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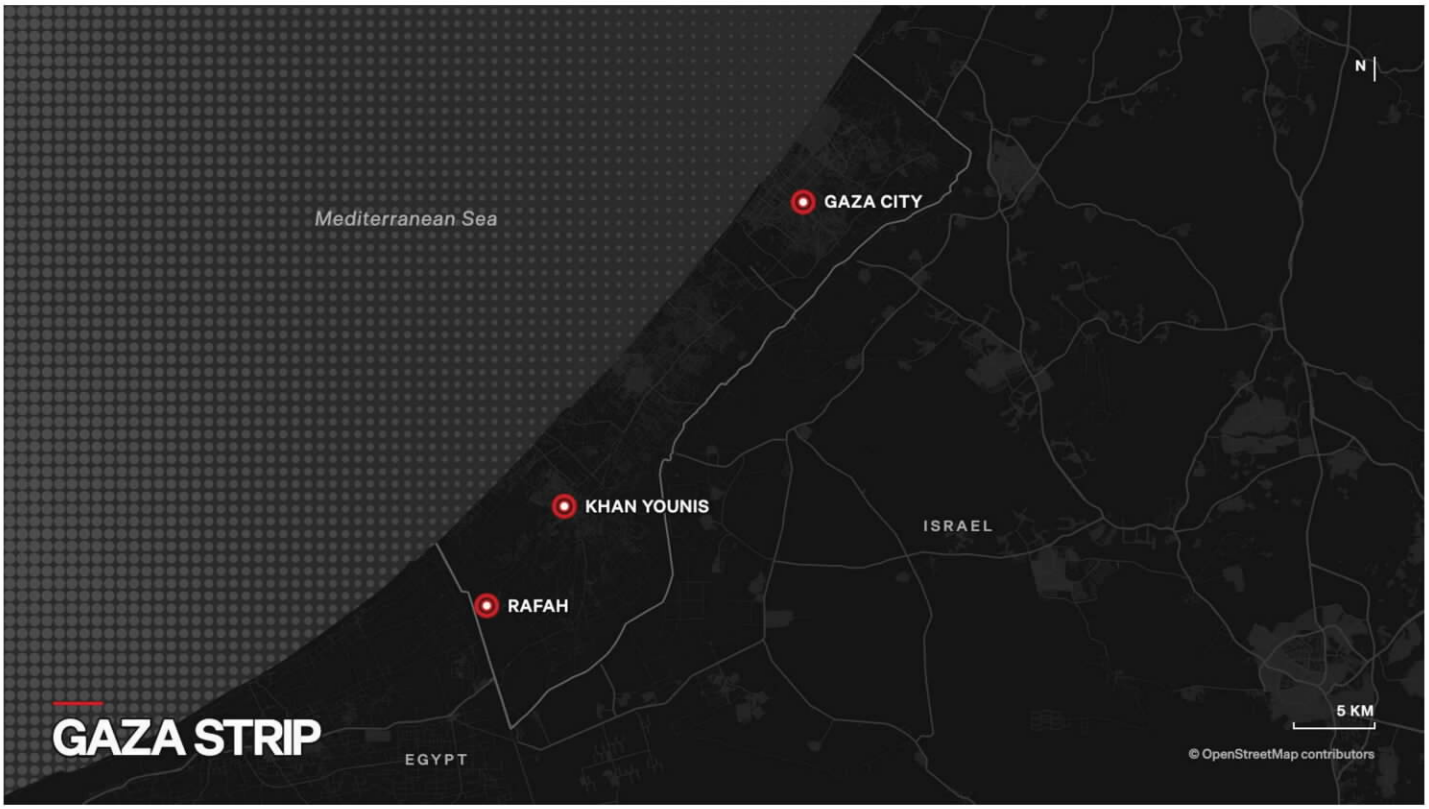
Courts and Law

ARE ICJ ORDERS LEGALLY BINDING?

What the UN Charter, the ICJ Statute and the International Court of Justice say about the effect of its judgments, orders and advisory opinions.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

International Court of Justice | Statute of the International Court of Justice | Charter of the United Nations | South Africa v. Israel | Gaza Strip



Article 94 of the UN Charter says that each Member of the United Nations "undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in

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any case to which it is a party". In its LaGrand judgment of 27 June 2001, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said that "orders on provisional measures under Article 41 have binding effect". In its order of 26 January 2024 in the case South Africa brought against Israel, the Court said that such orders "have binding effect and thus create international legal obligations for any party to whom the provisional measures are addressed". The Court says that its advisory opinions, "unlike the Court's judgments, they are not binding".

What do the Charter and ICJ Statute say about ICJ decisions?

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, under Article 92 of the UN Charter. Article 92 provides that the Court functions in accordance with its Statute, which forms an integral part of the Charter. All Members of the United Nations are parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, under Article 93 of the Charter.

Under Article 94 of the UN Charter, each Member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case to which it is a party.

Article 94, paragraph 2, of the UN Charter says: "If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment."

Article 59 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice says: "The decision of the Court has no binding force except between the parties and in respect of that particular case." Article 60 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice says: "The judgment is final and without appeal. In the event of dispute as to the meaning or scope of the judgment, the Court shall construe it upon the request of any party."

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The Court hears two types of cases: legal disputes between States submitted to it by them, which the Court calls contentious cases, and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies. Only States may be parties to contentious cases.

The Court says on its page on contentious jurisdiction: “No State can therefore be a party to proceedings before the Court unless it has in some manner or other consented thereto.”

According to the Court’s page on how it works, after the oral proceedings the Court “delivers its judgment at a public sitting”, and “The judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case and without appeal”. The same page says: “By signing the Charter, a Member State of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the Court in any case to which it is a party.”

The Court’s page on how it works also says that a State which considers that the other side has failed to perform its obligations under a judgment “may bring the matter before the Security Council, which is empowered to recommend or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment”.

What does Article 41 of the ICJ Statute say about provisional measures?

Article 41 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice gives the Court the power to indicate, if it considers that circumstances so require, any provisional measures which ought to be taken to preserve the respective rights of either party. Under Article 41, notice of the measures suggested is given to the parties and to the Security Council, pending the final decision.

According to the Court’s page on how it works, provisional measures are “interim measures which can be requested by the applicant State if it considers that the rights that form the subject of its application are in immediate danger”.

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In its order of 26 January 2024 in South Africa v. Israel, the International Court of Justice said: "At the present stage of the proceedings, the Court is not required to ascertain whether any violations of Israel's obligations under the Genocide Convention have occurred. Such a finding could be made by the Court only at the stage of the examination of the merits of the present case."

The Court also said in its order of 26 January 2024: "The Court reaffirms that the decision given in the present proceedings in no way prejudges the question of the jurisdiction of the Court to deal with the merits of the case or any questions relating to the admissibility of the Application or to the merits themselves."

What has the ICJ said about the binding effect of provisional measures?

Germany filed the case LaGrand (Germany v. United States of America) on 2 March 1999. The Court made an order indicating provisional measures in LaGrand on 3 March 1999, and gave its judgment in the case on 27 June 2001.

On its page on the LaGrand case, the International Court of Justice says that in that case "it was the first time it had been called upon to determine the legal effects of such orders made under Article 41 of its Statute".

In its LaGrand judgment of 27 June 2001, the Court said: "It follows from the object and purpose of the Statute, as well as from the terms of Article 41 when read in their context, that the power to indicate provisional measures entails that such measures should be binding, inasmuch as the power in question is based on the necessity, when the circumstances call for it, to safeguard, and to avoid prejudice to, the rights of the parties as determined by the final judgment of the Court."

The Court said in the LaGrand judgment: "Thus, the Court has reached the conclusion that orders on provisional measures under Article 41 have binding effect." Of its order of 3 March 1999 in that case, the Court said: "This Order was

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not a mere exhortation. This Order was consequently binding in character and created a legal obligation for the United States."

In its order of 26 January 2024 in South Africa v. Israel, the International Court of Justice said: "The Court recalls that its Orders on provisional measures under Article 41 of the Statute have binding effect and thus create international legal obligations for any party to whom the provisional measures are addressed." In that paragraph, the Court cited its order of 16 March 2022 in a case brought by Ukraine against the Russian Federation.

What did the ICJ order in South Africa v. Israel in 2024?

South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice on 29 December 2023, concerning obligations in the Gaza Strip under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Court issued orders on provisional measures on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024.

On 26 January 2024, the Court ordered, by fifteen votes to two, that "The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention". By fifteen votes to two, the Court ordered that Israel "shall ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts described in point 1 above".

By sixteen votes to one, the Court ordered on 26 January 2024 that Israel "shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". By sixteen votes to one, it also ordered that Israel "shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip".

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By fifteen votes to two, the Court ordered on 26 January 2024 that Israel "shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one month as from the date of this Order". The Court said in the same order: "The Court deems it necessary to emphasize that all parties to the conflict in the Gaza Strip are bound by international humanitarian law. It is gravely concerned about the fate of the hostages abducted during the attack in Israel on 7 October 2023 and held since then by Hamas and other armed groups, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release."

South Africa asked the International Court of Justice for additional measures in a letter dated 12 February 2024, and the Court received Israel's observations on it on 15 February 2024. The Court gave its decision on that request on 16 February 2024, in a letter from the Registrar to the Parties.

In its decision of 16 February 2024, the Court said: "This perilous situation demands immediate and effective implementation of the provisional measures indicated by the Court in its Order of 26 January 2024, which are applicable throughout the Gaza Strip, including in Rafah, and does not demand the indication of additional provisional measures." The Court said in the same decision: "The Court emphasizes that the State of Israel remains bound to fully comply with its obligations under the Genocide Convention and with the said Order, including by ensuring the safety and security of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip."

On 28 March 2024, by fourteen votes to two, the Court "Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Order of 26 January 2024", according to the order's English text, of which the French text is authoritative. The Court ordered unanimously that Israel "Take all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, in full co-operation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to Palestinians throughout Gaza, including by increasing the

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capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary".

By fifteen votes to one, the Court ordered on 28 March 2024 that Israel "Ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit acts which constitute a violation of any of the rights of the Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including by preventing, through any action, the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance".

On 24 May 2024, by thirteen votes to two, the Court "Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Orders of 26 January 2024 and 28 March 2024, which should be immediately and effectively implemented". By thirteen votes to two, the Court ordered that Israel "Immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

By thirteen votes to two, the Court ordered on 24 May 2024 that Israel "Maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance". By thirteen votes to two, it also ordered that Israel "shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order, within one month as from the date of this Order".

What do the Charter and the Statute say about ICJ advisory opinions?

Under Article 96 of the UN Charter, the General Assembly or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question. Article 65 of the Statute provides that the Court may give an advisory opinion on any legal question at the request of whatever body may be authorized by or in accordance with the Charter to make such a request.

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Article 96, paragraph 2, of the UN Charter says: “Other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, which may at any time be so authorized by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.” Article 68 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice says: “In the exercise of its advisory functions the Court shall further be guided by the provisions of the present Statute which apply in contentious cases to the extent to which it recognizes them to be applicable.”

According to the Court’s page on how it works, “Such opinions are essentially advisory; in other words, unlike the Court’s judgments, they are not binding. The requesting organ, agency or organization remains free to give effect to the opinion as it sees fit, or not to do so at all.” The same page says: “However, certain instruments or regulations provide that an advisory opinion by the Court does have binding force (e.g., the conventions on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations).”

The Court’s page on how it works says that the participation of States in advisory proceedings “does not render the Court’s opinion binding upon them”. The Court says on its page on advisory jurisdiction: “Since States alone are entitled to appear before the Court, public (governmental) international organizations cannot be parties to a case before it.”

The Court’s page on advisory jurisdiction also says: “The requesting organ, agency or organization remains free to decide, as it sees fit, what effect to give to these opinions.”

The General Assembly of the United Nations submitted a request for an advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Court gave its Advisory Opinion on 19 July 2024.

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How have Israel and South Africa addressed compliance with the ICJ orders?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 26 January 2024, in response to the Court's order of that day: "Israel's commitment to international law is unwavering. Equally unwavering is our sacred commitment to continue to defend our country and defend our people."

On 26 January 2024, after the hearing at which the order was read, South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said: "In exercising the order, there would have to be a ceasefire." Pandor also said: "Without it the order doesn't actually work."

South Africa said in a letter to the Court dated 12 February 2024 that it "is gravely concerned that the unprecedented military offensive against Rafah, as announced by the State of Israel, has already led to and will result in further large-scale killing, harm and destruction in serious and irreparable breach both of the Genocide Convention and of the Court's Order of 26 January 2024".

In observations the Court received on 15 February 2024, Israel said that "its commitment to the observance of international law, including the Genocide Convention and international humanitarian law, is unwavering". Israel said in the same observations that its legal commitments "apply to any action that it may take in the context of these hostilities".

In a request signed at The Hague on 6 March 2024, South Africa said that "Israel has not changed its conduct materially or at all pursuant to the Order". South Africa said in the same request: "Israel has thus shown contempt for the Court and its Order in what it has done."

In observations dated 15 March 2024 on South Africa's request of 6 March 2024, Israel said that it had submitted a report to the Court "on all measures taken to give effect to the Order". Israel said in the same observations: "Israel reaffirms its commitment to act in accordance with its obligations under international law, including those prescribed by the Genocide Convention, international humanitarian law, and those reflected in the Court's Order of 26 January 2024".

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On 24 May 2024, the head of Israel's National Security Council and the spokesperson of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a joint statement: "Israel has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." The joint statement also said: "Israel will continue its efforts to enable humanitarian assistance and will act, in full compliance with the law, to reduce as much as possible harm caused to the civilian population in Gaza."

On 24 May 2024, Zane Dangor, director-general of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said in a video statement: "This order, like others, are obligating, they are binding and Israel has to adhere to them."

Frequently asked questions

Does the UN Charter require states to comply with ICJ decisions?

Under Article 94 of the UN Charter, each Member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice in any case to which it is a party.

Can the Security Council act on an ICJ judgment?

Article 94 provides that if a party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council.

Article 94 of the UN Charter says that the Security Council "may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment".

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Can an ICJ judgment be appealed?

Article 60 of the Statute provides that the judgment is final and without appeal.

Article 60 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice says that "In the event of dispute as to the meaning or scope of the judgment, the Court shall construe it upon the request of any party."

Who is bound by a decision of the ICJ?

Article 59 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice provides that the decision of the Court has no binding force except between the parties and in respect of that particular case.

When did the ICJ first rule on whether provisional measures are binding?

The International Court of Justice says on its page on the LaGrand case that LaGrand was "the first time it had been called upon to determine the legal effects of such orders made under Article 41 of its Statute". In its LaGrand judgment of 27 June 2001, the Court said that "orders on provisional measures under Article 41 have binding effect".

What did the ICJ say about Rafah on 16 February 2024?

In its decision of 16 February 2024 in South Africa v. Israel, the International Court of Justice said that the situation "demands immediate and effective implementation of the provisional measures indicated by the Court in its Order of 26 January 2024, which are applicable throughout the Gaza Strip, including in Rafah".

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What did the ICJ order Israel to do on 24 May 2024?

On 24 May 2024, by thirteen votes to two, the International Court of Justice ordered that Israel "Immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part". By thirteen votes to two, the Court ordered that Israel "Maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance".

Who can ask the ICJ for an advisory opinion?

Under Article 96 of the UN Charter, the General Assembly or the Security Council may request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on any legal question.

Article 96 of the UN Charter says that other organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies "which may at any time be so authorized by the General Assembly, may also request advisory opinions of the Court on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities".

What does the ICJ say about whether its advisory opinions bind anyone?

The International Court of Justice says on its page on how it works that advisory opinions, "unlike the Court's judgments, they are not binding", and that the requesting organ "remains free to give effect to the opinion as it sees fit, or not to do so at all". The same page says that "certain instruments or regulations provide that an advisory opinion by the Court does have binding force".

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Courts and Law

HOW DID UN MEMBER STATES VOTE ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S GAZA CEASEFIRE RESOLUTIONS?

How UN member states voted on the General Assembly's Gaza truce and ceasefire resolutions of 2023 to 2025, and the Security Council's Gaza votes.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

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The UN General Assembly adopted resolutions calling for a truce or a ceasefire in Gaza at its tenth emergency special session on 27 October 2023, 12 December 2023, 11 December 2024 and 12 June 2025. The resolution of 12 June 2025 was adopted by 149 votes to 12, with 19 abstentions, according to the UN. Israel and the United States are among the states the UN names as voting against each of these resolutions. The Security Council adopted resolutions on Gaza on 15 November 2023, 22 December 2023, 25 March 2024 and 10 June 2024, according to the UN's texts of those meetings.

What is the General Assembly's tenth emergency special session?

The tenth emergency special session of the UN General Assembly was requested in a letter from Qatar of 31 March 1997, under resolution 377 (V), "Uniting for peace", of 3 November 1950. Jordan and Mauritania requested its resumption in a letter of 19 October 2023, and Egypt and Mauritania in a letter of 8 December 2023.

Cameroon, Lebanon and Uganda requested its resumption in a letter of 21 November 2024, and Cameroon and Yemen in a letter of 5 June 2025.

The resolutions of 27 October 2023, 12 December 2023, 11 December 2024 and 12 June 2025 each decide to adjourn the session temporarily and authorise the President of the General Assembly to resume its meeting upon request from Member States.

The General Assembly adopted resolution 76/262, "Standing mandate for a General Assembly debate when a veto is cast in the Security Council", on 26 April 2022. Resolution 76/262 decides that the President of the General Assembly shall convene a formal meeting of the General Assembly after the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the Security Council, to hold a debate on the situation as to which the veto was cast, provided that the Assembly does not meet in an emergency special session on the same situation.

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How did the General Assembly vote on Gaza in 2023?

The General Assembly adopted the resolution "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations" on 27 October 2023, at its tenth emergency special session. Jordan presented the draft on behalf of the Group of Arab States. The resolution of 27 October 2023 calls for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

On 27 October 2023, the draft resolution was adopted by 120 votes to 14, with 45 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The states the UN lists as voting against are Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Fiji, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, and the United States of America.

The states the UN lists as abstaining on 27 October 2023 are Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, and Zambia.

The UN's text adds that the delegations of Jamaica and Iraq later informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour. Earlier at the same meeting, on 27 October 2023, a draft amendment was rejected by 88 votes to 55, with 23 abstentions, according to the UN.

The General Assembly adopted the resolution "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations" on 12 December 2023, at its tenth emergency special session. The resolution of 12 December 2023 demands an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, as well as ensuring humanitarian access.

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On 12 December 2023, the draft resolution was adopted by 153 votes to 10, with 23 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The states the UN lists as voting against are Austria, Czechia, Guatemala, Israel, Liberia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, and the United States of America.

The states the UN lists as abstaining on 12 December 2023 are Argentina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Palau, Panama, Romania, Slovakia, South Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.

The UN's text adds that the delegation of Liberia later informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour. Earlier at the same meeting, on 12 December 2023, one draft amendment was rejected by 61 votes to 89, with 20 abstentions, according to the UN. A second draft amendment was rejected by 62 votes to 84, with 25 abstentions, according to the UN.

How did the General Assembly vote on Gaza in 2024 and 2025?

The General Assembly adopted the resolution "Demand for ceasefire in Gaza" on 11 December 2024, at its tenth emergency special session. The resolution of 11 December 2024 demands an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, to be respected by all parties, and reiterates its demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. It demands that the parties implement all the provisions of Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) of 10 June 2024.

On 11 December 2024, the text was adopted by 158 votes to 9, with 13 abstentions, according to the UN's meetings coverage. The states the UN's meetings coverage

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lists as voting against are Argentina, Czechia, Hungary, Israel, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, and the United States.

The General Assembly adopted the resolution "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations" on 12 June 2025, at its tenth emergency special session. The resolution of 12 June 2025 demands an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, to be respected by all parties. It recalls the Assembly's demand for "the immediate, dignified and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups".

On 12 June 2025, the text was adopted by 149 votes to 12, with 19 abstentions, according to the UN's meetings coverage. UN News said that the United States and Israel were among those opposing the resolution, "joined among others by Argentina, Hungary and Paraguay."

UN News also said that "India, Georgia, Ecuador, Romania and Ethiopia were among the countries abstaining."

What did delegations say at the General Assembly's Gaza votes?

At the General Assembly's meeting on 27 October 2023, Canada's representative, Mr. Rae, presented an amendment before the votes. He said that "Unfortunately, Canada cannot support the text as it is currently proposed."

Israel's representative, Mr. Erdan, said after the vote on 27 October 2023 that the resolution "does not even name Hamas, as if this war started on its own." Singapore's representative, Mr. Gafoor, said after the vote that Singapore "supported the resolution", and that it "expresses strong support for the efforts by the Secretary-General and for his calls for the immediate and unrestricted access of humanitarian aid".

The State of Palestine's representative, Mr. Mansour, said after the vote on 27 October 2023 that "The resolution also calls for immediate and unimpeded

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humanitarian assistance, which is so desperately needed by our people in the Gaza Strip".

