in another nighttime raid.

The strain remains high in the Salfit Governorate as well, following shooting operations in mid-May that led to the killing of one illegal 'israeli' Jewish settler and the injuring of another one. In response to that, occupational forces launched a campaign of collective punishment across several towns west of Salfit, especially Burqin and Kafr ad-Dik. In the first, the troops have maintained a presence for five consecutive days. Residents reported heavy gunfire, curfews, and the widespread targeting of civilian homes. Additionally, several Palestinians were detained during the raids and were subjected to interrogations. Around these three towns, 'iof' have imposed a tight military cordon. The Palestine Chronicle write: "Entrances to the towns remain blocked, and soldiers continue to carry out searches and interrogations of residents. Movement is heavily restricted, and a curfew remains in place."

On May 13, 'iof' attacked the Qalandiya refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. While several Palestinians were injured and detained during the raids, the occupational soldiers opened fire at a young man at the entrance to the camp, injuring him in both legs, according to the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Extrajudicial Killings

This month, the occupying forces have continued their attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, leading to the death of many individuals. This context illustrates 'israel's' violation of international human rights, more specifically the right to life.

Article 3 of [the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), adopted in 1948 by the UN General Assembly, stipulates that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. Furthermore, over the next decades, the UN adopted further international instruments, specifying right to life’s aspects and dimensions. One of them is the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions – namely, extrajudicial killings. They were adopted by the Economic and Security Council in 1989. These international instruments - though not an exhaustive list - firmly establish the prohibition of extrajudicial executions as they are the direct application of right to life’s violation.

Yet, this right has been constantly violated in the West Bank. On May 8th, Human Rights Watch said that between July 2022 and October 2023, ‘israeli occupation forces’ “wrongfully fatally shot or deliberately executed Palestinians who posed no apparent security threat”. The NGO published an article relying on UN figures, documenting and listing all the killings that have occurred since October 7th. The text exemplifies the constant threat that the occupying forces represent for Palestinians in the West Bank. The [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) showed that in 2023, ‘israeli’ forces killed 492 Palestinians, including 120 children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It was shown that this figure is more “than twice as many as in any other year since the UN began systematically documenting fatalities”.

Thus, many extrajudicial killings were documented:

On May 2nd, [disguised ‘israeli’ security forces killed a 39-year-old Palestinian](#) man after chasing him in Balata refugee camp. In a statement published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), it is said that “Although ‘israeli’ forces claimed that they found a gun and cartridges in his car, they made no claim that he posed a threat to life at the moment he was shot”.

On May 8th, the occupying forces undercover apparently summarily executed a 30-year-old Palestinian man sought in Nablus. While the 'israeli occupation forces' said that the man was armed and posing a threat to them, the video evidence contradicted this statement.

Six days afterwards, the occupying forces reportedly injured a young Palestinian man in the thigh near the Qalandiya Refugee Camp, Jerusalem. While the man was laying injured on the floor, two soldiers were repeatedly kicking him in the head. The two of them left, leaving the individual injured without assistance and medical care.

On May 16th, **OHCHR called for putting an end to the extrajudicial executions** occurring in the West Bank, pointing out that, in the last two weeks, the occupying forces killed two Palestinians in summary executions. Seven others were killed in conditions that raise concerns over "the use of unnecessary or disproportionate lethal force" according to their statement.

Besides, on May 25th, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) reported that around **10 Palestinians were wounded during the latest raid in the Old City of Nablus**. They suffered suffocation due to tear gas inhalation.

These killings come as the 'israeli' occupation operation has intensified in the northern West Bank since January.

The UN human rights office, OHCHR, played a role in raising awareness on the ongoing repression Palestinian face in the West Bank. In February, it warned that between end of January and end of February, at least 44 Palestinians have been killed in Jenin, Tulkarem and Tubas governorates, adding that many of those victims were unarmed and didn't represent any imminent threat.

