

ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Not just numbers

Israel has killed or injured more than 10 percent of Gaza's population over the past 24 months. The assault began on October 7, 2023, in response to attacks on southern Israel by fighters from the Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, and other Palestinian groups, during which 1,139 people died and about 240 were taken into Gaza as captives. In response, Israel began a bombing campaign on Gaza and tightened its 16-year siege into a total stranglehold. In a "televised genocidal campaign", it has turned the tiny Palestinian territory into a wasteland, dismantling all infrastructures and reducing them into rubble in an effort that UN and other rights organisations say may amount to genocide and crimes against humanity.

1 OUT OF 33 PEOPLE IN GAZA KILLED

Two years of Israeli attacks have killed at least 67,000 Palestinians. Thousands of other people are still under the rubble. That is about one out of every 33 people killed, or 3 percent of the pre-war population. At least 20,000 children are among the dead, or one child killed every hour for the past 24 months. The Palestinian Ministry of Health counts deaths based on people brought to hospitals or officially recorded. The true number is unknown and is likely much higher because the official death toll does not include those who perished under rubble or are missing.

1 OUT OF 14 PEOPLE IN GAZA INJURED

The human toll of Gaza's war extends beyond the dead. More than 169,000



people have been injured, many with life-altering wounds. Unicef estimated that 3,000 to 4,000 children in Gaza have lost one or more limbs. What few health facilities are still open across the besieged enclave remain overwhelmed as they operate with dwindling supplies and little to no anaesthesia.

125 HOSPITALS AND CLINICS DAMAGED

Israel has attacked nearly all of Gaza's hospitals and healthcare facilities. Over the past two years, at least 125 health facilities have been damaged, including 34 hospitals, leaving patients without access to essential medical services. Israeli strikes on hospitals and the continued bombardment of Gaza have killed at least 1,722 health and aid workers. According to Health Care Workers Watch, as of July 22, Israeli forces are holding 28 prominent physicians, including 18 senior specialists in vital fields such as surgery, anaesthesiology, intensive care and paediatrics, depriving Gaza's devastated health system of critical expertise. Hospitals cannot be the object of attack, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention, Articles 18-22. According to Articles 12 and 51, medical units and personnel have special protections. According to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8 (2) (b)(ix), intentionally attacking a hospital is a war crime.

FAMINE

Israel has orchestrated widespread hunger in Gaza through military restrictions that have blocked aid for months and an imposed food distribution system in which people are shot almost daily while trying to collect food. At least 459 people, including 154 children, have died due to starvation. On August 22, the United Nations-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system, a global hunger monitor, confirmed a famine in the enclave – the first officially recognised in the Middle East. According to the IPC, famine is currently occurring in Gaza Governorate and is projected to expand to the Deir el-Balah and Khan Younis governorates by the end of September. Nearly a third of the population (641,000 people) is expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). Nearly one child in four suffers from severe acute malnutrition, and one in five babies is born prematurely or underweight.

2600 KILLED WHILE COLLECTING FOOD

When the Israeli- and United States-backed GHF took over aid operations on May 27, operating outside the UN framework, it introduced a new, deadly distribution system. According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, more than 2,600 people have been killed and over 19,000 injured by fire from Israeli soldiers and GHF security contractors while trying to collect food from GHF sites. One Israeli soldier described these areas as "a killing field". And Israel's Haaretz newspaper quoted Israeli soldiers as saying they were ordered to fire on people gathered at the GHF sites.

89% OF WATER, SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGED

Since October 2023, Israel has systematically targeted Gaza's already compromised water infrastructure –



striking wells, pipelines, desalination plants and sewage systems. According to UN experts, 89 percent of the enclave's water and sanitation network has been damaged or destroyed, leaving more than 96 percent of households water insecure. Today, nearly half of Gaza's population survives on less than 6 litres (1.6 gallons) of water a day for drinking and cooking, while 28 percent have access to under 9 litres (2.4 gallons) for hygiene and cleaning – far below the emergency 20-litre (5.3 gallon) standards set for "short-term survival".

92% HOMES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED

The destruction across Gaza is near total. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, by August, 92 percent of all residential buildings and 88 percent of commercial facilities had been damaged or destroyed.

92% SCHOOLS DESTROYED

Nearly 658,000 school-aged children

and 87,000 university students have been left without access to learning as classrooms and campuses lie in ruins. At least 780 education staff members have been killed, and 92 percent of schools now require complete reconstruction. More than 2,300 educational facilities, including 63 university buildings, have been destroyed. The ones still standing are being used as shelter for the displaced.