At the General Assembly's meeting on 12 December 2023, Egypt's representative, Mr. Mahmoud, presented the draft on behalf of the Group of Arab States. He said that "In its operative paragraphs, the draft resolution calls on all parties to comply with the obligation to protect civilians, for the release of all hostages and to ensure humanitarian access."

Austria's representative, Mr. Marschik, introduced an amendment at the meeting on 12 December 2023 and said that "If the draft amendment is adopted, Austria will be able to join others in abstaining on the whole text." Israel's representative, Mr. Erdan, said before the vote that "Not only does this draft resolution fail to condemn Hamas for their crimes against humanity; it does not even mention Hamas at all."

India's representative, Mrs. Kamboj, said after the vote on 12 December 2023 that "India voted in favour of the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly", and that "Our challenge in this extraordinarily difficult time is to strike the right balance." Germany's representative, Ms. Leendertse, said after the vote: "How can we possibly demand a humanitarian ceasefire while attacks by Hamas continue?"

Canada's representative, Mr. Rae, said after the vote on 12 December 2023 that "Canada supports the humanitarian ceasefire referred to in the resolution as a necessary measure to protect civilians, to allow significantly more humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and to enable foreign nationals, including Canadians, to leave Gaza."

At the General Assembly's meeting on 11 December 2024, the United States' representative said before the votes that the draft resolution on a ceasefire in Gaza "risks sending a dangerous message". Israel's representative said in explanation of vote before the vote that the resolutions were "beyond logic".

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Paraguay's speaker said on 11 December 2024 that his delegation could not support the ceasefire text, "insisting on condemning only one of the parties".

At the General Assembly's meeting on 12 June 2025, Spain's representative introduced the draft and said: "As a matter of urgency, the international community must launch a robust message with regard to the situation in Gaza." Israel's representative said that the resolution "tries to place all the pressure on us".

The United States' delegate said before the vote on 12 June 2025 that the meeting "marks yet another failure on the part of the United Nations to condemn Hamas".

The representative of the Marshall Islands, explaining an abstention on 12 June 2025, spoke of the "continued undertaking now dysfunctional where we vote on nearly the same words in repetition".

Which Gaza draft resolutions were vetoed in the Security Council?

The UN's texts of the Security Council's meetings of 18 October 2023, 25 October 2023, 8 December 2023, 20 February 2024, 22 March 2024, 20 November 2024, 4 June 2025 and 18 September 2025 say that a draft resolution on Gaza put to the vote at each of them was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

On 18 October 2023, a draft resolution submitted by Brazil received 12 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against, and the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as abstaining.

On 25 October 2023, a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America received 10 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the

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meeting. The UN lists China, the Russian Federation and the United Arab Emirates as voting against, and Brazil and Mozambique as abstaining.

On 8 December 2023, a draft resolution whose sponsors included the United Arab Emirates received 13 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as abstaining.

On 20 February 2024, a draft resolution submitted by Algeria received 13 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as abstaining.

On 22 March 2024, a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America received 11 votes to 3, with 1 abstention, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists Algeria, China and the Russian Federation as voting against, and Guyana as abstaining.

On 20 November 2024, a draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Switzerland received 14 votes to 1, with no abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against.

On 4 June 2025, a draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Somalia received 14 votes to 1, with no abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against.

On 18 September 2025, a draft resolution submitted by Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia and Somalia received 14 votes to 1, with no abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting. The UN lists the United States of America as voting against.

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How did the Security Council vote on its Gaza resolutions?

The Security Council adopted resolution 2712 on 15 November 2023, from a draft submitted by Malta. Resolution 2712 calls for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days. On 15 November 2023, the draft received 12 in favour, none against and 3 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting, with the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America abstaining.

Resolution 2720 of 22 December 2023 was adopted from a draft submitted by the United Arab Emirates. Resolution 2720 calls for urgent steps to immediately allow safe, unhindered, and expanded humanitarian access and to create the conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities. On 22 December 2023, the draft received 13 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, according to the UN's text of the meeting, with the Russian Federation and the United States of America abstaining.

The Security Council adopted resolution 2728 on 25 March 2024. Resolution 2728 demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan respected by all parties leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire. On 25 March 2024, the draft received 14 in favour, none against and 1 abstention, according to the UN's text of the meeting, with the United States of America abstaining.

Resolution 2735 was adopted on 10 June 2024, from a draft submitted by the United States of America. Resolution 2735 welcomes the new ceasefire proposal announced on 31 May 2024 and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition. On 10 June 2024, the draft received 14 in favour, none against and 1 abstention, according to the UN's text of the meeting, with the Russian Federation abstaining.

Frequently asked questions

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Did Israel vote against the UN General Assembly's Gaza ceasefire resolutions?

Israel is in the UN's list of states voting against the General Assembly's resolutions of 27 October 2023 and 12 December 2023, according to the Assembly's texts of those meetings. Israel is among the states voting against the resolution of 11 December 2024, according to the UN's meetings coverage. Israel is among the states voting against the resolution of 12 June 2025, according to UN News.

Which countries voted against the December 2024 Gaza ceasefire resolution?

The states the UN's meetings coverage lists as voting against the General Assembly's resolution "Demand for ceasefire in Gaza" on 11 December 2024 are Argentina, Czechia, Hungary, Israel, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, and the United States. UN News named the same nine states on 12 December 2024.

What did the General Assembly's October 2023 resolution on Gaza call for?

The resolution the General Assembly adopted on 27 October 2023 calls for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

Who asked the General Assembly to resume its emergency session on Gaza in 2023?

Jordan and Mauritania requested the resumption of the General Assembly's tenth emergency special session in a letter of 19 October 2023. Egypt and

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Mauritania requested its resumption in a letter of 8 December 2023.

What does the General Assembly's June 2025 Gaza resolution say about hostages?

The resolution the General Assembly adopted on 12 June 2025 recalls the Assembly's demand for "the immediate, dignified and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups".

Did the General Assembly vote on amendments to its Gaza resolutions in 2023?

On 27 October 2023, a draft amendment was rejected by 88 votes to 55, with 23 abstentions, according to the UN. On 12 December 2023, two draft amendments were rejected, by 61 votes to 89 and by 62 votes to 84, according to the UN.

What does General Assembly resolution 76/262 provide after a Security Council veto?

The General Assembly adopted resolution 76/262 on 26 April 2022. It decides that the President of the General Assembly shall convene a formal meeting of the General Assembly after the casting of a veto by one or more permanent members of the Security Council, provided that the Assembly does not meet in an emergency special session on the same situation.

What does Security Council resolution 2728 demand on Gaza?

The Security Council adopted resolution 2728 on 25 March 2024. Resolution 2728 demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan respected by all parties leading to a lasting sustainable ceasefire, and also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

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Which Gaza drafts did the Russian Federation and China vote against in the Security Council?

The UN lists China and the Russian Federation as voting against a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America on 25 October 2023, according to the Council's text of that meeting. The UN lists Algeria, China and the Russian Federation as voting against a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America on 22 March 2024.

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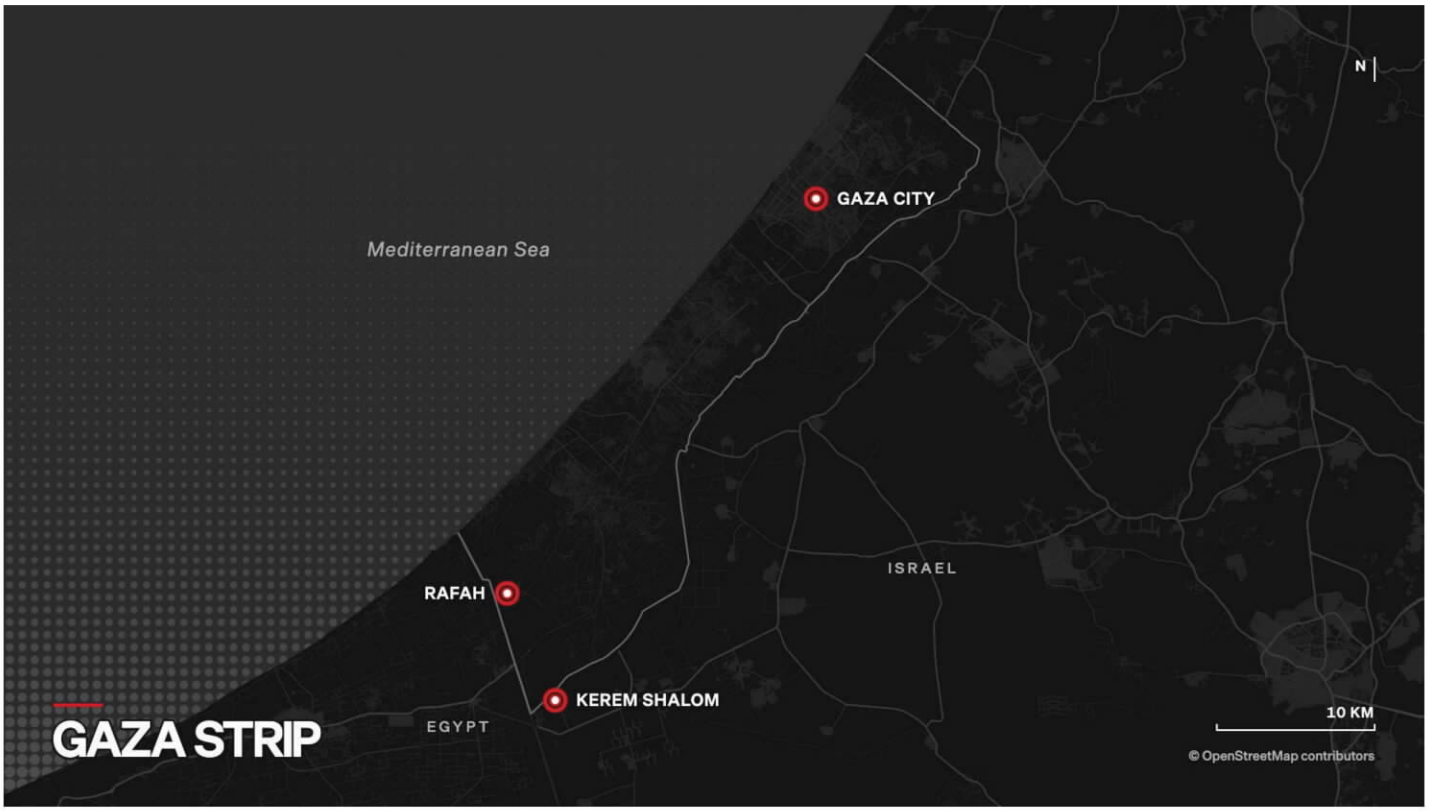
Food, Health and Water

HOW DO PATIENTS LEAVE GAZA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT?

The crossings patients use to leave Gaza for treatment, how an evacuation is approved, the suspensions, and the dated counts of patients evacuated and waiting.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

Medical evacuation | Rafah crossing | Kerem Shalom crossing | World Health Organization | Gaza Strip



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Patients leave Gaza for medical treatment through the Rafah crossing into Egypt or the Kerem Shalom crossing into Israel, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The World Health Organization said on 30 September 2026 that 13,768 patients had been evacuated from Gaza since October 2023. The Gaza Health Ministry said on 29 October 2026 that about 21,468 cases were registered on its waiting lists for travel. The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions.

Which crossings do patients use to leave Gaza for treatment?

Patients evacuated from Gaza for treatment leave through two crossings, Rafah and Kerem Shalom, according to WHO's sheet on medical evacuation of 30 September 2026. On the Kerem Shalom route, WHO says, "Patients and companions cross into Israel, with WHO supporting onward travel to Ramon Airport or King Hussein Crossing." On the Rafah route, WHO says, "Patients and companions are received at the Rafah Crossing by the Palestinian Authority, which assists with document checks, along with EUBAM, for crossing into Egypt."

The Rafah crossing is on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Kerem Shalom crossing is on the border of Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip, a few kilometres from the Rafah crossing.

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that opening the Rafah crossing in both directions will be subject to the same mechanism implemented under the agreement of 19 January 2025.

EUBAM Rafah is a civilian mission of the European Union, established in 2005. EUBAM Rafah deployed to the Rafah Crossing Point on 1 February 2026, at the request of the parties, to facilitate the traffic of a controlled number of passengers and to monitor and support the Palestinian border personnel at the

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crossing. The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions.

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said on 3 February 2026 that on 2 February, WHO and partners "supported the medical evacuation of five patients and seven companions to Egypt via the Rafah crossing". He said that "it was the first medical evacuation through this route since sometime in 2025 after that ceasefire".

UN OCHA said on 5 November 2026 that some 107 patients, including 38 children, together with 119 companions, had been medically evacuated from Gaza through the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings "to Egypt and Jordan".

How is a medical evacuation from Gaza approved and coordinated?

A medical evacuation from Gaza starts with a referral, according to WHO's statement of 10 April 2026: "Patients are referred for medical evacuation by their treating physician, who issues a referral form that is submitted by the hospital to the Referral Committee." WHO said that the committee "is composed of local health officials from Gaza", that "WHO is not a member", and that the committee "bears sole responsibility for prioritizing patients for medical evacuation".

For the Rafah route, WHO said on 10 April 2026 that "The prioritized patient list is shared by the Palestinian Authority (PA) with Israeli and Egyptian authorities for security clearance." It said that "Once clearance is granted, the PA shares the security-cleared list with WHO." WHO said that patients "are received at the Rafah crossing by the PA, which verifies identities alongside the European Union Border Assistance Mission, before the patients cross to the Egyptian side."

For the Kerem Shalom route, WHO said in its sheet of 30 September 2026 that "Once a commitment to support medical evacuation is received from the host country, the Referral Committee provides a list of patients and their companion(s) to the host country." The sheet says that "The list of patients and

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companions approved by the host country is submitted to the Israeli authorities for clearance."

WHO describes its own part in these terms: "WHO's role in the MoH-led medical evacuations is strictly supportive, limited to coordination and logistical support". WHO said on 10 April 2026 that "WHO or its staff are not involved in, and have no influence over, the prioritization of patients approved to exit Gaza for medical evacuation."

COGAT, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories, is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in the West Bank and in regard to the Gaza Strip. The unit reports to Israel's Minister of Defense.

COGAT said on 13 August 2026, in a reply to Reuters, that it coordinates medical evacuations with the World Health Organization, and that to depart, patients must have a valid request from a receiving country and pass "required security screening". COGAT said: "Medical evacuations are in no sense restricted by the State of Israel but are wholly dependent on the receiving country's request; without the official request, COGAT cannot coordinate a patient's leave."

When have medical evacuations from Gaza been suspended since February 2026?

COGAT said on 4 February 2026 that the Rafah crossing remained open, and that it had not received the coordination details it needed from the World Health Organization to facilitate the crossing.

COGAT said on 28 February 2026 that the crossings into the Gaza Strip, including Rafah, had been closed that day.

COGAT said on 15 March 2026 that the Rafah crossing would open on Wednesday 18 March for limited movement of people in both directions.

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WHO said on 26 March 2026 that medical evacuation via Kerem Shalom had remained suspended since 28 February 2026. WHO said that medical evacuation via Rafah had also been suspended from 28 February 2026, and had resumed on 19 March after the crossing reopened the day before. It said that it suspended medical evacuations via Rafah from 23 to 25 March 2026 because conditions were not in place to continue operations safely, and that they resumed on 26 March 2026.

The World Health Organization said on 10 April 2026 that it had suspended its support to medical evacuations after a security incident in which a person contracted to provide services to WHO in Gaza was killed. WHO said that evacuations might resume on 12 April, with commitments received from the parties concerned to ensure the safety of patients and staff.

EUBAM Rafah's crossing data page, with cumulative lines as of 5 September 2026, says that no patients passed through the Rafah Crossing Point in the weeks beginning 1 March and 8 March 2026.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 17 September 2026 that Israeli authorities had cut that day's convoy of patients and companions approved to travel to Egypt, and that it had decided that only critical cases carried by ambulance would leave, with the rest returning in protest.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 8 October 2026 that the Rafah crossing remained closed to the evacuation of patients who met the conditions and were on the approved travel lists. The ministry said that the closure kept dozens of critical cases from leaving during the three days set aside each week for the coordination of patients.

How many patients have been evacuated from Gaza for treatment?

The World Health Organization said on 26 March 2026 that 11,209 patients had been evacuated from the Gaza Strip to over 30 countries since October 2023.

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COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that around 5,800 Gazans needing medical treatment had exited to Egypt since Israel agreed in February to a limited reopening of the Rafah crossing.

EUBAM Rafah said on its crossing data page that as of 5 September 2026, 2,224 medical cases had crossed the Rafah Crossing Point.

The World Health Organization's Director-General said on 24 September 2026 that approximately 12,400 patients had been medically evacuated from Gaza since October 2023.

The World Health Organization said on 30 September 2026 that 13,768 patients, including 6408 children, had been evacuated from Gaza since October 2023, with 17,009 companions. The World Health Organization said on 30 September 2026 that 3,386 patients had been evacuated from Gaza between 13 October 2025 and 30 September 2026, 776 of them via the Kerem Shalom crossing and 2,610 via the Rafah crossing.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 29 October 2026 that 3,056 patients and wounded had been evacuated for treatment abroad from February 2026, 2,614 of them through the Rafah crossing and 442 through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

UN OCHA said on 29 October 2026 that since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025, WHO had supported the evacuation of 3,547 patients, along with 5,855 caregivers, through the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings. UN OCHA said on 29 October 2026 that 2,746 of those patients had been evacuated via Rafah since its reopening on 2 February 2026.

UN OCHA said on 13 November 2026 that between 3 and 9 November, 119 patients, including 40 children, together with 141 companions, were medically evacuated from Gaza through the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
11,209	World Health Organization	26 March 2026	patients evacuated from the Gaza Strip to over 30 countries since October 2023

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
13,768	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	patients evacuated, October 2023 to 30 September 2026
6408	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	children included among the patients evacuated
17,009	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	companions, October 2023 to 30 September 2026
3,386	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	patients, 13 October 2025 to 30 September 2026
12,400	World Health Organization	24 September 2026	patients medically evacuated from Gaza since October 2023 (approximately)
5,800	COGAT	13 August 2026	Gazans needing medical treatment who exited to Egypt since February 2026 (around)
2,224	EUBAM Rafah	5 September 2026	medical cases that crossed the Rafah Crossing Point, as of 5 September
3,056	Gaza Health Ministry	29 October 2026	patients and wounded evacuated for treatment abroad from February 2026
3,547	UN OCHA	29 October 2026	patients whose evacuation WHO supported since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025
119	UN OCHA	13 November 2026	patients medically evacuated between 3 and 9 November

How many patients in Gaza are waiting for medical evacuation?

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said on 3 February 2026: “More than 18,500 patients in Gaza still require specialized medical care that is currently not available in the Strip.”

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The Gaza Health Ministry said on 15 February 2026 that "the number of patients and wounded waiting to travel to receive treatment abroad has passed the mark of 20,000 patients and wounded".

The World Health Organization's Director-General said on 24 September 2026: "Yet tens of thousands more still require specialised care that is unavailable locally."

The World Health Organization said in its sheet of 30 September 2026: "Thousands of patients urgently need medical treatment that is not available in Gaza."

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 8 October 2026 that "4 full years is the time needed just to evacuate the current list of patients and wounded (21 thousand patients) under the travel mechanism followed today, without counting any new cases".

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 29 October 2026 that "about 21,468 cases" were "in urgent need of travel and registered on the waiting lists", of whom "6430 are cases nominated and with priority for travel".

Which countries receive patients evacuated from Gaza?

The World Health Organization said on 26 March 2026 that patients had been evacuated from the Gaza Strip "to over 30 countries" since October 2023.

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said on 3 February 2026 that finding countries willing to accept patients was a challenge: "We need more and more countries to step up and help."

The World Health Organization said in its sheet of 30 September 2026 that its top ten referral destinations since October 2023 were 8940 Egypt, 1518 United Arab Emirates, 970 Qatar, 790 Jordan, 640 EU countries, 456 Turkey, 136 Algeria, 100

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Uzbekistan, 73 Tunisia and 56 Oman, as the sheet prints them. The same sheet asks for "Increased Member States' acceptance of patients from Gaza for treatment in the interim."

UN OCHA said on 5 November 2026 that patients evacuated in the week of its report had gone "to Egypt and Jordan".

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
8,940	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	Egypt, top referral destination since October 2023
1,518	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	United Arab Emirates, since October 2023
970	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	Qatar, since October 2023
790	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	Jordan, since October 2023
640	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	EU countries, since October 2023
456	World Health Organization	30 September 2026	Turkey, since October 2023

Frequently asked questions

Is the Rafah crossing open for patients leaving Gaza?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 8 October 2026 that the Rafah crossing remained closed to the evacuation of patients on the approved travel lists. UN OCHA said on 13 November 2026 that 119 patients were medically evacuated from Gaza through the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings between 3 and 9 November.

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Who decides which patients can leave Gaza for treatment?

