
Human Rights Council: Domicide in Gaza and Sudan

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Written by: Tshepo Tlhacoane

The Human Rights Council convened in Geneva for its 61st session between 23 February and 31 March 2026. Agenda item 3 dealt with the [report](#), *Domicile: Mass Destruction of Housing and Civilian Infrastructure in Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, and Ukraine*. The Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) concerns itself with this report as the conflicts in Gaza and Sudan fall within the Arab Region, which is our area of operation.

The report was submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to resolution 55/11, after the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing raised concerns about the alarming rates in which homes, villages and other civilian objects were being destroyed - which he called *domicide* - which sent millions into homelessness. This report continues to argue for the end to impunity caused by the destruction of civilian housing, and has called on states to recognise *domicide* (the systematic destruction of housing during conflict) as a distinct crime under international criminal law.

The report draws on the Special Rapporteur's own reports and communications, along with reports of other human rights mechanisms including fact-finding bodies created by the Human Rights Council, and publicly available information.

Gaza

The section of this report was based on comprehensive communication between the Special Rapporteur and mandate holders to Israel in December 2025. This section alleges widespread and systematic destruction of housing and essential civilian infrastructure as part of Israel's military campaign in Gaza since October 7 2023. The alleged conduct includes intentional, indiscriminate attacks on civilian objects not justified by military necessity; the use of weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated residential areas; using artificial intelligence to target homes; pillaging; burning; and bulldozing of homes and civilian infrastructure. Between October 2024 and October 2025, an estimated 92% of Gaza housing units were either fully destroyed or damaged, with available evidence indicating that the military campaign deliberately targeted identifiable civilian infrastructure including high-rise residential buildings and apartments. This systematic destruction of housing and civilian

infrastructure was integral to the military strategy and oftentimes failed to distinguish between civilian objects and military objectives.

Public statements by senior Israeli officials since 7 October 2023 also indicate an intention to cause destruction to property, with public statements including language inciting vengeance, collective punishment, destruction of housing, permanent displacement, and territorial annexation. There were public statements about turning Gaza into rubble, and rendering Gaza uninhabitable.

Scale of Destruction

Between 7 October and 12 October 2023 alone, over 6,000 bombs were dropped, destroying over 12,000 homes. According to the report, over 200,000 tonnes of explosives were dropped on Gaza, the equivalent total energy of over 13 Hiroshima-type nuclear bombs.

The destruction of property extended to essential civilian infrastructure. Access to healthcare, water, sanitation, education, transport, food production and livelihoods have been systematically destroyed. The World Health Organization recorded 793 attacks on health facilities which damaged and destroyed 94% of hospitals. Education infrastructure was also decimated, with over 97% of school buildings damaged or destroyed, and over 95% of higher education campuses damaged or destroyed. The attacks damaged over 89% of water, sanitation, and hygiene assets, and over 96% of households experience water insecurity.

Impact on Vulnerable Groups

Women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons are disproportionately impacted by loss of housing and displacement, including the resulting homelessness. The risks that they are exposed to include gender-based violence, malnutrition, orphanhood, disabilities from injuries and amputations, neglect of older persons, and several mental health disorders.

Sudan

The conflict in Sudan has resulted in widespread systematic destruction of residential housing, human settlements, unprecedented levels of displacement, in addition to other human rights violations. The conflict began on 15 April 2023, and by October 2023, UNHCR reported that over 29 cities, towns and villages had been destroyed across Darfur after extensive looting and burning.

Both parties carried out indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas, used residential areas for military purposes, and used explosive weapons with wide-area effects. This includes missiles fired from fighter jets, drones, tanks, mortars, anti-aircraft weapons, and artillery shells.

The conflicting parties used military equipment and took positions close to residential neighbourhoods in Khartoum, and launched attacks that caused civilian deaths and severe damage to critical civilian infrastructure. The Rapid Support Forces adopted a strategy of occupying houses and apartment buildings with the aim of shielding themselves from attacks by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

The Rapid Support Forces systematically looted, destroyed, and occupied civilian objects, including houses, hospitals, markets and other public facilities. People fleeing from the Al Haj Youssef area reported that before they fled, they had suffered severe shortages of food, water, medicine, and electricity.

Reflections

ACHRS welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur, and the opportunity by the Human Rights Council to learn of further ways that human rights can be violated during armed conflict. Armed conflict is a major driver of human rights violations and it directly, and adversely, impacts the rights related to ACHRS' [priorities](#).

ACHRS has been monitoring the Human Rights Council's reports on the conflicts and human rights situations in [Palestine](#) and [Sudan](#), and will continue to monitor discussions on reports linked to our priorities, or those concerning countries in the Arab Region. ACHRS will provide a comprehensive analysis of the reports at the conclusion of the 61st session of the Human Rights Council.