A month later, Security Council Speakers Warned about the **"Gazafication" of the West Bank**, urging 'israel' to end illegal Settlements. The speakers had warned about the ""alarming levels" of violence, with 123 Palestinians, including 6 women and 19 children, killed amidst 'israeli' forces' air strikes, operations, armed exchanges and other incidents".

Besides, through its various offices and mechanisms, the UN plays an important role in documenting and calling for putting an end to the extrajudicial killings of Palestinians in the West Bank. First, Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz who was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions in 2021. In his role, he investigates and reports on unlawful killings worldwide. Francesca Albanese has been serving as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. Her work involves assessing human rights conditions, reporting to the UN and calling to promote accountability. In her work, she has highlighted concerns over actions by 'Israeli' forces, including allegations of war crimes and potential acts of genocide against Palestinians. Both Rapporteurs operate under the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures mechanism, which is a body of independent experts whose work is to address either specific country situations or thematic issues.

We invite the United Nations and the international community to deepen their recognition of the extrajudicial killings in the West Bank as a basis for further action.

Impact on Genocide

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

In May 2025, Jordan intensified its opposition to any proposals suggesting the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza. Following U.S. President Donald Trump's reiterated plan to relocate Gaza's population to neighboring countries, Jordan's King Abdullah II firmly rejected the idea, emphasizing that any attempt to annex land or displace Palestinians is unacceptable and undermines regional stability.

Public dissent within Jordan escalated as occupying military actions in Gaza resulted in significant civilian casualties. Mass protests erupted in cities like Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa, with demonstrators expressing solidarity with Palestinians and criticizing both 'Israeli' policies and perceived inaction by the international community. The Jordanian government allowed these protests to proceed with minimal interference.

Economically, Jordan faced increased pressure to support humanitarian efforts in Gaza. The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) dispatched multiple **aid convoys**, including the 159th convoy in February, delivering essential supplies to Palestinians affected by the conflict. However, disruptions in **Red Sea shipping routes**, exacerbated by regional tensions, led to higher transportation costs and fuel prices within Jordan, impacting the nation's economy.

On the security front, Jordan heightened its vigilance against potential extremist threats. The ongoing war in Gaza has been linked to a rise in both terrorist activity and cross-border tensions. A study by the Shorufat Centre for Globalisation and Terrorism Studies highlighted growing risks of radicalization, particularly among disenfranchised youth. In response, Jordanian authorities intensified their monitoring of Islamist networks and took the high-profile step of banning the Muslim Brotherhood in April. Officials claimed the group was preparing to launch rockets from Jordanian territory into 'Israel' - a move that would have marked an unprecedented escalation and directly endangered Jordan's internal stability and regional diplomatic standing.

Diplomatically, King Abdullah II engaged in regional discussions to address the crisis. In April, he participated in a trilateral **summit in Cairo** with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and French President Emmanuel Macron, aiming to coordinate efforts for a ceasefire and reconstruction in Gaza. Despite these efforts, a unified Arab stance on the conflict remains elusive, reflecting the complexities of regional politics.

The psychological impact of the Gaza war has deeply affected Palestinians in Jordan, especially in Jerash Camp, also known as Gaza Camp. Home to thousands of refugees originally from the Gaza Strip, the camp has become a center of collective grief and anxiety. Many residents have lost close relatives in Rafah, Khan Younis, and Gaza City, or remain unable to contact them. A recent **cross-sectional study** reported alarmingly high rates of severe depression (73%), anxiety (60%), and insomnia (65%) among women in the camp — a reflection of both direct emotional trauma and secondary stress from witnessing ongoing atrocities. Humanitarian groups have warned that the **lack of adequate mental health infrastructure**, coupled with persistent uncertainty and shared mourning, is compounding the community's psychological burden.