WHO said on 10 April 2026 that patients are prioritised by the Referral Committee, which "is composed of local health officials from Gaza", and that "WHO is not a member". WHO said that the prioritised list is shared by the Palestinian Authority with Israeli and Egyptian authorities for security clearance.

What does COGAT require before a patient can leave Gaza?

COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that to depart, patients must have a valid request from a receiving country and pass "required security screening". COGAT said that without the official request, it "cannot coordinate a patient's leave".

Where do patients go after crossing at Kerem Shalom?

WHO said in its sheet of 30 September 2026 that patients and companions on the Kerem Shalom route "cross into Israel, with WHO supporting onward travel to Ramon Airport or King Hussein Crossing."

Do patients evacuated from Gaza travel with companions?

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said on 3 February 2026 that the first evacuation through Rafah on 2 February 2026 carried "five patients and seven companions". The World Health Organization said on 30 September 2026 that 17,009 companions had been evacuated from Gaza since October 2023.

What medical conditions do evacuated patients from Gaza have?

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The World Health Organization said in its sheet of 30 September 2026 that the top five medical needs of patients evacuated since 7 May 2024 were, as the sheet prints them, 1719 trauma, 1529 oncology, 762 cardiovascular diseases, 486 ophthalmology and 418 congenital anomalies.

How many patients left Gaza for treatment before October 2023?

The World Health Organization said in its sheet of 30 September 2026 that before October 2023, between 50 and 100 patients a day were exiting Gaza for medical treatment.

Can Gaza patients be referred to East Jerusalem or the West Bank?

The World Health Organization asked, in its sheet of 30 September 2026, to "Reopen patient referral to health facilities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem." WHO's Director-General said on 24 September 2026: "We call for referral pathways for patients requiring specialised care from Gaza to East Jerusalem and the West Bank to be restored."

What is EUBAM Rafah?

EUBAM Rafah is a civilian mission of the European Union, established in 2005. EUBAM Rafah deployed to the Rafah Crossing Point on 1 February 2026, at the request of the parties, to facilitate the traffic of a controlled number of passengers and to monitor and support the Palestinian border personnel at the crossing.

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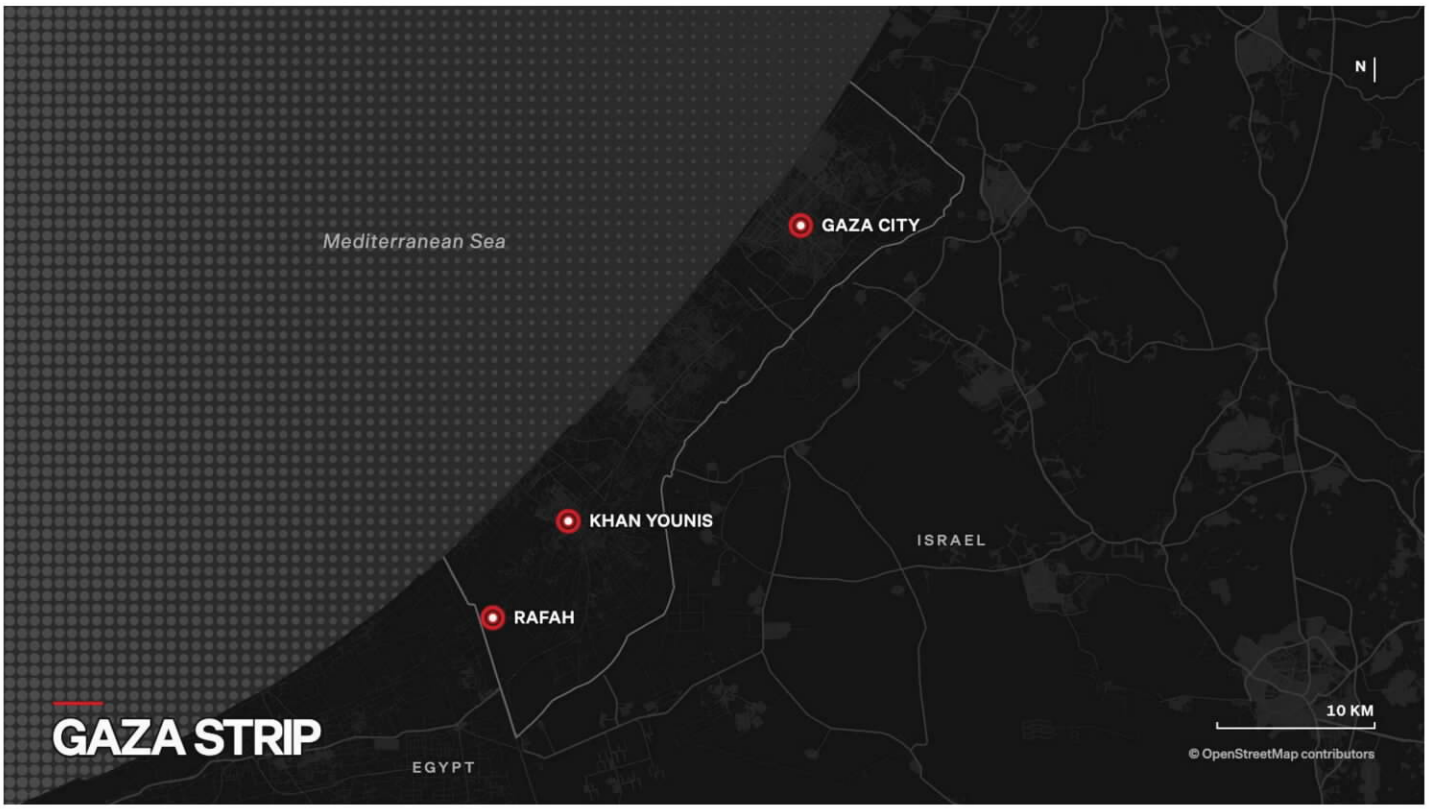
Strikes and Raids

HOW DOES ISRAEL'S MILITARY WARN CIVILIANS IN GAZA?

The warnings Israel's military says it gives civilians in Gaza, its evacuation orders and maps, and what UN bodies, the ICRC, HRW and Amnesty said.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

Israel Defense Forces | Evacuation orders | UN OCHA | Gaza Strip



Israel's military says that it gives civilians in Gaza warnings by leaflets, text messages, phone calls and voice messages, and through evacuation orders that

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refer residents to numbered areas on maps it publishes in Arabic. In posts since the ceasefire of October 2025, most recently on 12 November 2026, the IDF has said that "advance warnings were issued to the population" before its strikes. On 26 August 2024, UN OCHA said that up to 88.5% of the Gaza Strip had been placed under evacuation orders since 7 October 2023.

What warning methods does Israel's military say it uses in Gaza?

On a page dated 16 July 2014, Israel's military said that "the IDF makes phone calls and sends text messages to civilians residing in buildings designated for attack." The same page said that the Israel Air Force "has dropped leaflets over Gaza that warn civilians to avoid being present in the vicinity of Hamas operatives", and that "the IDF sent a voicemail with the same message to civilians in Gaza."

On that page of 16 July 2014, the IDF said: "'Roof knocking' is when the IAF targets a building with a loud but non-lethal bomb that warns civilians that they are in the vicinity of a weapons cache or other target." It said that the method "is used to allow all residents to leave the area before the IDF targets the site with live ammunition." The page carries the IDF's own note: "This article is outdated."

Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 8 December 2023 that "in order to provide effective advance warning and mitigate civilian harm, the IDF has also encouraged civilians to temporarily evacuate from areas of intensive hostilities and from individual targets."

On 8 December 2023, Israel's Foreign Ministry said that the IDF had, "to date", sent more than 15 million text messages and airdropped more than 4.5 million leaflets. On 8 December 2023, the ministry said that the IDF had conducted more than 12 million phone calls and more than 45,000 individual phone calls "urging people to temporarily leave areas of hostilities and individual targets." The

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ministry said that the IDF also published messages on social media, radio and television in Gaza, and communicated with international organisations on the ground there.

The Foreign Ministry said on 8 December 2023 that IDF messages "often include detailed information as to when to evacuate (including from specific areas and individual targets), the safe routes to be used, and where aid may be obtained."

On 6 May 2024, the IDF said that its calls to residents of eastern Rafah to move temporarily to the humanitarian area "are conveyed through flyers, SMS messages, phone calls and media broadcasts in Arabic."

On 10 September 2025, the IDF said that its Southern Command's Population Warning Department had begun, the day before, an effort "to warn the civilian population in Gaza City." The IDF said that it was "employing a variety of operational tools including the distribution of voice messages, dropping of leaflets, sending text messages, and conducting phone calls, all with the goal of reaching as many civilians as possible."

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
more than 15 million	Israel's Foreign Ministry	8 December 2023	text messages sent by the IDF, to date
more than 12 million	Israel's Foreign Ministry	8 December 2023	phone calls conducted by the IDF, to date
more than 4.5 million	Israel's Foreign Ministry	8 December 2023	leaflets airdropped by the IDF, to date
more than 45,000	Israel's Foreign Ministry	8 December 2023	individual phone calls urging people to leave areas of hostilities and individual targets, to date

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
more than 550,000	IDF	21 September 2025	civilians who have left Gaza City and moved southward, so far

How does Israel's military use evacuation maps and orders in Gaza?

Gaza City is in the north of the Gaza Strip.

On 13 October 2023, the IDF published the announcement it said it had sent to civilians of Gaza City: "The IDF calls for the evacuation of all civilians of Gaza City from their homes southwards for their own safety and protection and move to the area south of the Wadi Gaza, as shown on the map."

The IDF's announcement of 13 October 2023 said: "You will be able to return to Gaza City only when another announcement permitting it is made. Do not approach the area of the security fence with the State of Israel." It also said: "In the following days, the IDF will continue to operate significantly in Gaza City and make extensive efforts to avoid harming civilians."

Al-Mawasi is an area west of Khan Younis, in the south of the Gaza Strip.

On 18 October 2023, the IDF said that it "continues to call on the residents of the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City to evacuate towards the area of Al-Mawasi, south of Wadi Gaza," and it attached "a map of the humanitarian area."

On 4 November 2023, the IDF said that its Arabic-language spokesperson had announced that day that the Salah al-Din route would be available "as a humanitarian route for residents of the northern Gaza Strip who had not yet moved southwards to evacuate for their own safety."

Israel's military published an evacuation zone map of the Gaza Strip on 1 December 2023. The map divides the Gaza Strip into numbered areas.

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The IDF said on 1 December 2023 that the map was published "to enable the residents of Gaza to orient themselves and understand the instructions, and to evacuate from specific places for their safety if required."

The IDF said on 1 December 2023 that "the map was published on a special page on the IDF website in Arabic and in a special video released by the IDF Spokesperson in Arabic on social networks." It said that the map was also published in announcements the IDF distributed in the Gaza Strip.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 8 December 2023 that the map had been shared with the public in Gaza and with international organisations "in order to create a 'common language' directly with the civilian population." The ministry said: "Using this numbered system, the IDF provides information to Gazans where to evacuate, on what routes and where shelters may be accessed, in advance of intensified operations."

The Foreign Ministry said on 8 December 2023 that a "Civilian Harm Mitigation Unit", "consisting of senior IDF commanders, intelligence officers, Arabic speaking soldiers, legal advisors and other professionals", maintains the system. It said that, because "communications in Gaza is intermittent", the IDF distributed the map "via multiple channels, including radio and TV broadcasts in Gaza, airdropped leaflets, via international organizations in Gaza as well as via social media and text messages."

Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 8 December 2023 of Hamas: "It has openly called on the civilian population to ignore IDF warnings and recommendations to temporarily evacuate, it has set up roadblocks to stop people from leaving dangerous areas, threatened individuals not to leave, and, according to some reports, shot civilians trying to leave so as to deter others."

On 6 October 2024, the IDF said that it had expanded the humanitarian area in al-Mawasi and reopened two evacuation routes from northern Gaza, along the Salah al-Din Road and the al-Rashid coastal road. The IDF said that it had published maps "highlighting potential evacuation areas in northern Gaza, including 'block zones' that correspond to neighborhoods and regions."

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According to the IDF's translation, published on 10 September 2025, its leaflet for Gaza City said: "To all residents and people present in Gaza City and all its neighborhoods, from the Old City and Tuffah in the east to the sea in the west, the IDF is determined to defeat Hamas and will operate in the Gaza City area with great force, as it has operated throughout the Gaza Strip." The leaflet went on, in the IDF's translation: "For your safety, evacuate immediately via the Al-Rashid corridor to the humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi. Remaining in the area is very dangerous."

The IDF Spokesperson, Brigadier General Effie Defrin, said on 16 September 2025: "We continue to urge civilians to distance themselves away from the combat zones in Gaza City so they can reach safer areas." He said that while Israel works to open corridors for civilians to move south, "Hamas is actively trying to block them".

On 21 September 2025, the IDF said that more than 550,000 civilians had left Gaza City and moved southward "so far". The IDF said that its warning effort "in recent weeks" had used "voice messages, leaflet drops, text messages, and phone calls."

On 21 September 2025, the IDF said: "As part of the Hamas terrorist organization's modus operandi, the IDF identified attempts to prevent civilians from moving south, which is in violation of international law, while exploiting the civilian population as human shields for terrorist activity."

Are warnings given before strikes in Gaza during the ceasefire?

On 9 June 2026, Israel's military said that before strikes on three weapons storage facilities in the southern Gaza Strip, "and following advance warnings issued to the local population, the IDF identified several Hamas military wing operatives attempting to remove the weapons stored inside the facilities using vehicles." The IDF said that "steps were taken to mitigate harm to civilians,

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including the issuing of advance warnings to the population, the use of precise munitions, and aerial surveillance."

On 1 August 2026, the IDF said of strikes on Hamas weapons storage facilities that "steps were taken to mitigate harm to civilians, including the issuing of advance warnings, the use of precise munitions, and aerial surveillance."

The IDF said on 24 August 2026, of strikes in the Shati and Deir al-Balah areas: "Prior to the strikes, advance warnings were issued to the population in order to mitigate harm to civilians." On 9 September 2026, of strikes the day before, it said: "Prior to the strikes, advance warnings were issued to the population in order to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians."

On 10 September 2026, the IDF said of strikes the day before that "steps were taken to mitigate harm to civilians, including the issuing of advance warnings, the use of precise munitions, and aerial surveillance."

The IDF said on 9 October 2026: "Prior to the strikes, advance warnings were issued to the population to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians, and precise munitions and aerial surveillance were used." On 20 October 2026, it said: "Prior to the strikes, advance warnings were issued to the population, in addition to the use of precision munitions and aerial surveillance to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians."

On 30 October 2026, of strikes in the Bureij and Gaza City areas, the IDF said that "advance warnings were issued to the population, in addition to the use of precision munitions and aerial surveillance to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians."

On 12 November 2026, of a strike at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, the IDF said: "Prior to the strike, advance warnings were issued to the population. In addition, precision munitions and aerial surveillance were employed in order to reduce the risk of harm to civilians."

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The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025.

What have UN bodies said about evacuation orders in Gaza?

In a note dated 12 October 2023, the Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, said that UN team leaders in Gaza "were informed by their liaison officers in the Israeli military that the entire population of Gaza north of Wadi Gaza should relocate to southern Gaza within the next 24 hours." On 12 October 2023, the Spokesman said that this amounted to approximately 1.1 million people. He said: "The United Nations considers it impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences."

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, said on 13 October 2023 that the UN's response to "Israel's early warning to the residents of Gaza" was "a disgrace". He said that Israel "tries to minimize harm to those not involved".

On 13 October 2023, UN OCHA said that the Israeli military had ordered about 1.1 million people in the northern part of the Gaza Strip "to evacuate southwards within 24 hours, ahead of military operations."

UN OCHA said on 1 December 2023 that the Israeli military had published online "a detailed map, where the Gaza Strip is divided into hundreds of small areas." OCHA said: "The publication does not specify where people should evacuate to. It is unclear how those residing in Gaza would access the map without electricity and amid recurrent telecommunications cuts."

On 2 December 2023, UN OCHA said that areas covering about 25% of the Gaza Strip had been designated for evacuation that day. OCHA said: "Civilians choosing to stay in areas designated for evacuation do not lose their protection."

On 26 August 2024, UN OCHA said that, as of 25 August, up to 88.5% of the Gaza Strip had been placed under evacuation orders since 7 October 2023. On 26

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August 2024, OCHA said that "the Israeli military issued a total of 16 evacuation orders in August."

On 8 October 2024, UN OCHA said that between 5 and 7 October the Israeli military had issued four new evacuation orders, for areas in Deir al-Balah, Gaza and North Gaza governorates and Khan Younis. OCHA said: "Residents were ordered to relocate immediately to Al Mawasi area west of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza."

On 9 July 2025, UN OCHA said that since 18 March 2025 the Israeli military had issued 54 displacement orders, placing about 297 square kilometres under displacement orders. OCHA said on 9 July 2025 that this area was 81% of the Gaza Strip.

On 23 July 2025, UN OCHA said that since 18 March the Israeli military had issued displacement orders for 303.2 square kilometres. OCHA said on 23 July 2025 that this was 83% of the Gaza Strip.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
approximately 1.1 million	Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General	12 October 2023	people north of Wadi Gaza told to relocate to southern Gaza
about 1.1 million	UN OCHA	13 October 2023	people in the northern Gaza Strip ordered to evacuate southwards
about 25%	UN OCHA	2 December 2023	of the Gaza Strip designated for evacuation on 2 December
up to 88.5%	UN OCHA	26 August 2024	of the Gaza Strip placed under evacuation orders since 7 October 2023, as of 25 August
16	UN OCHA	26 August 2024	evacuation orders issued by the Israeli military in August
54	UN OCHA	9 July 2025	displacement orders issued by the Israeli military since 18 March

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
81%	UN OCHA	9 July 2025	of the Gaza Strip under displacement orders since 18 March
83%	UN OCHA	23 July 2025	of the Gaza Strip under displacement orders since 18 March

What have the ICRC, HRW and Amnesty said about Gaza warnings?

On 13 October 2023, Amnesty International said that the Israeli army's order to people in northern Gaza and Gaza City to "evacuate" south "cannot be considered an effective warning and may amount to forced displacement of the civilian population, a violation of international humanitarian law." Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said on 13 October 2023: "This order must be rescinded immediately."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on 13 October 2023: "The instructions issued by the Israeli authorities for the population of Gaza City to immediately leave their homes, coupled with the complete siege explicitly denying them food, water and electricity, are not compatible with international humanitarian law." The ICRC said: "Today, it is impossible for Gazans to know which areas will next face attack."

Human Rights Watch said on 16 October 2023: "First, parties to a conflict should issue effective warnings to civilians, where such warnings can help them avoid harm." It said: "But alerting civilians to flee, when there's no safe place to go and no way to get there safely, neither suffices nor actually protects them."

On 25 October 2023, Amnesty International said that on 21 October 2023 the Israeli army had dropped leaflets on northern Gaza "ordering residents' immediate 'evacuation'." Amnesty said: "The messages in these leaflets cannot

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be considered an effective warning to civilians and instead provide further evidence that Israel aims to forcibly displace civilians in northern Gaza."

On 15 October 2024, Amnesty International said that "evacuation" orders had been issued by the Israeli military to cities and camps across the North Gaza governorate on 7, 10 and 12 October 2024. Heba Morayef, Amnesty's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said: "These orders must be rescinded and there must be an immediate ceasefire by all parties to halt the avalanche of suffering that has been engulfing civilians in Gaza for over a year."

Human Rights Watch released its report "Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged": Israel's Forced Displacement of Palestinians in Gaza on 14 November 2024.

Human Rights Watch said on 14 November 2024: "Evacuation orders have been inconsistent, inaccurate, and frequently not communicated to civilians with enough time to allow evacuations, or at all." It said: "The orders did not consider the needs of people with disabilities and others who are unable to leave without assistance."

On 14 November 2024, replying to Human Rights Watch's report of that day, Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Oren Marmorstein, said: "Time and again, Human Rights Watch's rhetoric regarding Israel's conduct in Gaza is completely false and detached from reality." He said: "Israel will continue to operate in accordance with the law of armed conflict."

On 30 August 2025, the ICRC's President, Mirjana Spoljaric, said: "It is impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City could ever be done in a way that is safe and dignified under the current conditions." She said: "This makes any evacuation not only unfeasible but incomprehensible under the present circumstances."

On 10 September 2025, Heba Morayef of Amnesty International said that the Israeli military's order of 9 September 2025 for Gaza City was "a devastating and inhuman repeat of the mass displacement order issued for all of North Gaza on 13 October 2023." Amnesty said: "Some had already been trying to flee southwards since Israel began striking high-rise buildings last Friday but were

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unable to do so because they cannot afford transportation costs or because the small area designated by Israel for evacuation is not fit for human habitation."

Frequently asked questions

What is "roof knocking", according to Israel's military?

On a page dated 16 July 2014, Israel's military said: "'Roof knocking' is when the IAF targets a building with a loud but non-lethal bomb that warns civilians that they are in the vicinity of a weapons cache or other target." The page carries the IDF's note: "This article is outdated."