DEADLIEST PLACE TO BE A JOURNALIST

Nearly 300 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza since October 7, including 10 from Al Jazeera, according to the Shireen Abu Akleh Observatory. Foreign media have been barred from entering the enclave. The Brown University Costs of War Project reports that more journalists have been killed in Gaza than in the US Civil War, World War I and II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Yugoslav conflicts and the post-9/11 war in Afghanistan – combined.

WARS IN GAZA, LEBANON, IRAN

How the US funded Israel

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Israel would not have been able to sustain its wars across the Middle East without the United States's significant financial backing of more than \$21bn since October 2023, according to a pair of new reports.

The reports, which were released by the Costs of War Project at Brown University, found that: without US weapons and money, Israel wouldn't have been able to sustain its genocidal war on Gaza, start a war with Iran, or repeatedly bomb Yemen.

The report's findings are also backed up by analysts who said Israel's wars in Gaza and in the wider region could not have continued without US financial and diplomatic support.

Since the October, 2023 attack, Israel has attacked and killed over 4,000 people in Lebanon; invaded and occupied Lebanese and Syrian land; bombed Iran's consulate in Damascus and started a 12 day war with Iran; and traded attacks with Yemen's Houthis.

But Israel couldn't have maintained these wars without constant US support, researchers found.

"Given the scale of current and future spending, it is clear the [Israeli army] could not have done the damage they have done in Gaza or escalated their military activities throughout the region without US financing, weapons, and political support," read



the report – US Military Aid and Arms Transfers to Israel, October 2023–September 2025 – by William D Hartung, a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Hartung's findings and a companion report by Linda J Bilmes, an expert on budgeting and public finance at the Harvard Kennedy School, found that the US spent "a total of \$31.35 – \$33.77 billion and counting" since October 7, 2023 in military aid to Israel and in "US military operations".

They show how US support for Israel has helped it continue to wage war on multiple fronts for two years, and analysts backed up the reports' conclusions. "Israel needs US arms in order to do what it is doing," she said.

The US has long been Israel's most fervent backer. When it comes to US foreign aid, Israel is the largest annual recipient (at around \$3.3bn yearly) and the largest cumulative one (more than \$150bn until 2022).

Hartung's report specifically mentions that the administrations of both US President Joe Biden and his successor, Donald Trump, committed tens of billions of dollars in arms sales agreements, including services and weapons that will be paid for in the coming years.

Macron should resign: ex-PM

AFP, Paris

Emmanuel Macron's first prime minister and one-time ally on Tuesday urged the cornered French head of state to resign in a shock call that compounded an escalating political crisis.

The intervention by Edouard Philippe, Macron's longest-serving prime minister from 2017 to 2020 who now heads an allied political party, came as frustration grew even within the president's own camp over the biggest domestic political crisis of his eight years in office.

Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu, appointed less than a month ago, stepped down on Monday morning after failing to rally support across the centre-right coalition for his new government, which is also only supported by a minority in parliament.

Macron ordered him to make a last-ditch effort to rally support for a coalition government.

But there was no sign of progress, with the far right refusing to even attend a meeting.

France's next presidential elections, scheduled to take place in 2027, are seen as a historic crossroads in French politics, with the French far right under Marine Le Pen sensing its best chance yet of taking power.

Macron is constitutionally barred from seeking a third mandate. Philippe, who has already declared he will stand, said the polls should be held early once a budget is passed, in comments Le Parisien daily described as "political bomb".

Denouncing a "distressing political game", he said it was up to Macron to help France "emerge in an orderly and dignified manner from a political crisis that is harming the country".

"He must take the decision that is worthy of his function, which is to guarantee the continuity of the institutions by leaving in an orderly manner," Philippe told the RTL broadcaster.



Remains of vehicles burned during the protest in September against corruption that toppled the government are kept inside the premises of the parliament after being collected from various places in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Denmark to ban social media for under-15s

AFP, Copenhagen

Denmark yesterday said it planned to introduce a social media ban for children under the age of 15.

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen did not specify which social media networks would fall under the ban, nor how it would work in practice, as she announced the initiative in a speech to parliament at the opening of its autumn session.

The bill, the timeline of which remains unspecified, would authorise parents to let their child use social media from the age of 13.

"The cell phone and social media are robbing our children of their childhood," Frederiksen said, arguing that 60 percent of Danish boys aged 11 to 19 preferred to stay home over spending time with friends.

Australia has been a leader in global efforts to prevent internet harm among young people.