2. Lebanon

2.1 Expanding Conflict Zones and Civilian Impact

The war on Gaza has shaken Lebanon far beyond symbolic solidarity. In May 2025, 'Israeli' military operations in Lebanon intensified, extending beyond the southern regions into the Dahiye district of Beirut and the Beqaa Valley. The IDF believes that the Hezbollah stores drone facilities, which is why they have made significant airstrikes on Beirut **since the November 2024 ceasefire**. These strikes resulted in civilian casualties and heightened tensions in the capital. Hezbollah has framed its retaliation as a stance of solidarity with Gaza, but it has paid a steep price. The group has suffered heavy losses, including senior commanders and arms stockpiles. Analysts suggest Hezbollah's military capacity has diminished significantly since 2023, even as it retains political dominance in Shia-majority regions.

2.2 Political Maneuvering Amid Pressure

In response to the regional escalation and international pressure, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on May 21, 2025, to [sign a joint agreement](#) preventing armed Palestinian factions from launching attacks on 'israel' from Lebanese soil. The deal also included commitments to disarm militants inside refugee camps like Ein el-Hilweh, an attempt to restore state authority and reduce the likelihood of 'israeli' retaliation.

Despite Hezbollah's weakened military standing, the group secured [key wins in recent municipal elections](#), highlighting its deep-rooted political influence. However, global donors have made it clear that reconstruction aid - estimated at over \$11 billion - will hinge on limiting the power of non-state militias and enforcing central governance.

2.3 Economic Fallout and Public Desperation

The Gaza war has further devastated Lebanon's already decreasing economy. Southern Lebanon's infrastructure has sustained enormous damage, while key agricultural areas in the Beqaa Valley report crop failures and export route disruptions. [The Financial Times](#) estimates that Lebanon's agricultural sector alone has lost at least \$1.1 billion due to the ongoing conflict.

Meanwhile, daily life has become more dangerous. Lebanon has experienced [a sharp increase in crime](#). According to the Ministry of Interior, violent offenses including theft, assault, and homicides rose markedly in early 2025. In January alone, over 1,900 people were arrested for various crimes.

2.4 Surveillance, Trauma, and the Human Cost

Beyond physical destruction, the emotional and psychological toll on Lebanese civilians is growing. ['Israeli' drone surveillance over Beirut](#) has become a near-constant presence, contributing to widespread fear and unease. The Lebanese Army was forced to temporarily suspend drone activity in the capital due to public outcry and safety concerns.

Mental health workers report surging cases of trauma and anxiety. A [UNICEF survey](#) conducted in January 2025 found that 72% of Lebanese caregivers observed signs of nervousness or distress in their children, and 62% noted symptoms of depression. For many Lebanese - particularly those with familial or historical ties to Palestine - the psychological impact of the genocide in Gaza is personal, ongoing, and compounding existing vulnerabilities.

3. Social Movements and Regional Diplomacy

On May 11, people filled the streets of [Tangier, Morocco](#), marching for Gaza's children. They decried the siege, hunger, and Moroccan diplomatic ties with the occupying regime.

Six days later, the [Arab League](#) convened in Baghdad. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani opened the summit with fierce condemnation, calling the assault on Gaza "a genocide of unprecedented ugliness." Iraq pledged \$20 million for Gaza's reconstruction. Egypt's President el-Sisi warned that normalization with the occupying force would not bring lasting peace unless a Palestinian state is established.

4. Wider Arab Response and Social Movements

In **Egypt**, the Rafah crossing opened sporadically throughout March, April, and May 2025. While Cairo facilitated aid deliveries through the crossing, it remained firm in rejecting foreign proposals to permanently resettle displaced Gazans within Egyptian territory, citing both national security priorities and the risk of altering regional demographics.

Qatar has maintained a dual role of diplomacy and advocacy. On May 17, 2025, it hosted another round of indirect ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and 'israel'. Earlier in the month, large public rallies were held in Doha demanding an end to the siege, signaling deep public alignment with the Palestinian cause.