How many leaflets has Israel's military dropped over Gaza?

On 8 December 2023, Israel's Foreign Ministry said that the IDF had airdropped more than 4.5 million leaflets over Gaza "to date". On 8 December 2023, the ministry said that the IDF had sent more than 15 million text messages.

What is the IDF's evacuation zone map of Gaza?

Israel's military published an evacuation zone map of the Gaza Strip on 1 December 2023. The map divides the Gaza Strip into numbered areas.

The IDF said on 1 December 2023 that the map was published "to enable the residents of Gaza to orient themselves and understand the instructions, and to evacuate from specific places for their safety if required."

Where is al-Mawasi in Gaza?

Al-Mawasi is an area west of Khan Younis, in the south of the Gaza Strip.

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On 18 October 2023, the IDF said that it was calling on residents of the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City to evacuate towards al-Mawasi, and it attached "a map of the humanitarian area."

How much of Gaza has been under evacuation orders, according to the UN?

On 26 August 2024, UN OCHA said that, as of 25 August, up to 88.5% of the Gaza Strip had been placed under evacuation orders since 7 October 2023. On 23 July 2025, UN OCHA said that 83% of the Gaza Strip had been placed under displacement orders since 18 March 2025.

What is the IDF's Population Warning Department?

On 10 September 2025, the IDF said that the Population Warning Department of its Southern Command had begun, the day before, an effort "to warn the civilian population in Gaza City." The IDF said that the effort used "voice messages, dropping of leaflets, sending text messages, and conducting phone calls".

What did the IDF tell residents of Gaza City in September 2025?

According to the IDF's translation, published on 10 September 2025, its leaflet for Gaza City said: "For your safety, evacuate immediately via the Al-Rashid corridor to the humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi. Remaining in the area is very dangerous." On 21 September 2025, the IDF said that more than 550,000 civilians had left Gaza City and moved southward "so far".

What did the ICRC say about evacuating Gaza City in 2025?

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On 30 August 2025, the ICRC's President, Mirjana Spoljaric, said: "It is impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City could ever be done in a way that is safe and dignified under the current conditions." She said: "This makes any evacuation not only unfeasible but incomprehensible under the present circumstances."

How did Israel respond to the UN on the October 2023 order?

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, said on 13 October 2023 that the UN's response to "Israel's early warning to the residents of Gaza" was "a disgrace". On 12 October 2023, the Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General had said: "The United Nations considers it impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences."

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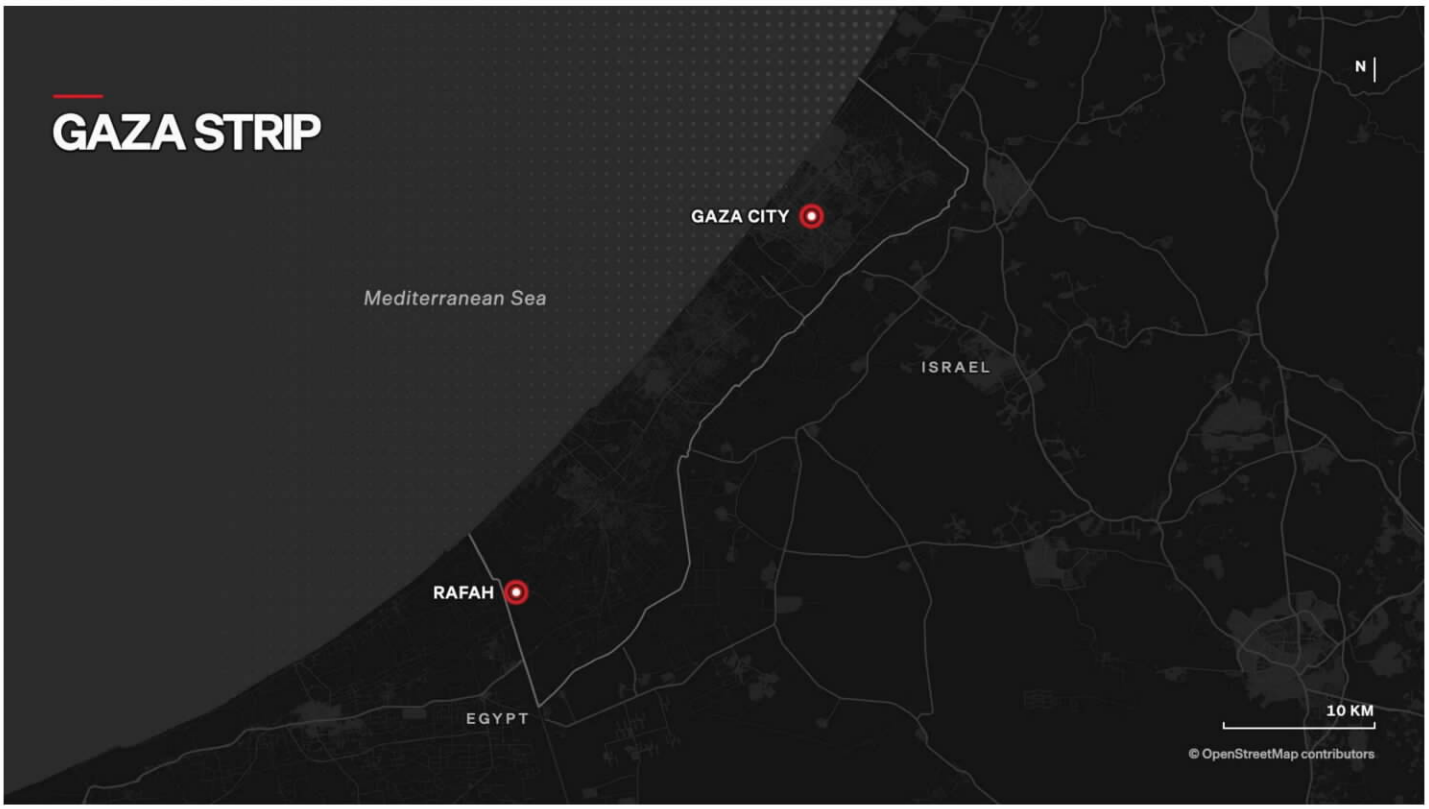
Courts and Law

HOW MANY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS HAS ISRAEL'S MILITARY OPENED OVER GAZA?

What Israel's Military Advocate General's Corps and the UN Human Rights Office have said about criminal investigations and indictments over Gaza.

FIGURES 16 November 2026

IDF | Military Advocate General | UN Human Rights Office | Sde Teiman



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The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that since the beginning of the current conflict the Military Advocate General had ordered the launching of 74 criminal investigations regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal misconduct. Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 11 March 2026 that since the beginning of the war dozens of criminal investigations had been opened into incidents in the Gaza Strip, most of which remained ongoing. The UN Human Rights Office said in its report of 13 February 2025 that the Military Advocate General had given a figure of 74 criminal investigations launched in the context of Gaza between October 2023 and 3 August 2024.

How does Israel's Military Advocate General open criminal investigations?

The IDF's military justice system is headed by the Military Advocate General. Criminal investigations are conducted by a department of the IDF Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, and the unit's work is directed by the Military Advocate General.

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 11 March 2026 that the Military Advocate General's Corps examines every report and complaint, and that a criminal investigation is opened when reasonable suspicion of a criminal offense arises, such as abuse of a detainee or looting.

During the 2014 Gaza conflict, following the recommendation of the Turkel Commission, the IDF Chief of the General Staff ordered the establishment of a mechanism to examine exceptional incidents. The mechanism is headed by a senior officer at the rank of Major General. The findings and collected materials are submitted to the Military Advocate General's Corps for a decision on whether the opening of a criminal investigation is justified.

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023. Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground

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invasion.

Major General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, the former Military Advocate General, resigned on 31 October 2025. Major General Itay Offir assumed office as Military Advocate General in November 2025.

How many criminal investigations over Gaza has Israel's Military Advocate General reported?

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, said on 27 May 2024: "At this point, I can say that so far approximately seventy MPCID investigations have been launched regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal offenses." According to the Military Advocate General on 27 May 2024, the investigations also covered the allegations regarding the detention conditions at the Sde Teiman detention facility and "the deaths of detainees in IDF custody."

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that since the beginning of the current conflict the Military Advocate General had ordered the launching of 74 criminal investigations regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal misconduct. The Corps said on 3 August 2024 that those included 44 criminal investigations concerning the death of detainees held by the IDF, and that under the IDF's "long-standing policy, a criminal investigation is launched immediately regarding detainees' death".

According to the Corps on 3 August 2024, 13 criminal investigations concerned "alleged pillaging or stealing of enemy ammunition found in Gaza". The Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that 8 criminal investigations concerned "alleged detainee mistreatment". It said on 3 August 2024 that 6 criminal investigations concerned "alleged illegal use of force" and that 3 criminal investigations concerned "alleged destruction of civilian property without military necessity".

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The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that more than a thousand incidents had been referred to the General Staff's assessment mechanism.

Israel's military said in a statement The Guardian published on 2 August 2025 that "dozens of military police investigations have been opened" and that "most of these investigations are still ongoing".

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 11 March 2026 that since the beginning of the war dozens of criminal investigations had been opened into incidents in the Gaza Strip, most of which remained ongoing. More than 1,000 incidents requiring examination had initially been identified by the General Staff's assessment mechanism, according to the Military Advocate General on 11 March 2026.

Israel's military said on 19 August 2026 that since the beginning of the war the General Staff's assessment mechanism had completed the review of approximately 150 incidents and transferred them to the Military Prosecution for examination. The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 19 August 2026 that the Military Prosecution had recently made decisions in 5 incidents.

The Corps said on 19 August 2026 that, "due to alleged failures in the coordination of the movement of the Palestine Red Crescent ambulance", it had been decided to initiate a criminal investigation into fire toward a vehicle and toward an ambulance in Gaza City in January 2024 resulting in the deaths of 9 persons. It had also been decided to initiate a criminal investigation into the deaths of 15 Palestinians, including medical personnel and a UN employee, in Tel al-Sultan in March 2025, according to the Corps. The Corps said that the firing during that incident "raises a reasonable suspicion of criminal misconduct".

How many indictments has Israel's military filed over conduct in Gaza?

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Israel's military said on 30 July 2024 that the Military Prosecutor had that day filed an indictment against a reservist "for several offenses of abuse under aggravated circumstances and inappropriate behavior." The IDF said that in several incidents between February and June 2024 "the defendant used severe violence against the detainees he was entrusted with guarding."

Sde Teiman is a military detention facility in southern Israel. Israel's military said on 19 February 2025 that the military prosecutor had filed indictments against 5 reservists over the abuse of a Palestinian prisoner at Sde Teiman.

Israel's military said on 12 March 2026 that the indictments in the Sde Teiman case were being withdrawn in part because of "exceptional circumstances that negatively affected the ability to prosecute the case while also preserving the right for a fair trial of the defendants in the case."

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 1 April 2026 that in February 2025 an indictment had been filed with the military court against 5 reserve soldiers who served in an intervention force at the Sde Teiman detention facility. According to the Corps, the Military Advocate General decided "to order the withdrawal of the indictment filed regarding the five defendants in the case." The Corps said that the Military Advocate General concluded that "the accumulation of several considerations justifies the withdrawal of the case: impairment of the evidentiary foundation, considerations under the doctrine of abuse of process, and procedural difficulties in the continued management of the case."

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 11 March 2026 that indictments had been filed in several cases before military courts.

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 3 November 2026 that the Military Advocate General's Corps had filed "a fair number of indictments" against IDF soldiers relating to their conduct in Gaza. According to the Military Advocate General, several additional likely indictments against IDF soldiers were at the pre-indictment hearing stage.

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What has the UN Human Rights Office said about Israel's Gaza investigations?

The UN Human Rights Office published a thematic report on detention in the context of hostilities in Gaza on 31 July 2024. The Office said in its report of 31 July 2024: "The Military Advocate reportedly stated on 26 May that the Military Police was investigating the deaths of 35 detainees from Gaza, and that military police investigations were opened into all of the incidents, but that no soldiers had been arrested in any of the cases."

The report of the High Commissioner dated 13 February 2025 covers the period from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024. The UN Human Rights Office said in its report of 13 February 2025 that the Military Advocate General had given a figure of 74 criminal investigations launched in the context of Gaza between October 2023 and 3 August 2024. The Office said on 13 February 2025 that over 1,000 incidents had been referred to the General Staff's assessment mechanism.

According to the Office on 13 February 2025, "the Israel Defense Forces announced the issuance of only one indictment during the reporting period, for several offences of abusing detainees."

The report of the High Commissioner dated 16 March 2026 covers the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. The UN Human Rights Office said in its report of 16 March 2026: "OHCHR was not aware of any steps taken through the Israeli justice system during the reporting period to ensure due accountability for violations of international humanitarian law, including alleged war crimes, perpetrated during the current conduct of hostilities in Gaza". The Office said on 16 March 2026 that "there was only one conviction during the reporting period", of an Israeli army reservist sentenced to 7 months in prison for abusing Palestinian security detainees in Sde Teiman detention facility.

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What figures have been given for Israel's criminal investigations over Gaza?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that since the beginning of the current conflict the Military Advocate General had ordered the launching of 74 criminal investigations. Israel's military said on 19 August 2026 that since the beginning of the war the General Staff's assessment mechanism had completed the review of approximately 150 incidents and transferred them to the Military Prosecution for examination.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
approximately 150	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	19 August 2026	incidents whose review the General Staff's assessment mechanism completed since the beginning of the war, transferred to the Military Prosecution
5	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	19 August 2026	incidents in which the Military Prosecution recently made decisions
5	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	1 April 2026	reserve soldiers against whom an indictment was filed with the military court in February 2025, later withdrawn
more than 1,000	Military Advocate General	11 March 2026	incidents requiring examination initially identified by the General Staff's assessment mechanism
5	IDF	19 February 2025	reservists against whom the military prosecutor filed indictments
74	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations whose launching the Military Advocate General ordered since the beginning of the current conflict
44	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations concerning the death of detainees held by the IDF

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
13	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations concerning "alleged pillaging or stealing of enemy ammunition found in Gaza"
8	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations concerning "alleged detainee mistreatment"
6	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations concerning "alleged illegal use of force"
3	IDF Military Advocate General's Corps	3 August 2024	criminal investigations concerning "alleged destruction of civilian property without military necessity"
approximately 70	Military Advocate General	27 May 2024	MPCID investigations launched regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal offenses
1	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	conviction during the reporting period, of an Israeli army reservist
74	UN Human Rights Office	13 February 2025	criminal investigations launched in the context of Gaza, October 2023 to 3 August 2024, as the Military Advocate General gave them
over 1,000	UN Human Rights Office	13 February 2025	incidents referred to the General Staff's assessment mechanism
1	UN Human Rights Office	13 February 2025	indictment the Israel Defense Forces announced during the reporting period, for several offences of abusing detainees
35	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	deaths of detainees from Gaza the Military Police was investigating, as the Military Advocate "reportedly stated on 26 May"

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Frequently asked questions

How many criminal investigations has the IDF opened over the Gaza war?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that since the beginning of the current conflict the Military Advocate General had ordered the launching of 74 criminal investigations regarding incidents that raised suspicion of criminal misconduct. Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 11 March 2026 that since the beginning of the war dozens of criminal investigations had been opened into incidents in the Gaza Strip.

How many IDF criminal investigations concern the deaths of detainees?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that 44 criminal investigations concerned the death of detainees held by the IDF. Under the IDF's "long-standing policy, a criminal investigation is launched immediately regarding detainees' death", according to the Corps.

How many Gaza incidents has Israel's military sent for assessment?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 3 August 2024 that more than a thousand incidents had been referred to the General Staff's assessment mechanism. Israel's military said on 19 August 2026 that since the beginning of the war the mechanism had completed the review of approximately 150 incidents and transferred them to the Military Prosecution for examination.

Which Gaza incidents did Israel's military send for criminal investigation in August 2026?

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Israel's military said on 19 August 2026 that it had been decided to initiate a criminal investigation into fire toward a vehicle and toward an ambulance in Gaza City in January 2024 resulting in the deaths of 9 persons. The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 19 August 2026 that it had also been decided to initiate a criminal investigation into the deaths of 15 Palestinians, including medical personnel and a UN employee, in Tel al-Sultan in March 2025.

Have any Israeli soldiers been indicted over their conduct in Gaza?

Israel's Military Advocate General, Major General Itay Offir, said on 3 November 2026 that the Military Advocate General's Corps had filed "a fair number of indictments" against IDF soldiers relating to their conduct in Gaza. Israel's military said on 30 July 2024 that the Military Prosecutor had filed an indictment against a reservist "for several offenses of abuse under aggravated circumstances and inappropriate behavior."

What happened to the Sde Teiman indictment?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on 1 April 2026 that in February 2025 an indictment had been filed with the military court against 5 reserve soldiers who served at the Sde Teiman detention facility. According to the Corps, the Military Advocate General decided "to order the withdrawal of the indictment filed regarding the five defendants in the case."

What has the UN said about Israel's criminal investigations in Gaza?

The UN Human Rights Office said in its report of 13 February 2025 that the Military Advocate General had given a figure of 74 criminal investigations launched in the context of Gaza between October 2023 and 3 August 2024.

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According to the Office on 13 February 2025, "the Israel Defense Forces announced the issuance of only one indictment during the reporting period, for several offences of abusing detainees."

Who is Israel's Military Advocate General?

Major General Itay Offir assumed office as Military Advocate General in November 2025. Major General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, the former Military Advocate General, resigned on 31 October 2025.

Who carries out the Israeli military's criminal investigations?

The IDF's military justice system is headed by the Military Advocate General. Criminal investigations are conducted by a department of the IDF Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, and the unit's work is directed by the Military Advocate General.

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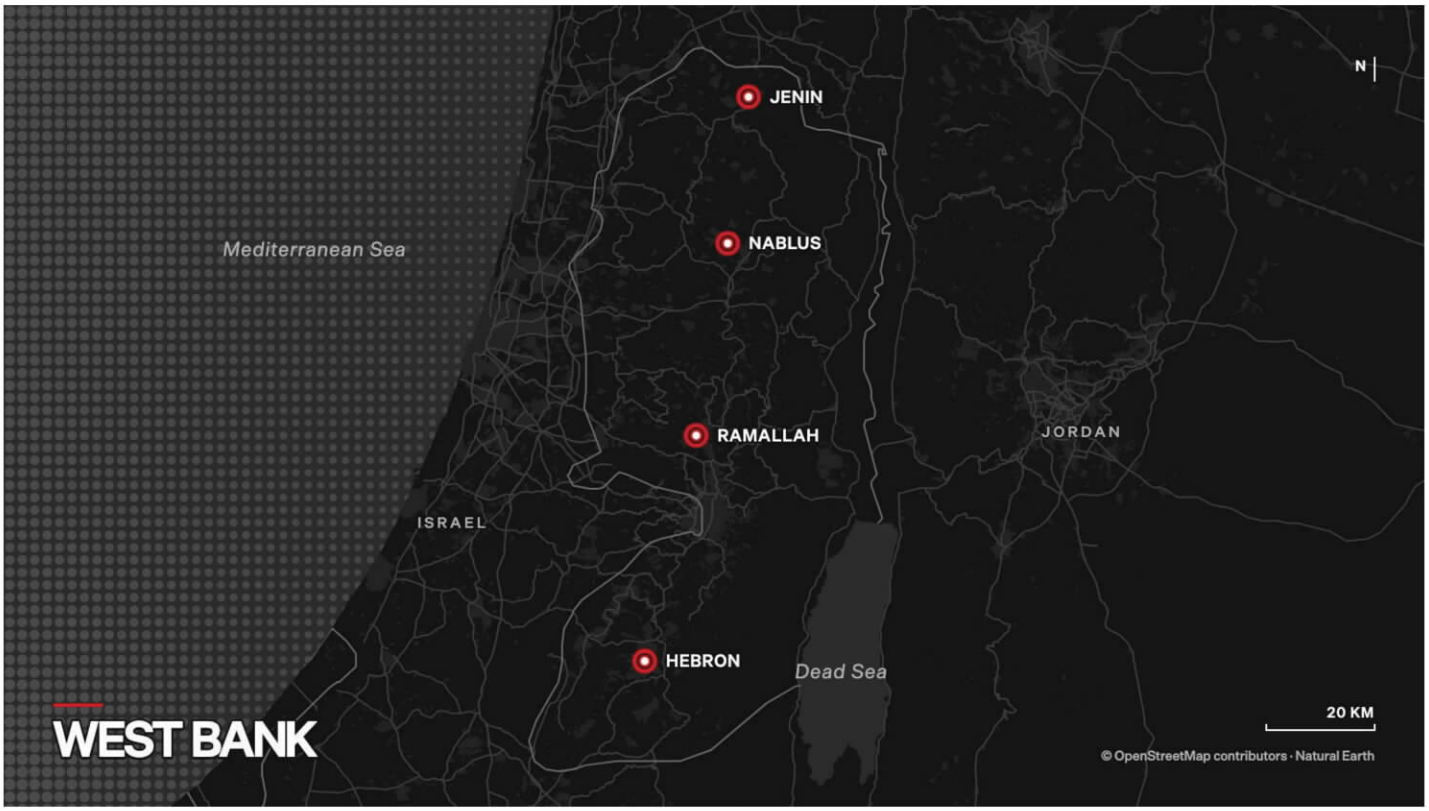
West Bank

HOW MANY PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE WEST BANK SINCE OCTOBER 2023?

The figures the IDF, PCBS, the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the UN Human Rights Office and UN OCHA have given for the West Bank since October 2023.

FIGURES 16 November 2026

West Bank | IDF | UN OCHA | UN Human Rights Office | Palestinian Ministry of Health | Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics



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On 6 October 2024, the IDF said, under the heading "The Central Arena": "Approximately 690 terrorists eliminated". On 26 October 2026, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Women's Affairs said in a joint statement that "aggression in the West Bank" had "led to the martyrdom of 1,216 Palestinians since October 7th, 2023". In figures WHO published on 30 June 2026, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that its cumulative figures since October 2023 indicated 1,182 deaths in the West Bank. On 14 November 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that at least 1,017 Palestinians had been killed in the West Bank from 7 October 2023 up until 13 November 2025. On 3 July 2026, UN OCHA said that 1,109 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since 7 October 2023.

What figures has the IDF given for its Central Arena?

On 6 April 2024, the IDF said in its six-month update, under the heading "The Central Arena": "Approximately 420 terrorists eliminated". The IDF gave the figure on its page "Eliminations and Interrogations of Terrorists", beside separate figures for Gaza and the Northern Arena.

On 6 October 2024, the IDF said in its figures marking one year, under the heading "The Central Arena": "Approximately 690 terrorists eliminated". Israel's military gave the figure on a page of the same title, beside separate figures for Gaza and the Northern Arena.

What does the Palestinian statistics bureau, PCBS, count in the West Bank?

On 20 June 2025, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) said in a statement for World Refugee Day that in the West Bank "at least 991 people have been martyrs since the beginning of the aggression on October 7, 2023."

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On 20 October 2025, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics said in a release for World Statistics Day that in the West Bank "1,054 Palestinians were martyred" as a result of attacks by Israeli forces and settlers.

On 21 September 2026, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics said on its statistics page that 1,209 was its West Bank total, under the label "Total Martyrs in West Bank", and 210, under the label "Kids Martyrs in West Bank". The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics said on the same page that its source was the Ministry of Health.

On 26 October 2026, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Women's Affairs said in a joint statement for Palestinian Women's Day that "the Israeli occupation continued its aggression in the West Bank, which has led to the martyrdom of 1,216 Palestinians since October 7th, 2023, including 28 women, as a result of attacks by the Israeli forces and settlers." The joint statement of 26 October 2026 gave its indicators "up to October 12th, 2026".

What does the Palestinian Ministry of Health count in the West Bank?

On 16 October 2023, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that 58 people had been killed in the West Bank since 7 October. On 31 October 2023, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said in its daily report that the number of dead in the West Bank had reached 125.

On 5 December 2023, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said, through its minister, Mai Alkaila, that "the number of martyrs in the West Bank since October 7 until the preparation of this report reached 260 martyrs".

On 14 April 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that 464 Palestinian civilians had been killed in the West Bank since 7 October 2023. On 20 October 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, had risen to 759 since 7 October

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2023. The Palestinian Ministry of Health said on 20 October 2024 that 165 children and 18 women were among those killed.

In figures WHO published on 7 May 2025, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that there had been 969 deaths across the West Bank between 7 October 2023 and 5 May 2025. In figures WHO published on 30 June 2026, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that its cumulative figures since October 2023 indicated 1,182 deaths in the West Bank.

On 8 September 2026, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since the beginning of 2026 had risen to 100.

What has the UN Human Rights Office said about West Bank deaths?

The UN Human Rights Office said in a flash report on the West Bank, created on 27 December 2023, that as of 27 December 2023, 300 Palestinians had been killed in the West Bank. The UN Human Rights Office said on 27 December 2023 that 291 of them had been killed by the Israeli Security Forces, 8 by settlers and 1 either by settlers or by the Israeli Security Forces.

On 17 October 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that 1,001 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli security forces and settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 7 October 2023. The UN Human Rights Office said on 17 October 2025 that this did not include Palestinians who died in Israeli detention during the same period.

The UN Human Rights Office said on 17 October 2025 that 968 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli security forces. According to the UN Human Rights Office on 17 October 2025, settler attacks had led to the killing of 33 Palestinians, 19 of whom were killed by settlers and 14 by settlers and the army “shooting side by side”.

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On 14 November 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that at least 1,017 Palestinians had been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from 7 October 2023 up until 13 November 2025, among them 221 children.

What does UN OCHA count in the West Bank since October 2023?

On 29 December 2023, UN OCHA said that 307 Palestinians, including 79 children, had been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 7 October. UN OCHA said on 29 December 2023 that 298 of those were killed by Israeli forces, 8 by Israeli settlers and 1 either by forces or settlers.

On 12 June 2024, UN OCHA said that 521 Palestinians, including 126 children, had been killed in the West Bank between 7 October 2023 and 10 June 2024.

On 10 October 2024, UN OCHA said that 719 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2024, in addition to two who died of wounds sustained prior to 7 October.

On 9 October 2025, UN OCHA said that 999 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank between 7 October 2023 and 6 October 2025, including two who died of wounds sustained prior to 7 October. UN OCHA said on 9 October 2025 that 967 were killed by Israeli forces, 20 by Israeli settlers, and 12 where it remains unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli forces or settlers. On 4 December 2025, UN OCHA said that the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank in 2025 by Israeli forces or settlers had reached 227.

On 3 July 2026, UN OCHA said that 1,109 Palestinians, including 243 children, had been killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since 7 October 2023. UN OCHA said on 3 July 2026 that the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank in 2026 had reached 63, including 15 children.

In its West Bank snapshot of 27 October 2026, UN OCHA said that there had been 331 Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank, including 77 children, from 1 January

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2025 to 30 September 2026. In the snapshot of 27 October 2026, UN OCHA said that 292 of those fatalities were "by Israeli forces", 24 "by Israeli settlers" and 15 "by Israeli forces or settlers", and that there had been 9 Palestinian fatalities in September 2026.

What West Bank casualty figures have been given since October 2023?

The IDF, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the UN Human Rights Office and UN OCHA have each published figures since October 2023, each for the period it stated. The table gives each figure with its publisher, its date and its own words.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
690	IDF	6 October 2024	"terrorists eliminated", "Approximately", under "The Central Arena"	not stated
420	IDF	6 April 2024	"terrorists eliminated", "Approximately", under "The Central Arena"	not stated
1,216	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Women's Affairs	26 October 2026	"the martyrdom of 1,216 Palestinians", "as a result of attacks by the Israeli forces and settlers"	since 7 October 2023
1,209	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	21 September 2026	"Total Martyrs in West Bank"	"since Oct.7th 2023"
1,054	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	20 October 2025	"Palestinians were martyred", in the West Bank	not stated

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
991	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	20 June 2025	"at least 991 people have been martyrs", in the West Bank	"since the beginning of the aggression on October 7, 2023"
100	Palestinian Ministry of Health	8 September 2026	"has risen to 100": Palestinians killed in the West Bank	since the beginning of 2026
1,182	Palestinian Ministry of Health	30 June 2026	deaths, "cumulative MoH figures", in figures WHO published	since October 2023
969	Palestinian Ministry of Health	7 May 2025	deaths across the West Bank, in figures WHO published	7 October 2023 to 5 May 2025
759	Palestinian Ministry of Health	20 October 2024	Palestinians killed in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, "has risen to 759"	since 7 October 2023
464	Palestinian Ministry of Health	14 April 2024	Palestinian civilians killed in the West Bank	since 7 October 2023
260	Palestinian Ministry of Health	5 December 2023	"the number of martyrs in the West Bank", "reached 260 martyrs"	since 7 October
125	Palestinian Ministry of Health	31 October 2023	"the number of dead reached 125", in the West Bank	since 7 October
58	Palestinian Ministry of Health	16 October 2023	people killed in the West Bank	since 7 October
1,017	UN Human Rights Office	14 November 2025	Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces and settlers, "at least"	7 October 2023 to 13 November 2025
1,001	UN Human Rights Office	17 October 2025	Palestinians killed in the West Bank	since 7 October 2023

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
300	UN Human Rights Office	27 December 2023	Palestinians killed in the West Bank	as of 27 December 2023
331	UN OCHA	27 October 2026	Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank	1 January 2025 to 30 September 2026
292	UN OCHA	27 October 2026	Palestinian fatalities “by Israeli forces”	1 January 2025 to 30 September 2026
24	UN OCHA	27 October 2026	Palestinian fatalities “by Israeli settlers”	1 January 2025 to 30 September 2026
15	UN OCHA	27 October 2026	Palestinian fatalities “by Israeli forces or settlers”	1 January 2025 to 30 September 2026
9	UN OCHA	27 October 2026	Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank	September 2026
1,109	UN OCHA	3 July 2026	Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank	since 7 October 2023
63	UN OCHA	3 July 2026	in the West Bank in 2026: Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers	2026
227	UN OCHA	4 December 2025	Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank in 2025	2025
999	UN OCHA	9 October 2025	Palestinians killed in the West Bank, “including two who died of wounds sustained prior to 7 October”	7 October 2023 to 6 October 2025

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
967	UN OCHA	9 October 2025	Palestinians killed by Israeli forces	7 October 2023 to 6 October 2025
20	UN OCHA	9 October 2025	killed by Israeli settlers	7 October 2023 to 6 October 2025
12	UN OCHA	9 October 2025	where it remains unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli forces or settlers	7 October 2023 to 6 October 2025
719	UN OCHA	10 October 2024	Palestinians killed in the West Bank, "in addition to two who died of wounds sustained prior to 7 October"	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2024
702	UN OCHA	10 October 2024	Palestinians killed by Israeli forces	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2024
12	UN OCHA	10 October 2024	killed by Israeli settlers	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2024
7	UN OCHA	10 October 2024	where it remains unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli forces or settlers	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2024
521	UN OCHA	12 June 2024	Palestinians killed in the West Bank	7 October 2023 to 10 June 2024
504	UN OCHA	12 June 2024	Palestinians killed by Israeli forces	7 October 2023 to 10 June 2024
10	UN OCHA	12 June 2024	killed by Israeli settlers	7 October 2023 to 10 June 2024
7	UN OCHA	12 June 2024	where it remains unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli soldiers or settlers	7 October 2023 to 10 June 2024
307	UN OCHA	29 December 2023	Palestinians killed in the West Bank	since 7 October

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
298	UN OCHA	29 December 2023	killed by Israeli forces	since 7 October
8	UN OCHA	29 December 2023	killed by Israeli settlers	since 7 October
1	UN OCHA	29 December 2023	killed either by forces or settlers	since 7 October

Frequently asked questions

How many Palestinians has UN OCHA said were killed in the West Bank since October 2023?

On 3 July 2026, UN OCHA said that 1,109 Palestinians, including 243 children, had been killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since 7 October 2023.

What figure has the UN Human Rights Office given for the West Bank?

On 14 November 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that at least 1,017 Palestinians, among them 221 children, had been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from 7 October 2023 up until 13 November 2025.

How many Palestinians were killed in the West Bank in 2026, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health?

On 8 September 2026, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said that the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank since the beginning of 2026 had risen to 100.

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How many women were among the West Bank deaths in the PCBS statement of October 2026?

On 26 October 2026, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Women's Affairs said in a joint statement that the 1,216 Palestinians they gave for the West Bank since October 2023 included "28 women".

What is the Oslo II agreement?

The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, also known as Oslo II, was signed at Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995 by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The agreement provides that the two sides view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, the integrity and status of which will be preserved during the interim period.

What are Areas A and B of the West Bank?

The Interim Agreement defines Area A as the populated areas delineated by a red line and shaded in brown on a map attached to the agreement. It defines Area B as the populated areas delineated by a red line and shaded in yellow on that map, and the built-up area of the hamlets listed in an appendix to its first annex.

What is Area C of the West Bank?

The Interim Agreement defines Area C as the areas of the West Bank outside Areas A and B, which, except for the issues to be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, would be gradually transferred to Palestinian jurisdiction in accordance with the agreement.

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Who has jurisdiction in Area C under the Interim Agreement?

The Interim Agreement provides that the territorial jurisdiction of the Palestinian Council encompasses West Bank territory except for Area C. It provides that Israel, through its military government, has the authority over areas that are not under the territorial jurisdiction of the Council.

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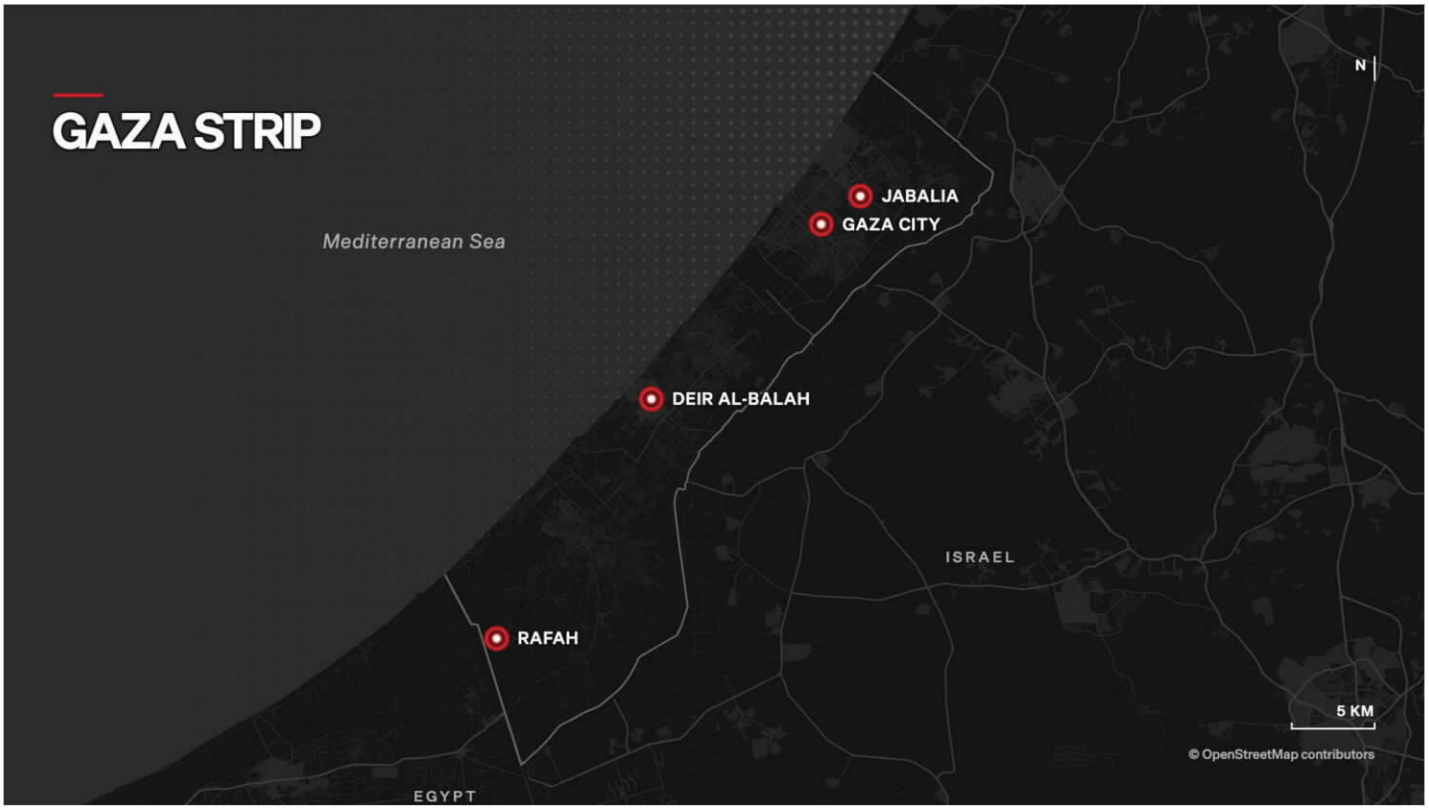
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Casualties

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INJURED IN GAZA SINCE THE CEASEFIRE?

What the Gaza Health Ministry, UN OCHA, UNICEF and the World Health Organization have said about injuries in Gaza since the October 2025 ceasefire.

FIGURES 16 November 2026 Gaza Health Ministry UN OCHA UNICEF Gaza ceasefire



In its statistical report of 16 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,975 injuries since the ceasefire of 11 October 2025. In figures UN

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OCHA published on 13 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,833 injuries since the October 2025 ceasefire agreement. UNICEF's spokesperson, James Elder, said on 19 June 2026 that "more than 400 children have been injured", in a briefing on children in Gaza since the ceasefire was announced in October 2025. The World Health Organization said on 12 May 2026 that nearly half of the injuries reported in Gaza since September 2025 occurred after the ceasefire was announced in October 2025.

How many injuries has the Gaza Health Ministry reported since the ceasefire?

In its statistical report of 16 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,975 injuries since the ceasefire of 11 October 2025. The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 4 November 2026 that there had been 5,794 injuries since the ceasefire of 11 October 2025. In its report of 11 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,281 injuries since the ceasefire.

The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 1 October 2026 that there had been 5,052 injuries since the ceasefire. In its report of 16 September 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 4,757 injuries since the ceasefire. The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 1 September 2026 that there had been 4,398 injuries since the ceasefire.

In its report of 24 August 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 4,290 injuries since the ceasefire. The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 2 July 2026 that there had been 3,429 injuries since the ceasefire. In its report of 1 June 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 2,859 injuries since the ceasefire.

The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 2 May 2026 that there had been 2,342 injuries since the ceasefire. In its report of 1 April 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 1,940 injuries since the ceasefire. The Gaza

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Health Ministry said in its report of 1 March 2026 that there had been 1,693 injuries since the ceasefire.

In its report of 1 February 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 1,443 injuries since the ceasefire. The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 1 January 2026 that there had been 1,153 injuries since the ceasefire. In its report of 1 December 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 909 injuries since the ceasefire.

The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 1 November 2025 that there had been 594 injuries since the ceasefire. In its report of 16 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 122 injuries since the ceasefire.

What injury figures has UN OCHA relayed from the Gaza Health Ministry?

In figures UN OCHA published on 13 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,833 injuries since the October 2025 ceasefire agreement. In figures UN OCHA published on 15 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,299 injuries since the ceasefire agreement. In figures UN OCHA published on 11 September 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 4,541 injuries since the announcement of the ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025.

In figures UN OCHA published on 14 August 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 4,148 injuries since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025. In figures UN OCHA published on 10 July 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 3,491 injuries since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025. In figures UN OCHA published on 12 June 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 3,104 injuries since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025.

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In figures UN OCHA published on 15 May 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 2,463 injuries since the announcement of the ceasefire on 10 October 2025. In figures UN OCHA published on 10 April 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 2,035 injuries since the announcement of the ceasefire in October 2025. In figures UN OCHA published on 12 February 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 1,591 Palestinians had been injured since the ceasefire agreement.

In figures UN OCHA published on 14 January 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 1,246 Palestinians had been injured since the ceasefire. In figures UN OCHA published on 18 December 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 1,075 Palestinians had been injured since the ceasefire.

In figures UN OCHA published on 12 November 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 627 Palestinians were injured since the ceasefire. In figures UN OCHA published on 30 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 597 Palestinians were injured since the ceasefire came into effect.

In 1998, as part of the UN Secretary-General's programme of reform, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs became the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Its mandate covers the coordination of humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy.

How many children has UNICEF said were injured since the ceasefire?

UNICEF's spokesperson, James Elder, said on 19 June 2026 that "more than 400 children have been injured, many with catastrophic wounds". He said it at a briefing in Geneva on children in Gaza since the ceasefire was announced in October 2025.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II.

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What has the World Health Organization said about injuries since the ceasefire?

The World Health Organization said on 12 May 2026 that 4,667 injuries had been reported in Gaza since its previous estimate of 24 September 2025. Nearly half of those injuries occurred after the ceasefire was announced in October 2025, according to the World Health Organization's release of 12 May 2026.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency for health, founded in 1948.

What figures have been given for injuries in Gaza since the ceasefire?