Saudi Arabia froze its normalization talks with the occupying power in October 2023. Throughout the first half of 2025, officials have reaffirmed that such agreements will not proceed unless a viable Palestinian state is established - positioning Saudi policy squarely around the two-state solution principle.

In the **UAE**, over 100 protesters defied public assembly norms during COP28 in December 2023, marching in support of Gaza. While 2025 has seen no major demonstrations, the memory of that rare act of dissent lingers in public discourse.

Yemen's Houthi faction intensified drone and missile strikes targeting 'israel' throughout May 2025. These actions coincided with mass pro-Gaza demonstrations in Sana'a, even as the country's humanitarian emergency continued to spiral.

In **Tunisia**, protests erupted in late April and early May 2025. Demonstrators rallied outside Western embassies, condemning the genocide in Gaza and urging the Tunisian government to sever ties with the occupying power. These actions were spearheaded by civil society groups, trade unions, and university students.

Foreign and International responses (Gaza & West Bank)

Céline

The responses from the international community to the current happenings in occupied Palestine are getting more frequent and harsher. In May 2025, a coalition of European states expressed their concerns about the 'israeli' occupation offence, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the prohibition of pro-Palestinian protests at US-American universities and the demand to ban 'israel' from the Euro Vision Song Contest (ESC) stood out.

European Relations with 'israel'

The growing pressure over Gaza, moved the EU to review its trade ties with 'israel', as EU foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas stated on May 20. This marks the first formal step by European political institutions in response to mounting calls for stronger action over the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The intensified military offence around the city of Rafah, beginning in early May, mounted pressure on Brussels from several EU member states to send stronger signals to dismiss the current path of the occupying government. Up for discussion is the EU-'israel' Association Agreement, a free trade pact that governs political and economic relations between the two sides.

Shortly before the EU's statement, the leaders of France, the UK and Canada issued a rare joint statement condemning 'israel's' latest offensive in Gaza and described its restrictions on aid as being "wholly disproportionate", and possibly in breach of international humanitarian law. On May 19, the UK's government followed up the announcement with action, suspending talks on a free trade agreement with the occupying country.

However, when it comes to the EU, their member states do not act unified on this matter. As some states, notably **Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands and France have called for a formal review of the bloc's trade relations with the intruder,** Germany, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic have strongly supported the occupying country's so called 'right to self-defence' and therefore have been hesitant to endorse any measurements. Additionally, Germany has repeatedly emphasized its historical responsibility toward 'israel'. Earlier in May, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited the country to mark 60 years of diplomatic ties and meeting their prime minister. This has all been conducted even under the fact that Benjamin Netanyahu faces an open investigation by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Gaza. However, on May 26, just three weeks later, the wind changed even in the Alemannic camp. **Bundeskanzler Friedrich Merz criticized** openly the current undertaking by the occupying army.

From EU to national level: If the Union fails to act collectively, individual member states are prepared to move ahead on their own, as proved by Spain who is calling for sanctions against the country or by the UK, suspending their talks on a free trade agreement.

Another occasion was the 'iof' firing of shots near a diplomatic delegation that included European officials on a visit to the West Bank on May 21. 'Israeli troops' fired "warning shots" to scare these diplomats away. **Kallas said during a press conference on the same day,** that "any threats on diplomats' lives are unacceptable", adding that even warning shots were still shots and that those responsible should be held accountable. In response, **France and Italy have both summoned the 'israeli' ambassador** to the shooting. Among these **more states**, such as Canada, China, Ireland, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Portugal, Germany, Slovenia, Jordan, Qatar, Turkiye, Egypt and Uruguay, expressed their outrage towards the 'iof'.

International Responses to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation

Already at the end of April, US-President Donald Trump announced some “big news” regarding the Gaza Strip. It turned out that this news of the Gaza Aid Plan was rather sobering. The US administration was working with the occupational government on a plan to deliver aid to Gaza, which the occupying power has prohibited since the beginning of March. The idea was to establish a handful of distribution zones that would each serve food to the people in need.

In response, this plan has been rejected by the UN and several aid organisations, for contravening fundamental humanitarian principles. Particularly at risk of this Plan are less mobile and vulnerable people, as they will not be able to go to these distribution points and will continue therefore to go without supplies. Furthermore, the UN added in a statement: “It contravenes fundamental humanitarian principles and appears designed to reinforce control over life-sustaining items as a pressure tactic – as part of a military strategy.” UN aid chief Tom Fletcher criticized the aid plan as a “fig leaf for further violence and displacement” of Palestinians in the genocide-torn enclave. Any aid distribution – be it medical or nutrition aid – must be independent, impartial, neutral and in line with humanitarian principles.

The umbrella organisation “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” was set up in February, mainly backed by the US and ‘Israeli’ administrations, to administer this plan. However, it is unclear how the foundation will be funded, as a spokesperson of the Department of State said no US government funding would go to the foundation. Additionally, a sheet on the foundation circulated among the aid community, listing people that appear to be involved with the foundation. However, it remains vague whether this information can be trusted, as the opposite has also been heard of. In a broader context, the foundation has not found a well established backup among other countries. For most countries, the mechanism of the distribution and the transparency of the funding are not well established enough.

Prohibition of Student Protests in the United States

A newly published US-American [dataset by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression \(Fire\)](#) reports that more than 1'000 students or student groups were targeted by their universities for punishment between 2020 and 2024 over their speech. The researchers write that before the genocide in Gaza, most students faced calls for expression about race. Since 2023, however, students have been more and more punished over pro-Palestine speech. The [report's author, Logan Dougherty, says](#): "Open minds and free debate, not self-censorship and punishment, should be the standard on campuses, and we see far too frequently that isn't the case. [...] No matter where the pressure is coming from, administrations should resist efforts to punish students for protected speech."

The crackdown on freedom of speech has intensified over the past two years, reaching a disturbing peak this May with a highly politicized decision: Trump prohibited Harvard University from enrolling foreign students, criticising that the university attracts people with a pro-Palestinian view. Through this act, he indirectly silences legitimate pro-Palestinian voices and advocacy for Palestinian rights.

As a response to Washington's policy that enrolling students with a visa are prohibited, Harvard University immediately defended itself with a lawsuit. An [American judge has suspended the ban](#) on Harvard University enrolling foreign students for the time being, giving the students affected an immediate respite. However, this shows, how the government sites with the occupation standards and bans pro-Palestinian voices masqueraded under the impression of freedom of speech.

ESC: Eurovision contestants calling for the ban on 'israel' in the contest

On May 17, the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest took place in Basel, Switzerland, amidst widespread pro-Palestinian protests across the city. Demonstrators condemned the participation of the occupying power 'israel' in the event, **especially as it continues its genocidal assault on Gaza**. The inclusion of a state actively committing war crimes stands in stark contrast to the exclusion of Russia for its invasion of Ukraine - an inconsistency that many view as a blatant double standard. As the **Spanish Prime Minister stated on May 19, international principles must be applied consistently**, not selectively.

Calls to ban 'israel' from the contest emphasized the importance of cultural boycotts alongside political and economic sanctions. Allowing 'israel' - an apartheid and genocidal regime - to participate, undermines the credibility of international cultural platforms and normalizes its violence. Spain and Belgium led public criticism of 'israel's' inclusion, with **RTVE (Spain's broadcaster) displaying a message before the final**: "In the face of human rights, silence is not an option. Peace and justice for Palestine." Likewise, **Belgium's VRT aired a stark message during the semi-final**, stating how 'israel' has been committing grave human rights violations and the suppression of press freedom.

The growing pushback from European states and civil society underscores the demand to hold 'israel' accountable through all avenues - including cultural isolation.

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