The Gaza Health Ministry, in its own reports and in figures UN OCHA relayed, UNICEF and the World Health Organization each said on the dates below how many injuries there had been in Gaza, each for the period it gave.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
5,975	Gaza Health Ministry	16 November 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire on 11 October 2025
5,794	Gaza Health Ministry	4 November 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire on 11 October 2025
5,281	Gaza Health Ministry	11 October 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire on 11 October 2025 until today
5,052	Gaza Health Ministry	1 October 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire on 11 October 2025 until today
4,757	Gaza Health Ministry	16 September 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October 2025 until today)

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
4,398	Gaza Health Ministry	1 September 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
4,290	Gaza Health Ministry	24 August 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
3,429	Gaza Health Ministry	2 July 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
2,859	Gaza Health Ministry	1 June 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
2,342	Gaza Health Ministry	2 May 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
1,940	Gaza Health Ministry	1 April 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
1,693	Gaza Health Ministry	1 March 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
1,443	Gaza Health Ministry	1 February 2026	total number of injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
1,153	Gaza Health Ministry	1 January 2026	total injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October)
909	Gaza Health Ministry	1 December 2025	total injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October 2025)
594	Gaza Health Ministry	1 November 2025	total injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October 2025)
122	Gaza Health Ministry	16 October 2025	total injuries	since the ceasefire (11 October 2025)
5,833	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	13 November 2026	injuries	since the October 2025 ceasefire agreement

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
5,299	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	15 October 2026	injuries	since the ceasefire agreement
4,541	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	11 September 2026	injuries	since the announcement of the ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025
4,148	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	14 August 2026	injuries	since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025
3,491	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	10 July 2026	injuries	since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025
3,104	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	12 June 2026	injuries	since the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025
2,463	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	15 May 2026	injuries	since the announcement of the ceasefire on 10 October 2025
2,035	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	10 April 2026	injuries	since the announcement of the ceasefire in October 2025
1,591	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	12 February 2026	injured	since the ceasefire agreement
1,246	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	14 January 2026	injured	since the ceasefire
1,075	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	18 December 2025	injured	since the ceasefire

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
627	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	12 November 2025	were injured	since the ceasefire
597	Gaza Health Ministry (relayed by UN OCHA)	30 October 2025	were injured	since the ceasefire came into effect
more than 400	UNICEF	19 June 2026	children have been injured	in a briefing on the period since the ceasefire was announced in October 2025
4,667	World Health Organization	12 May 2026	injuries have been reported	since WHO's previous estimate of 24 September 2025

When did the Gaza ceasefire take effect?

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025.

In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.

Frequently asked questions

What is the Gaza Health Ministry's latest figure for injuries in Gaza since the ceasefire?

In its statistical report of 16 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,975 injuries since the ceasefire of 11 October 2025.

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What date does the Gaza Health Ministry give for the start of the ceasefire?

The Gaza Health Ministry's statistical reports head their totals "since the ceasefire on 11 October 2025", in a working translation.

What date does UN OCHA give for the ceasefire when it relays the Gaza Health Ministry's totals?

UN OCHA's Humanitarian Situation Report of 11 September 2026 gives the window of the Gaza Health Ministry's totals as "since the announcement of the ceasefire agreement on 10 October 2025".

How many injuries were given for the first weeks of the Gaza ceasefire?

In its report of 16 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 122 injuries since the ceasefire. The Gaza Health Ministry said in its report of 1 November 2025 that there had been 594 injuries since the ceasefire.

What is UN OCHA's latest relay of the Gaza Health Ministry's injury figure?

In figures UN OCHA published on 13 November 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 5,833 injuries since the October 2025 ceasefire agreement.

How many children have been injured in Gaza since the ceasefire, according to UNICEF?

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UNICEF's spokesperson, James Elder, said on 19 June 2026 that "more than 400 children have been injured, many with catastrophic wounds", in a briefing on children in Gaza since the ceasefire was announced in October 2025.

What is UN OCHA?

In 1998, as part of the UN Secretary-General's programme of reform, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs became the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

What is the World Health Organization?

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency for health, founded in 1948.

When was UNICEF established?

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II.

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Casualties

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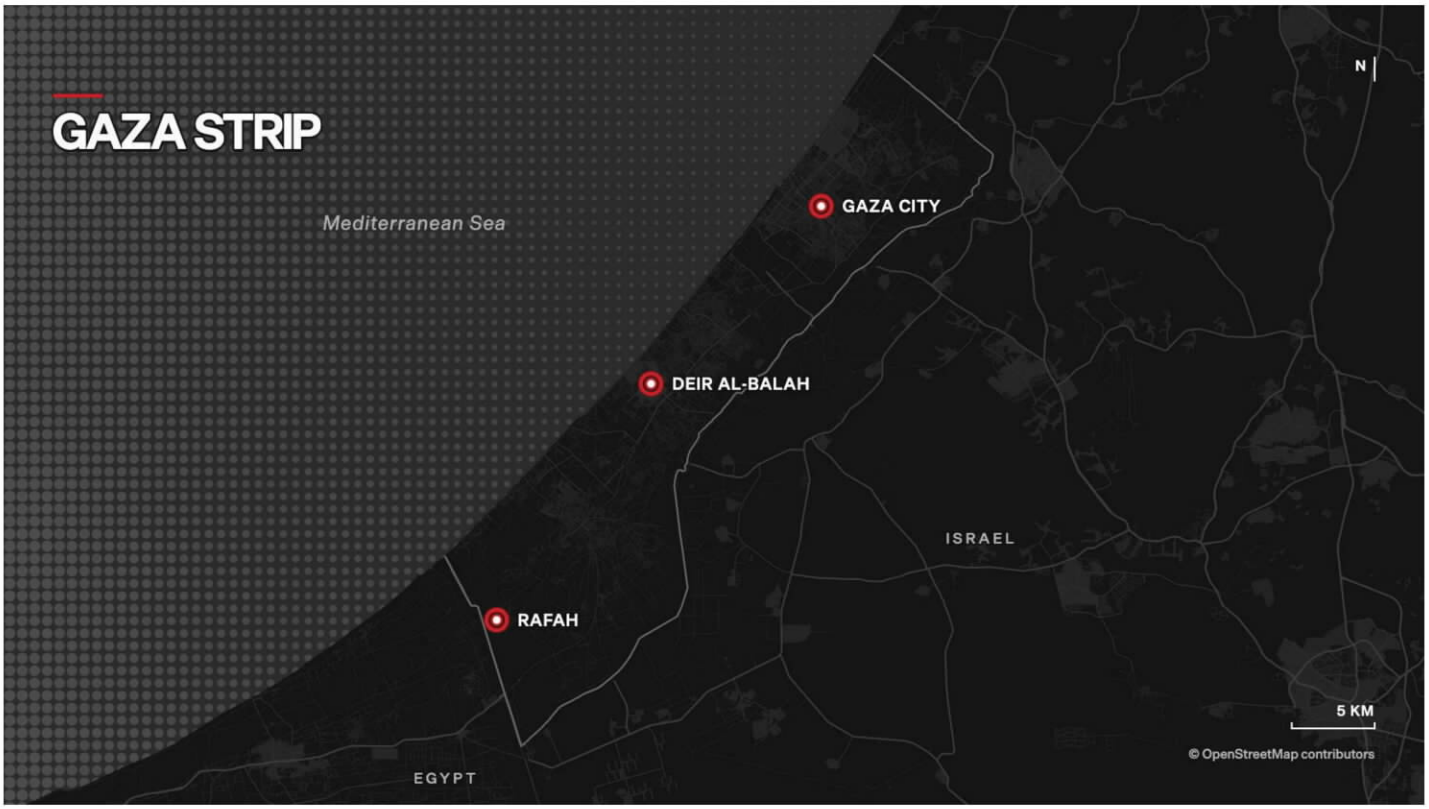
Aid and Crossings

HOW MUCH AID HAS ENTERED GAZA?

Figures from COGAT, the Gaza Government Media Office, UN OCHA, UNOPS and the WFP for aid entering Gaza since the October 2025 ceasefire.

FIGURES 16 November 2026

Humanitarian aid | COGAT | UN2720 Mechanism | Gaza crossings | UN OCHA | World Food Programme



COGAT said on 14 October 2026 that a decision by Gazan merchants to stop coordinating the entry of their goods would cut the total number of trucks

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entering Gaza each day to around 300. The Gaza Government Media Office said on 2 November 2026 that 77,657 trucks of humanitarian aid had been allowed to enter Gaza from the start of the ceasefire to that day. UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 13 November 2026 that 228 of the 262 UN and partner trucks manifested for entry into Gaza between 2 and 8 November 2026 were offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom. UNOPS said on 15 October 2026 that 17,765 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom Crossing in September 2026. The World Food Programme said in its Gaza Market Monitor of 18 August 2026 that 5,677 trucks, 3,511 commercial and 2,166 humanitarian, entered the Gaza Strip in July 2026.

How much aid has COGAT said entered Gaza since the ceasefire?

COGAT, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories, is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in the West Bank and in regard to the Gaza Strip. The unit reports to Israel's Minister of Defense.

COGAT said on 14 October 2026 that a decision by Gazan merchants to stop coordinating the entry of their goods would cut the total number of trucks, which carry both humanitarian and commercial goods, entering Gaza each day to around 300.

COGAT said in its report of 9 July 2026 that from 10 October 2025 to 7 June 2026, approximately 1.778 million tons of food entered Gaza. COGAT said that this included roughly 891,637 tons declared as humanitarian aid and 886,726 tons declared as private-sector supply. COGAT said in the same report that "since the beginning of the ceasefire, 18,000 tons of medical supplies and medicines have entered Gaza", and that its tonnage data "is based on the self-declaration of humanitarian organizations and private sector providers."

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COGAT said in a post on X on 19 April 2026 that since the start of the ceasefire, an average of 600 trucks a day had entered Gaza, carrying more than 1.5 million tons of food. COGAT said in the same post that more than 12,500 tons of medical equipment had entered since the start of the ceasefire.

COGAT said in a paper dated 15 December 2025 that 600 to 800 trucks entered Gaza daily. COGAT said in the same paper that "only about 20 percent of all trucks that have entered Gaza since the beginning of the ceasefire carried UN aid."

COGAT said on 26 November 2025 that some 16,600 aid trucks had entered the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire took effect on 10 October 2025. COGAT said that seventy percent of the trucks were carrying food, amounting to some 370,000 tons.

How many trucks has the Gaza Government Media Office said entered Gaza?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 2 November 2026 that 77,657 trucks of humanitarian aid had been allowed to enter Gaza from the start of the ceasefire to that day, out of 232,800 trucks required and agreed. The office said in the same statement that 3,777 trucks entered Gaza from 1 to 31 October 2026, of them 1,805 aid trucks, 1,725 commercial trucks and 247 fuel trucks.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 11 October 2026 that 74,855 humanitarian aid trucks had been allowed to enter Gaza, out of 219,000 trucks due under the agreement by that day.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 8 September 2026 that in the 330 days since the signing of the ceasefire agreement, 69,387 aid and food trucks had been allowed to pass into Gaza, out of 198,000 trucks due under the agreement.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 1 June 2026 that 50,636 trucks had entered Gaza by 31 May 2026, 232 days into the ceasefire, out of 139,200 trucks

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due under the agreement.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 14 April 2026 that 41,714 aid, commercial and fuel trucks had entered Gaza from the ceasefire of 10 October 2025 to that day, of them 23,379 aid trucks, 16,969 commercial trucks and 1,366 fuel trucks.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 9 January 2026 that 23,019 trucks entered Gaza in 90 days, out of 54,000 trucks due, a daily average of 255 trucks.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 6 November 2025 that 4,453 trucks of aid had entered Gaza since the ceasefire took effect, out of 15,600 trucks due by that evening, a daily average of 171 trucks.

How many aid trucks has UN OCHA said were offloaded for Gaza?

In 1998, as part of the UN Secretary-General's programme of reform, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs became the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 13 November 2026 that 262 UN and partner trucks carrying humanitarian supplies were manifested for entry into Gaza between 2 and 8 November 2026, and that 228 of them were offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom.

UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 5 November 2026 that 466 UN and partner trucks carrying humanitarian supplies were manifested for entry into Gaza between 26 October and 1 November 2026, and that 397 of them were offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom.

UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 29 October 2026 that 586 of the 651 UN and partner trucks manifested for entry into Gaza between 19 and 25 October 2026 were successfully offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom.

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UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 22 October 2026 that 702 of the 779 UN and partner trucks manifested for entry into Gaza between 13 and 19 October 2026 were successfully offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom.

UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 15 October 2026 that 937 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies were manifested between 29 September and 12 October 2026, and 807 offloaded across five corridors.

UN OCHA said in its report of 5 January 2026 that 87,644 pallets of aid were offloaded at Gaza's crossings between 11 November and 10 December 2025, and 80,706 pallets collected into Gaza in the same period, based on data from the UN 2720 Mechanism dashboard.

UN OCHA, citing the UN 2720 mechanism, said in its report of 11 December 2025 that a total of 3,185 UN and partner trucks, or 71,510 pallets with humanitarian supplies, were offloaded at the crossings along Gaza's perimeter between 11 October and 10 November 2025.

How much aid has the UN2720 Mechanism delivered to Gaza each month?

UN Security Council Resolution 2720 (2023) established the UN2720 Mechanism for Gaza, operated by UNOPS, to accelerate the provision of humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza. The Security Council adopted resolution 2720 on 22 December 2023.

UNOPS said in its overview of the UN2720 Mechanism published on 15 October 2026 that in September 2026, 17,765 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom Crossing. UNOPS said that the monthly delivery average since October 2025 was 37,507 tonnes, and that food assistance accounted for 64% of deliveries in September 2026.

According to UNOPS's UN2720 humanitarian aid monitoring overview for 10 October 2025 to 30 September 2026, the figures by crossing were 13,486 trucks at

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the Kerem Shalom Crossing, 2,128 trucks at the Zikim Crossing and 142 trucks at the Kissufim Crossing.

UNOPS said in its overview published on 10 September 2026 that in August 2026, 28,781 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

UNOPS said in its overview dated 2 February 2026 that in January 2026, 44,400 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom and Erez West/Zikim crossing points.

UNOPS said in its overview dated 2 January 2026 that in December 2025, a total of 65,500 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom, Kissufim and Erez West/Zikim crossing points. UNOPS said in the overview of 2 January 2026 that more than 151,000 tonnes of aid had been delivered to Gaza crossing points since the ceasefire.

UNOPS said in its overview dated 1 December 2025 that in November 2025, 54.2K metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered to the Kerem Shalom, Kissufim and Zikim crossing points. UNOPS said in the overview of 1 December 2025 that more than 87K tonnes of aid had been delivered to Gaza crossing points since the ceasefire.

UNOPS said in its overview dated 1 November 2025 that in October 2025, 39.4K metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered to the Kerem Shalom and Kissufim crossing points. UNOPS said in the overview of 1 November 2025 that more than 33.4K tonnes of aid had been delivered to Gaza crossing points since the ceasefire.

How many trucks has the World Food Programme said entered Gaza?

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The World Food Programme said in its Gaza Market Monitor of 18 August 2026 that 5,677 trucks, 3,511 commercial and 2,166 humanitarian, entered the Gaza Strip in July 2026. The World Food Programme said that the figures were provided by the Gaza Chamber of Commerce and Industry and UN2720. The World Food Programme said in the same monitor that the daily average since the start of the October 2025 ceasefire stood at 217 trucks per day.

The World Food Programme said in its Gaza market monitor of 19 December 2025 that 7,807 trucks, 4,333 commercial and 3,474 humanitarian, entered the Gaza Strip in November 2025. The World Food Programme said in the same monitor that 3,585 trucks entered in December 2025.

The World Food Programme said in its Gaza market monitor of 14 November 2025 that 5,373 trucks, 2,339 commercial and 3,034 humanitarian, entered the Gaza Strip in October 2025.

The World Food Programme said on 17 October 2025 that since the ceasefire began on 11 October, it had dispatched more than 280 trucks, nearly 3,000 metric tons, into Gaza to support bakeries, nutrition programmes and general food distributions.

What figures have been given for aid entering Gaza since the ceasefire?

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. COGAT, the Gaza Government Media Office, UN OCHA, UNOPS and the World Food Programme each gave figures for aid entering Gaza since then, each for the period and the goods it stated.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
around 300	COGAT	14 October 2026	trucks entering Gaza each day, after the merchants' decision	from 14 October 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
1.778 million tons	COGAT	9 July 2026	food entered Gaza	10 October 2025 to 7 June 2026
more than 1.5 million tons	COGAT	19 April 2026	tons of food	since the start of the ceasefire
some 16,600	COGAT	26 November 2025	aid trucks have entered the Gaza Strip	since 10 October 2025
77,657 trucks	Gaza Government Media Office	2 November 2026	trucks of humanitarian aid	since the ceasefire took effect
3,777 trucks	Gaza Government Media Office	2 November 2026	aid, commercial and fuel trucks	1 to 31 October 2026
69,387 trucks	Gaza Government Media Office	8 September 2026	aid and food trucks	330 days since the signing of the ceasefire agreement
41,714 trucks	Gaza Government Media Office	14 April 2026	aid, commercial and fuel trucks	10 October 2025 to 14 April 2026
4,453 trucks	Gaza Government Media Office	6 November 2025	trucks of aid	to 6 November 2025
228 trucks	UN OCHA	13 November 2026	offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom, citing the Logistics Cluster	2 to 8 November 2026
397 trucks	UN OCHA	5 November 2026	offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom, citing the Logistics Cluster	26 October to 1 November 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
702 trucks	UN OCHA	22 October 2026	successfully offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom, citing the Logistics Cluster	13 to 19 October 2026
17,765 metric tonnes	UNOPS	15 October 2026	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered at Kerem Shalom	September 2026
28,781 metric tonnes	UNOPS	10 September 2026	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered at Kerem Shalom	August 2026
44,400 metric tonnes	UNOPS	2 February 2026	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered	January 2026
65,500 metric tonnes	UNOPS	2 January 2026	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered	December 2025
54.2K metric tonnes	UNOPS	1 December 2025	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered	November 2025
39.4K metric tonnes	UNOPS	1 November 2025	humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism, delivered	October 2025
5,677 trucks	World Food Programme	18 August 2026	trucks entered, 3,511 commercial and 2,166 humanitarian	July 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
7,807 trucks	World Food Programme	19 December 2025	trucks, 4,333 commercial and 3,474 humanitarian	November 2025
5,373 trucks	World Food Programme	14 November 2025	trucks, 2,339 commercial and 3,034 humanitarian	October 2025
more than 280 trucks	World Food Programme	17 October 2025	dispatched into Gaza by WFP	since 11 October 2025

Frequently asked questions

How much food has entered Gaza since the ceasefire, according to COGAT?

COGAT said in its report of 9 July 2026 that from the start of the ceasefire on 10 October 2025 to 7 June 2026, 1.778 million tons of food entered Gaza.

How many aid trucks does the Gaza Government Media Office say have entered Gaza since the ceasefire?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 2 November 2026 that 77,657 trucks of humanitarian aid had been allowed to enter Gaza since the ceasefire took effect, out of 232,800 trucks required and agreed.

How many UN aid trucks reached Gaza's crossings in early November 2026?

UN OCHA, citing the Logistics Cluster, said on 13 November 2026 that 262 UN and partner trucks were manifested for entry into Gaza between 2 and 8

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November 2026, and that 228 of them were offloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom.

How much UN aid was delivered to Gaza in September 2026?

UNOPS said on 15 October 2026 that 17,765 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid processed through the UN2720 Mechanism were delivered at the Kerem Shalom Crossing in September 2026.

Which routes did UN aid take into Gaza in September 2026?

UNOPS said on 15 October 2026 that of the September 2026 total, 48% of aid entered Gaza via Israel, 23% via the Jordan Corridor, 23% via Egypt, 5% via the West Bank and less than 1% via Cyprus.

How many trucks entered Gaza in July 2026, according to the World Food Programme?

The World Food Programme said in its Gaza Market Monitor of 18 August 2026 that 5,677 trucks, 3,511 commercial and 2,166 humanitarian, entered the Gaza Strip in July 2026.

How many medical supplies have entered Gaza since the ceasefire?

COGAT said in its report of 9 July 2026 that “since the beginning of the ceasefire, 18,000 tons of medical supplies and medicines have entered Gaza”.

How does COGAT measure the tonnage of aid entering Gaza?

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COGAT said in its report of 9 July 2026 that its tonnage data "is based on the self-declaration of humanitarian organizations and private sector providers."

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Aid and Crossings

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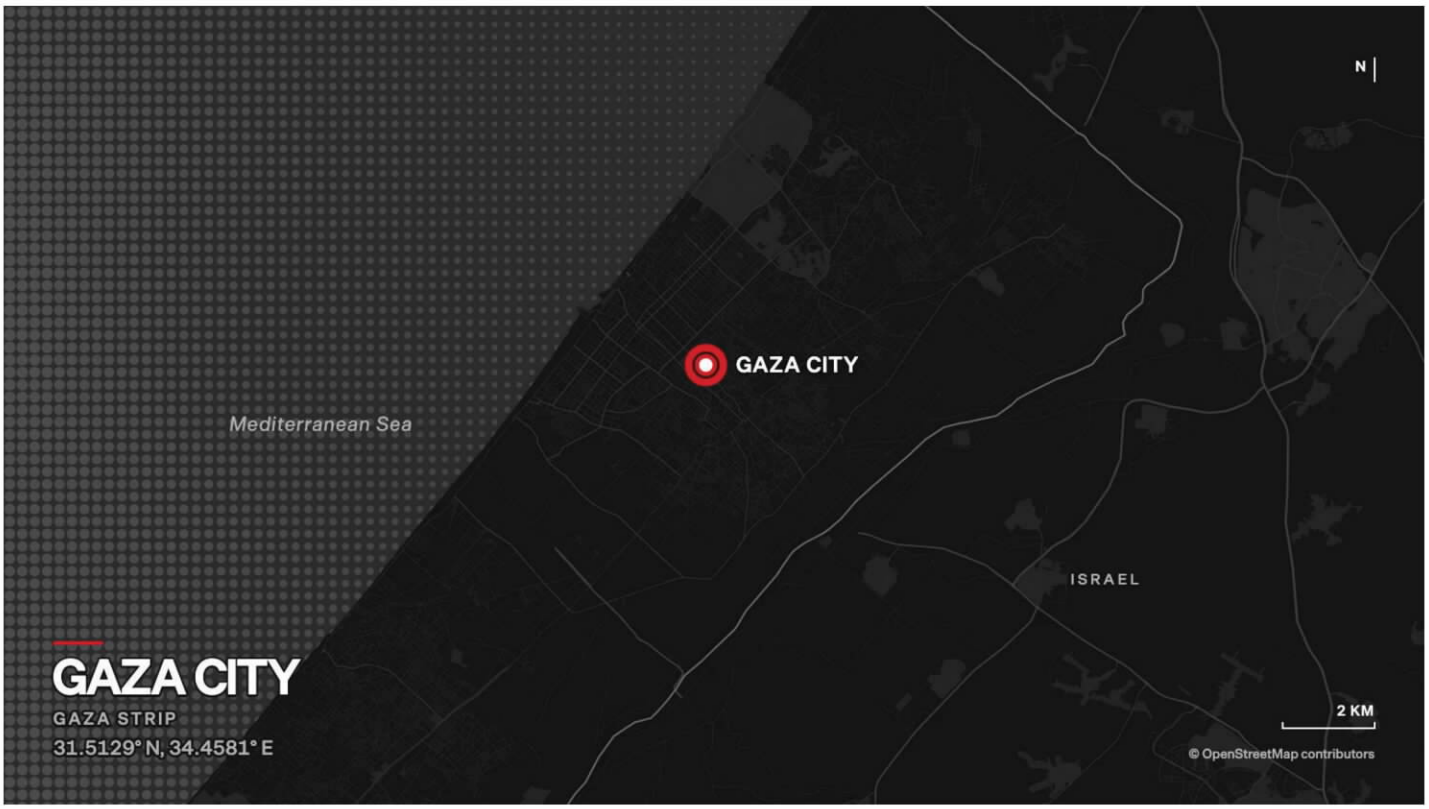
Strikes and Raids

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE STRIKE ON AN APARTMENT IN GAZA CITY ON 20 OCTOBER 2026?

A strike hit an apartment in Gaza City before dawn on 20 October 2026. Statements from Al-Shifa Hospital and Israel's military, and where the hospital is.

BRIEF 10 November 2026 New version 16 November 2026

gaza-city al-shifa-hospital idf hamas ceasefire



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A strike hit an apartment in Gaza City before dawn on 20 October 2026. Al-Shifa Hospital said that the attack killed a husband and wife and wounded others. Israel's military said that it struck in the Gaza City area that day and "eliminated" a senior official in Hamas's General Security Mechanism.

What happened in the Gaza City strike on 20 October 2026?

A strike hit an apartment in Gaza City before dawn on 20 October 2026. Al-Shifa Hospital said on 20 October 2026 that the attack killed a husband and wife and wounded others.

Israel's military said on 20 October 2026 that, guided by intelligence, it struck in the Gaza City area earlier that day. It said that the strike "eliminated" Akram Bassam Shaaban Yassin, a senior official in Hamas's General Security Mechanism.

Who was killed in the Gaza City strike on 20 October 2026?

Al-Shifa Hospital said on 20 October 2026 that the strike on an apartment in Gaza City before dawn that day killed a husband and wife. Others were wounded, according to the hospital.

Israel's military said on 20 October 2026 that it "eliminated" Akram Bassam Shaaban Yassin in a strike in the Gaza City area that day. Yassin was a senior official in Hamas's General Security Mechanism, according to Israel's military.

Who did Israel's military say it targeted in Gaza City?

Israel's military said on 20 October 2026 that it struck in the Gaza City area that day and "eliminated" Akram Bassam Shaaban Yassin. Yassin was a senior official

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in Hamas's General Security Mechanism, according to Israel's military.

The General Security Mechanism is "a central, covert Hamas apparatus responsible for protecting senior Hamas officials", Israel's military said on 20 October 2026.

According to Israel's military, measures were taken before the Gaza City strike of 20 October 2026 "to mitigate harm to civilians, including the use of precision munitions and aerial surveillance".

The Gaza City strike of 20 October 2026 followed strikes "four months ago" in which senior officials in the General Security Mechanism were "eliminated", Israel's military said.

Where is Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City?

Al-Shifa Hospital is in Gaza City. Gaza City is in the north of the Gaza Strip.

Al-Shifa Hospital said on 20 October 2026 that the strike on an apartment in Gaza City before dawn that day killed a husband and wife and wounded others.

How many deaths has the Gaza Health Ministry reported since the ceasefire?

On 21 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said in its daily statistical report that there had been a total of 1,534 deaths since the ceasefire. In its report of 21 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there had been 7 deaths and 24 injuries in the past day.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
7	Gaza Health Ministry	21 October 2026	7 deaths in the 24 hours before the report
24	Gaza Health Ministry	21 October 2026	24 injuries in the 24 hours before the report
1,534	Gaza Health Ministry	21 October 2026	total deaths: 1,534

Frequently asked questions

When did the strike on an apartment in Gaza City happen?

A strike hit an apartment in Gaza City before dawn on 20 October 2026.

How many people did Al-Shifa Hospital say were killed in the Gaza City strike?

Al-Shifa Hospital said on 20 October 2026 that the strike on an apartment in Gaza City before dawn that day killed a husband and wife. Others were wounded, according to the hospital.

Which hospital reported casualties from the Gaza City strike on 20 October 2026?

Al-Shifa Hospital said on 20 October 2026 that the strike on an apartment in Gaza City killed a husband and wife and wounded others. Al-Shifa Hospital is in Gaza City.

What did Israel's military say it struck in Gaza City on 20 October 2026?

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Israel's military said on 20 October 2026 that it struck in the Gaza City area that day and "eliminated" Akram Bassam Shaaban Yassin. It said that he was a senior official in Hamas's General Security Mechanism.

What is Hamas's General Security Mechanism, according to Israel's military?

Israel's military said on 20 October 2026, in its statement on the Gaza City strike, that the General Security Mechanism is "a central, covert Hamas apparatus responsible for protecting senior Hamas officials".

What did Israel's military say about civilians in the Gaza City strike?

Israel's military said on 20 October 2026 that, before its strike in the Gaza City area that day, measures were taken "to mitigate harm to civilians, including the use of precision munitions and aerial surveillance".

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Strikes and Raids

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Strikes and Raids

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Hostages and Detainees

HOW MANY HOSTAGES ARE STILL HELD IN GAZA?

What Hamas, the ICRC, Israel's military and the Prime Minister's Office have said about hostages held in and returned from Gaza since 2023.

FIGURES 16 November 2026 Hostages ICRC Gaza ceasefire Prime Minister's Office



Hamas said on 26 January 2026 that it had "kept updating the mediators with the necessary information, which resulted in retrieving the body". The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that the

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remains of the final deceased hostage had been recovered by Israeli authorities. Israel's military said on 26 January 2026: "With this, all hostages have been returned from the Gaza Strip to the State of Israel." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement the Prime Minister's Office issued on 26 January 2026: "There are no more hostages in Gaza."

What truces and ceasefires has Gaza had since October 2023?

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages. Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground invasion.

A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m. on 24 November 2023. The truce expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned. The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict is annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803, which endorsed the plan on 17 November 2025.

How has Hamas described the hostages it held and handed over?

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Hamas said on 14 March 2025 that its response to a proposal to extend the truce "included its approval" to release an American-Israeli soldier and the bodies of four dual nationals held hostage in Gaza. Hamas said on 18 March 2025 that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had decided to overturn the ceasefire agreement, "putting the captives in Gaza at risk of an unknown fate."

Hamas's armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, said on 15 October 2025 that it had "abided by what was agreed upon and has handed over all the living captives in its possession and the corpses it could access." The al-Qassam Brigades said on 15 October 2025 that "significant efforts and special equipment" were needed to recover the remaining hostages.

Hamas said on 26 January 2026 that it had "kept updating the mediators with the necessary information, which resulted in retrieving the body". Its spokesman, Hazem Qassem, said on 26 January 2026 that the discovery "confirms Hamas's commitment to all the requirements of the ceasefire agreement".

What has the ICRC said about the hostage handovers it facilitated?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 24 November 2023 that its teams had begun "a multi-day operation to facilitate the release and transfer of hostages held in Gaza and of Palestinian detainees to the West Bank." The ICRC said that the parties to the conflict agreed to the details of the operation, "including who would be released and when", and that it was not involved in the negotiations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 20 January 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of three hostages out of Gaza to Israel, and that the operation marked "the beginning of a multi-phase operation". The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 25 January 2025 that its second phase began with the safe transfer of four hostages from Gaza to Israeli

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authorities. On 30 January 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that it had facilitated "the transfer of three Israeli and five Thai hostages from multiple locations in Gaza to Israeli authorities."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 8 February 2025 that its fifth release operation brought three hostages out of Gaza to Israel. On 15 February 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that the ceasefire agreement had so far allowed for six release operations, in which it had "safely facilitated the return of 24 hostages". The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 27 February 2025 that it had returned the remains of four deceased hostages to Israel overnight, after six hostages were released and returned to Israel on 22 February.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 148 hostages since October 2023 in previous release operations. Later on 13 October 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that it had that day facilitated "a safe return of 20 hostages to Israeli authorities" and transferred the remains of 4 deceased hostages to Israeli authorities. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 172 hostages since October 2023 as part of ceasefire agreements.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 10 November 2025 that under the current ceasefire agreement it had assisted in the return of 23 deceased hostages of Israeli and other nationalities. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross on 10 November 2025, 31 deceased hostages in total had been returned by the ICRC since October 2023, as of the time of publication.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that its operation began in October 2025 with the release and transfer of 20 living hostages, and that in subsequent phases it facilitated the return of the deceased, including "27 out of 28 hostages". The International Committee of the Red Cross

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said on 6 October 2026 that over the last three years it had supported the return home of 195 hostages from Gaza, including 35 who were deceased.

What hostage counts has Israel's military given since December 2023?

Israel's military said on 6 December 2023 that its Spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, had issued a statement "on the 138 hostages being held in Hamas captivity". The IDF Spokesperson said on 24 April 2024: "133 hostages are still being held by Hamas in Gaza".

The IDF Spokesperson said on 19 January 2025: "Today, the first three hostages returned." He said on 19 January 2025 that three to four additional hostages would be released each week. The IDF Spokesperson said on 30 January 2025 that the IDF remained "fully committed to bringing back the 82 hostages who are still being held in Gaza."

The IDF's Chief of the General Staff said on 23 February 2025: "There are still 63 hostages in captivity and we will do everything in our power to return them all". The Chief of the General Staff, LTG Eyal Zamir, said on 12 May 2025 that the IDF did not forget "our commitment to bring back the 58 hostages still held by Hamas". LTG Eyal Zamir said on 5 October 2025: "We hope to see all 48 hostages home soon".

The IDF Spokesperson, BG Effie Defrin, said on 13 October 2025: "Today, after seven hundred and thirty-eight days, the last 20 living hostages have come home." He said that the IDF was prepared for the return of all the fallen hostages and expected Hamas to abide by the terms of the agreement.

Israel's military said on 4 December 2025 that it continued to make every effort to return "the remaining deceased hostage". Israel's military said on 26 January 2026: "With this, all hostages have been returned from the Gaza Strip to the State of Israel."

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What hostage totals has Israel's Prime Minister's Office given?

In a statement the Prime Minister's Office published on 7 February 2024, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Military pressure led to the release of 110 hostages, and only continued military pressure will bring home the remaining hostages." Netanyahu said in a statement the Prime Minister's Office published on 18 January 2025: "As of today, we have returned home 157 of our hostages, 117 of whom alive." He said on 18 January 2025 that under the agreement just approved, Israel would return home "another 33 of our brothers and sisters, most of them alive."

Netanyahu said in a speech the Prime Minister's Office published on 27 March 2025: "They took 251 innocent people hostage". He said on 27 March 2025: "We brought back 196 of these hostages, 147 of them alive."

Netanyahu said in a statement the Prime Minister's Office published on 30 August 2025 that 207 hostages had been returned to Israel as of that date, "148 of them alive". According to the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2025 that so far Israel had brought home 207 of these hostages. He said on 26 September 2025: "But 48 still remain in the dungeons of Gaza." He said on 26 September 2025 that "20 of them are alive".

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 26 January 2026: "All 255 hostages from the Gaza Strip have been rescued and brought back home". According to the Prime Minister's Office on 26 January 2026, the 255 were "168 of them alive and 87 deceased." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in the office's statement of 26 January 2026: "There are no more hostages in Gaza."

What hostage figures have been given for Gaza since 2023?

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The Prime Minister's Office said on 26 January 2026 that all 255 hostages from the Gaza Strip had been brought back home. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 6 October 2026 that over the last three years it had supported the return home of 195 hostages from Gaza.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
4	Hamas	14 March 2025	bodies of dual nationals held hostage in Gaza, release "included its approval", as relayed by CNN
195	International Committee of the Red Cross	6 October 2026	hostages from Gaza, return home supported over the last three years
35	International Committee of the Red Cross	6 October 2026	"including 35 who were deceased", of the 195 hostages, over the last three years
195	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	hostages whose return it supported since October 2023
35	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	"including 35 deceased", of the 195 hostages, since October 2023
27 out of 28	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	deceased hostages, return facilitated in subsequent phases
20	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	living hostages released and transferred, October 2025
23	International Committee of the Red Cross	10 November 2025	deceased hostages of Israeli and other nationalities, under the current ceasefire agreement

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
31	International Committee of the Red Cross	10 November 2025	deceased hostages returned by the ICRC since October 2023, as of the time of publication
20	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	hostages returned to Israeli authorities that day
4	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	remains of deceased hostages transferred to Israeli authorities that day
172	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	hostages released and transferred since October 2023 as part of ceasefire agreements
148	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	hostages released and transferred since October 2023, previous release operations
4	International Committee of the Red Cross	27 February 2025	remains of deceased hostages returned to Israel overnight
6	International Committee of the Red Cross	27 February 2025	hostages released and returned to Israel on 22 February
24	International Committee of the Red Cross	15 February 2025	hostages whose return it facilitated in six release operations under the ceasefire agreement
3	International Committee of the Red Cross	8 February 2025	hostages brought out of Gaza to Israel, fifth release operation
3	International Committee of the Red Cross	30 January 2025	Israeli hostages transferred to Israeli authorities

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
5	International Committee of the Red Cross	30 January 2025	Thai hostages transferred to Israeli authorities
4	International Committee of the Red Cross	25 January 2025	hostages transferred from Gaza to Israeli authorities, second phase
3	International Committee of the Red Cross	20 January 2025	hostages released and transferred out of Gaza to Israel
20	IDF	13 October 2025	"the last 20 living hostages have come home"
48	IDF	5 October 2025	hostages it hoped to see home soon
58	IDF	12 May 2025	hostages "still held by Hamas"
63	IDF	23 February 2025	hostages still in captivity
82	IDF	30 January 2025	hostages "still being held in Gaza"
3	IDF	19 January 2025	the first hostages returned
133	IDF	24 April 2024	hostages "still being held by Hamas in Gaza"
138	IDF	6 December 2023	hostages "being held in Hamas captivity"
255	Prime Minister's Office	26 January 2026	hostages from the Gaza Strip "rescued and brought back home"
168	Prime Minister's Office	26 January 2026	of them alive

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
87	Prime Minister's Office	26 January 2026	of them deceased
48	Prime Minister's Office	26 September 2025	"still remain in the dungeons of Gaza"
20	Prime Minister's Office	26 September 2025	of them alive
207	Prime Minister's Office	26 September 2025	hostages "brought home" so far
207	Prime Minister's Office	30 August 2025	hostages returned to Israel, as of now
148	Prime Minister's Office	30 August 2025	of them alive
196	Prime Minister's Office	27 March 2025	hostages "brought back"
147	Prime Minister's Office	27 March 2025	of them alive
251	Prime Minister's Office	27 March 2025	people taken hostage
157	Prime Minister's Office	18 January 2025	hostages "returned home" as of that day
117	Prime Minister's Office	18 January 2025	of whom alive
33	Prime Minister's Office	18 January 2025	to be returned home under the agreement just approved, "most of them alive"
110	Prime Minister's Office	7 February 2024	hostages whose release military pressure "led to"

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Frequently asked questions

Are there any hostages still held in Gaza?

Israel's military said on 26 January 2026: "With this, all hostages have been returned from the Gaza Strip to the State of Israel." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement the Prime Minister's Office issued on 26 January 2026: "There are no more hostages in Gaza."

How many hostages did Israel's military say were held after the November 2023 truce?

Israel's military said on 6 December 2023 that its Spokesperson had issued a statement "on the 138 hostages being held in Hamas captivity". The truce between Israel and Hamas expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023.

How many hostages were said to be held in Gaza before the October 2025 ceasefire?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the UN General Assembly on 26 September 2025: "But 48 still remain in the dungeons of Gaza." The IDF's Chief of the General Staff, LTG Eyal Zamir, said on 5 October 2025: "We hope to see all 48 hostages home soon".

How many living hostages were returned from Gaza in October 2025?

The IDF Spokesperson, BG Effie Defrin, said on 13 October 2025 that "the last 20 living hostages have come home." The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025 that it had that day facilitated "a safe return of 20 hostages to Israeli authorities".

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How many hostages did the ICRC help return during the January 2025 ceasefire?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 15 February 2025 that six release operations under the ceasefire agreement had so far taken place, in which it had "safely facilitated the return of 24 hostages".

How many deceased hostages did the ICRC help return under the October 2025 ceasefire?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that in the phases after October 2025 it facilitated the return of the deceased, including "27 out of 28 hostages".

How many hostages have been returned from Gaza in total?

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 26 January 2026 that all 255 hostages from the Gaza Strip had been brought back home, "168 of them alive and 87 deceased."

When were the hostages to be returned under the Gaza ceasefire plan?

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned.

How did Hamas describe the recovery of the last hostage from Gaza?

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Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said on 26 January 2026 that the discovery "confirms Hamas's commitment to all the requirements of the ceasefire agreement".

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Casualties

HOW MANY JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN GAZA?

The figures the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Gaza Government Media Office, Israel's military and UN officials gave for journalists killed in Gaza.

FIGURES 16 November 2026

Journalists | Gaza Strip | Committee to Protect Journalists | Gaza Government Media Office | UN Human Rights Office



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The Committee to Protect Journalists said on a page updated on 30 September 2026 that of 241 journalists and media workers killed by Israel as of 24 September 2026, 189 were Palestinians killed in Gaza in the Israel-Gaza war. The Gaza Government Media Office said on 7 October 2026 that 262 journalists had been killed by Israel from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026. Israel's military said on 1 October 2026 that "170 of those killed during the war, who were presented to the world as innocent journalists, were also military operatives". The UN Human Rights Office said in a bulletin published on 8 May 2026 that there had been "295 journalists killed since October 2023 in Israeli attacks in Gaza as verified by OHCHR OPT". Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said on 26 October 2026 that since October 2023, Israeli forces had killed nearly 300 journalists.

What does the Committee to Protect Journalists count for Gaza?

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is a nonprofit organisation that promotes press freedom worldwide. CPJ began documenting journalist killings in 1992.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on a page updated on 30 September 2026, that as of 24 September 2026 its "preliminary investigations show that at least 247 journalists and media workers are among the more than tens of thousands killed across Gaza, Yemen, Lebanon, Israel and Iran". The Committee to Protect Journalists said on the same page, updated on 30 September 2026, that 241 journalists and media workers were killed by Israel, of which 189 were Palestinians killed in Gaza in the Israel-Gaza war. On 30 September 2026, the Committee to Protect Journalists said that 1 Palestinian journalist was killed by an armed group in Gaza.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 24 September 2026 that it had published the findings of a review of its documentation of journalists and media

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workers killed "in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory between October 2023 and August 2026". CPJ said that as a result of the review it "removed 22 individuals previously listed as journalists from its database, reinstated a further six individuals, and reclassified 12." CPJ also said: "Under a longstanding policy, no journalist engaged in combat is included as a case under CPJ's mandate."

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 25 June 2026 that CPJ "removes names from its database if subsequent evidence shows individuals were not journalists or media workers, were not active in those capacities at the time of their deaths, or were engaging in combat." On 25 June 2026, the Committee to Protect Journalists said that "the current total of individuals documented by CPJ as journalists or media workers killed by Israel in Gaza and in Israeli detention centers since October 7, 2023, stands at 209." The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 25 June 2026 that it had removed eight names from its Killed database as Hamas or PIJ combatants, and that a further 12 individuals were removed for other reasons.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 10 August 2025 that 192 journalists had been killed since the start of the Israeli-Gaza war on 7 October 2023, and that at least 184 of those journalists were Palestinians killed by Israel. On 24 March 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists said that more than 170 journalists and media workers had been killed since the beginning of the Israel-Gaza war in October 2023.

How many journalists has the Gaza Government Media Office said were killed?

The Gaza Government Media Office said in its statistics of 7 October 2026 that 262 journalists had been killed by Israel from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026. On 30 September 2026, the Gaza Government Media Office said that the number of journalists killed by Israel since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip had risen to 263.

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On 8 April 2026, the Gaza Government Media Office said that the number of journalists killed by Israel since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip had risen to 262. The Gaza Government Media Office said on 21 January 2026 that the number of journalists killed by Israel since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip had risen to 260.

The Gaza Government Media Office said in statistics it published on 5 October 2025 that 254 journalists had been killed by Israel from 7 October 2023 to 5 October 2025. In its statistics of 8 January 2025, the Gaza Government Media Office said that 202 journalists had been killed by Israel since the start of the war.

How many of those killed does Israel's military say were military operatives?

Israel's military said on 1 October 2026 that "170 of those killed during the war, who were presented to the world as innocent journalists, were also military operatives". The IDF said in the same statement, on 1 October 2026, that "the IDF does not deliberately and systematically target journalists".

Israel's military said on 26 February 2026 that it "strongly rejects" CPJ's report on journalists killed in 2025. The IDF said: "The IDF does not intentionally harm journalists or their family members." According to the IDF, "The report is based on general allegations, data of unknown origin, and predetermined conclusions, without considering the complexity of combat or the IDF's efforts to mitigate harm to noncombatants."

What has the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate said about journalists killed in Gaza?

The UN Department of Global Communications organised the 2025 United Nations International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East. The seminar was held at UN Headquarters on 1 December 2025.

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In remarks UN News published on 1 December 2025, Nasser Abu Bakr, Chairman of the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, said that more than 255 journalists had been killed in Gaza.

What figures have UN officials given for journalists killed in Gaza?

The UN Human Rights Office said in a bulletin published on 8 May 2026 that there had been "295 journalists killed since October 2023 in Israeli attacks in Gaza as verified by OHCHR OPT". The UN Human Rights Office's High Commissioner, Volker Türk, said on 1 May 2026, of Israel's war in Gaza, that his Office "has verified the killing of nearly 300 journalists since October 2023, with many more injured."

Thameen Al-Kheetan, a spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said on 26 August 2025: "At least 247 Palestinian journalists have been killed in Gaza since the 7th of October 2023."

The UN Human Rights Office said on 6 June 2025: "The Office has verified the killing of 227 Palestinian journalists in Gaza since 7 October 2023, including 197 men and 30 women." The UN Human Rights Office said on 2 May 2025: "The Office has independently verified the killing of 211 journalists in Gaza since 7 October 2023, including 28 woman journalists."

The UN Human Rights Office said on 14 December 2023 that it "has verified the killing of 50 journalists and media workers, and has received information that 30 more may have died".

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, said on 11 August 2025: "At least 242 journalists have been killed in Gaza since the war began." UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a message to the UN's media seminar on 1 December 2025 that "journalists in Gaza have been facing the same risks and realities as the people they cover".

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Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said on 26 October 2026 that since October 2023, Israeli forces had killed nearly 300 journalists. Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said in her report to the General Assembly dated 21 July 2026: “Since October 2023, Israeli forces have killed nearly 300 journalists”.

What figures have been given for journalists killed in Gaza?

The Committee to Protect Journalists, the Gaza Government Media Office, Israel’s military, the Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate and UN officials each gave figures, each for the period, the places and the category it stated.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
at least 247	Committee to Protect Journalists	30 September 2026	journalists and media workers killed across Gaza, Yemen, Lebanon, Israel and Iran, preliminary	as of 24 September 2026
241	Committee to Protect Journalists	30 September 2026	journalists and media workers killed by Israel	as of 24 September 2026
189	Committee to Protect Journalists	30 September 2026	Palestinians killed in Gaza in the Israel-Gaza war	as of 24 September 2026
1	Committee to Protect Journalists	30 September 2026	Palestinian journalist killed by an armed group in Gaza	as of 24 September 2026
209	Committee to Protect Journalists	25 June 2026	current total stands at, for individuals documented as journalists or media workers	since 7 October 2023

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
			killed by Israel in Gaza and in Israeli detention centers	
192	Committee to Protect Journalists	10 August 2025	journalists killed since the start of the Israeli-Gaza war	since 7 October 2023
at least 184	Committee to Protect Journalists	10 August 2025	of those journalists, Palestinians killed by Israel	since 7 October 2023
more than 170	Committee to Protect Journalists	24 March 2025	journalists and media workers killed since the beginning of the Israel-Gaza war	since October 2023
262	Gaza Government Media Office	7 October 2026	journalists killed	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026
263	Gaza Government Media Office	30 September 2026	journalists killed	since the start of the war
262	Gaza Government Media Office	8 April 2026	journalists killed	since the start of the war
260	Gaza Government Media Office	21 January 2026	journalists killed	since the start of the war
254	Gaza Government Media Office	5 October 2025	journalists killed	7 October 2023 to 5 October 2025
202	Gaza Government Media Office	8 January 2025	journalists killed	since the start of the war
170	IDF	1 October 2026	of those killed during the war, presented to the world	during the war

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
			as innocent journalists, were also military operatives	
more than 255	Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate	1 December 2025	journalists killed in Gaza	not stated
295	UN Human Rights Office	8 May 2026	journalists killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza, as verified by OHCHR OPT	since October 2023
nearly 300	UN Human Rights Office (High Commissioner Volker Türk)	1 May 2026	journalists whose killing his Office has verified	since October 2023
at least 247	UN Human Rights Office (spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan)	26 August 2025	Palestinian journalists killed in Gaza	since 7 October 2023
227	UN Human Rights Office	6 June 2025	Palestinian journalists in Gaza whose killing the Office has verified	since 7 October 2023
211	UN Human Rights Office	2 May 2025	journalists in Gaza whose killing the Office has independently verified	since 7 October 2023
50	UN Human Rights Office	14 December 2023	journalists and media workers whose killing it has verified	since the start of the war
30	UN Human Rights Office	14 December 2023	more journalists and media workers who may have died, on information received	since the start of the war
at least 242	Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General	11 August 2025	journalists killed in Gaza	since the war began
nearly 300	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian	26 October 2026	journalists killed by Israeli forces	since October 2023

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
	territory occupied since 1967			
nearly 300	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967	21 July 2026	journalists killed by Israeli forces	since October 2023

Frequently asked questions

How many journalists in Gaza has the Committee to Protect Journalists counted?

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 30 September 2026 that of 241 journalists and media workers killed by Israel as of 24 September 2026, 189 were Palestinians killed in Gaza in the Israel-Gaza war. CPJ said that its investigations were preliminary.

How many journalists does the Gaza Government Media Office say have been killed?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 7 October 2026 that 262 journalists had been killed by Israel from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026.

How many of those killed does Israel's military say were military operatives?

Israel's military said on 1 October 2026 that "170 of those killed during the war, who were presented to the world as innocent journalists, were also military operatives". The IDF said in the same statement that "the IDF does not deliberately and systematically target journalists".

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Has the Committee to Protect Journalists changed its list of journalists killed in Gaza?

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 24 September 2026 that after a review it "removed 22 individuals previously listed as journalists from its database, reinstated a further six individuals, and reclassified 12." The review covered October 2023 to August 2026.

What reason did CPJ give for reviewing its list in 2026?

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 24 September 2026 that it had begun the review in June 2026 "after Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad published obituaries identifying as combatants individuals listed by CPJ as journalists."

Does the Committee to Protect Journalists include journalists engaged in combat?

The Committee to Protect Journalists said on 24 September 2026: "Under a longstanding policy, no journalist engaged in combat is included as a case under CPJ's mandate."

What has the UN human rights chief said about journalists killed in Gaza?

The UN Human Rights Office's High Commissioner, Volker Türk, said on 1 May 2026, of Israel's war in Gaza, that his Office "has verified the killing of nearly 300 journalists since October 2023, with many more injured."

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How many journalists did the UN say had been killed in the first weeks of the war?

The UN Human Rights Office said on 14 December 2023 that it "has verified the killing of 50 journalists and media workers, and has received information that 30 more may have died".

How many journalists has the UN Secretary-General's office said were killed in Gaza?

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, said on 11 August 2025: "At least 242 journalists have been killed in Gaza since the war began."

How many journalists had the Gaza Government Media Office counted at two years of war?

The Gaza Government Media Office said in statistics it published on 5 October 2025 that 254 journalists had been killed by Israel from 7 October 2023 to 5 October 2025.

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Casualties

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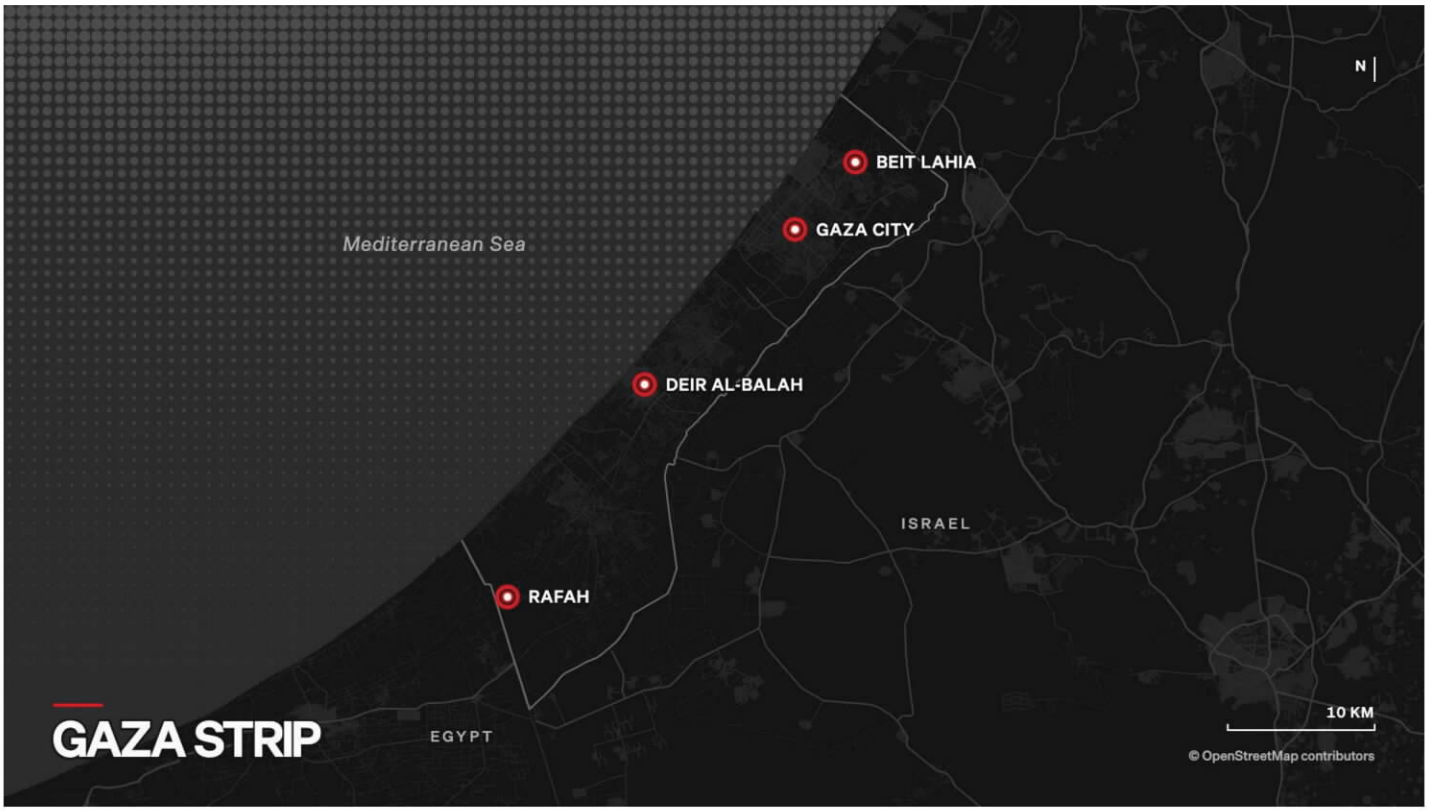
Courts and Law

WHAT ARREST WARRANTS HAS THE ICC ISSUED OVER GAZA?

The ICC's warrants of arrest over Gaza: the 2024 applications and warrants, the crimes named, later rulings, States Parties' duties and US sanctions.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

International Criminal Court | Situation in the State of Palestine | Rome Statute | Pre-Trial Chamber I | Gaza Strip



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In a decision of 17 October 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said that on 21 November 2024 it had issued "three warrants of arrest, including warrants for Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gallant". On 21 November 2024, the Chamber also issued a warrant of arrest for "the highest commander of the military wing of Hamas (known as the al-Qassam Brigades)", according to the Court. On 26 February 2025, according to the Court, Pre-Trial Chamber I "terminated proceedings" against him "following the Prosecution's notification of his death". The Court's case pages list Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant as "At large".

What did the ICC Prosecutor apply for on 20 May 2024?

The Prosecution filed applications for warrants of arrest in the Situation in the State of Palestine on 20 May 2024.

In its decision of 17 October 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I said that the Prosecutor had announced applications on 20 May 2024 "against five individuals".

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 20 May 2024 that he had "reasonable grounds to believe" that the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the commander-in-chief of Hamas's military wing and the head of Hamas's political bureau "bear criminal responsibility for the following war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of Israel and the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 7 October 2023".

The Prosecutor said that the crimes he set out for the three Hamas office holders were "Extermination as a crime against humanity", "Murder as a crime against humanity", "Taking hostages as a war crime", "Rape and other acts of sexual violence as crimes against humanity", "Torture as a crime against humanity", "Other inhumane acts as a crime against humanity", "Cruel treatment as a war crime" and "Outrages upon personal dignity as a war crime". His statement says

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"in the context of captivity" beside each of the last five. He said that the three were charged "both as co-perpetrators and as superiors".

The Prosecutor said on 20 May 2024 that he had "reasonable grounds to believe" that Benjamin Netanyahu, "the Prime Minister of Israel", and Yoav Gallant, "the Minister of Defence of Israel", "bear criminal responsibility for the following war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 8 October 2023".

The Prosecutor said that the crimes he set out for the two Israeli office holders were "Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare as a war crime"; "Wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health", or "cruel treatment as a war crime"; "Wilful killing", or "Murder as a war crime"; "Intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as a war crime"; "Extermination and/or murder", "including in the context of deaths caused by starvation, as a crime against humanity"; "Persecution as a crime against humanity"; and "Other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity". He said that he sought to charge the two "both as co-perpetrators and as superiors".

The Prosecutor also said: "The independent judges of the International Criminal Court are the sole arbiters as to whether the necessary standard for the issuance of warrants of arrest has been met."

Hamas said on 20 May 2024 that it "strongly denounces the attempts of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to equate the victim with the executioner". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2024: "I reject with disgust the comparison of the prosecutor in the Hague between democratic Israel and the mass murderers of Hamas."

Whom did the ICC issue arrest warrants for on 21 November 2024?

On 21 November 2024, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court issued two decisions rejecting challenges by Israel, and issued warrants of arrest.

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The Chamber issued warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant "for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024", according to the Court's release of 21 November 2024. According to the Court, Netanyahu was "Prime Minister of Israel at the time of the relevant conduct" and Gallant "Minister of Defence of Israel at the time of the alleged conduct".

Pre-Trial Chamber I said on 21 November 2024 that it had "reasonable grounds to believe" that Netanyahu and Gallant "each bear criminal responsibility for the following crimes as co-perpetrators for committing the acts jointly with others: the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts." The Chamber said that the two men "each bear criminal responsibility as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population", on the same standard of "reasonable grounds to believe".

The Chamber also said that there were "reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity, from at least 8 October 2023 to 20 May 2024".

On 21 November 2024, the Chamber also issued a warrant of arrest for "the highest commander of the military wing of Hamas (known as the al-Qassam Brigades) at the time of the alleged conduct", according to the Court. The Court said that this warrant concerns crimes "committed on the territory of the State of Israel and the State of Palestine from at least 7 October 2023".

Pre-Trial Chamber I said on 21 November 2024 that it had "reasonable grounds to believe" that the highest commander of Hamas's military wing "is responsible for the crimes against humanity of murder; extermination; torture; and rape and other form of sexual violence". The Chamber said that the warrant also concerns "the war crimes of murder, cruel treatment, torture", "taking hostages", "outrages upon personal dignity" and "rape and other form of sexual violence".

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The Court said on 21 November 2024 that the arrest warrants "are classified as 'secret', in order to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations".

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
5	Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court	17 October 2025	individuals named in applications for warrants of arrest announced on 20 May 2024
3	Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court	17 October 2025	warrants of arrest issued on 21 November 2024
2	Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court	21 November 2024	decisions rejecting challenges by the State of Israel
2	Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court	21 November 2024	other senior leaders of Hamas for whom the Prosecution had filed applications

The Court said on 21 November 2024 that the Prosecution "had initially filed applications for warrants of arrest for two other senior leaders of Hamas". On 21 November 2024, the Court said that, "following confirmation of their deaths, the Chamber granted the withdrawal of the applications on 9 August 2024 and 25 October 2024".

The Court said on 21 November 2024 that the Prosecution had notified the Chamber on 15 November 2024 that it was "not in a position to determine whether" the commander of Hamas's military wing "has been killed or remains alive". On 26 February 2025, according to the Court, Pre-Trial Chamber I "terminated proceedings" against the commander "following the Prosecution's notification of his death".

Hamas said on 21 November 2024 that the Court's decision on the warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant "constitutes an important historical precedent, and a correction to a long path of historical injustice against our people". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: "Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision."

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What has the ICC decided on the Gaza warrants since 2024?

Israel challenged the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in the Situation in the State of Palestine in September 2024. Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the challenge as premature on 21 November 2024. Israel filed a notice of appeal on 27 November 2024.

On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber reversed the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I on Israel's challenge and remanded the matter to Pre-Trial Chamber I for a new ruling on the substance of Israel's challenge.

The Appeals Chamber said on 24 April 2025 that the Pre-Trial Chamber had committed "an error of law by failing to sufficiently address Israel's argument that it was entitled to make a jurisdictional challenge". The Appeals Chamber also "dismissed, as moot, Israel's request for suspensive effect" of the warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant.

On 9 May 2025, Israel asked Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court to withdraw, vacate or declare the warrants of no force or effect. On 16 July 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected that request. On 17 October 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected Israel's request for leave to appeal the decision of 16 July 2025.

Pre-Trial Chamber I said in its decision of 17 October 2025 that, had the Appeals Chamber considered that the warrants were "automatically affected by the reversal" of the Chamber's jurisdiction decision, "it would have issued different instructions".

On 21 November 2024, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court also rejected Israel's request for an order to the Prosecution to give a new notice of the investigation. On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber, by majority, dismissed Israel's appeal against that decision.

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The Appeals Chamber ruled in its judgment of 15 December 2025 that the Pre-Trial Chamber's decision of 21 November 2024 on the notice "is confirmed". The judgment states: "By majority, Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza and Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa dissenting".

The Court's list of filings shows two dissenting opinions and a concurring opinion filed on 15 December 2025 with the Appeals Chamber's judgment of that day.

On 24 July 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a finding under article 87 of the Rome Statute on Hungary's non-compliance with the Court's request to cooperate in the provisional arrest of Benjamin Netanyahu, and a referral to the Assembly of States Parties.

The Chamber said that on 3 April 2025 the Registry "transmitted a request for the provisional arrest of Mr Netanyahu to the Hungarian authorities". Pre-Trial Chamber I ruled on 24 July 2025 that Hungary "failed to comply with its international obligations under the Statute by not executing the Court's request to provisionally arrest Mr Netanyahu while he was present on Hungarian territory between 3 and 6 April 2025".

The International Criminal Court's case pages for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant each show an arrest warrant issued on 21 November 2024. The Court's case pages list Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant as "At large".

What does the Rome Statute require of States Parties on warrants?

Article 58 of the Rome Statute provides that the Pre-Trial Chamber, on the application of the Prosecutor, shall issue a warrant of arrest if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed a crime within the jurisdiction of the Court and that the arrest appears necessary.

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Article 86 of the Rome Statute provides that States Parties shall cooperate fully with the Court in its investigation and prosecution of crimes within its jurisdiction.

Article 89 of the Rome Statute states: "The Court may transmit a request for the arrest and surrender of a person, together with the material supporting the request outlined in article 91, to any State on the territory of which that person may be found and shall request the cooperation of that State in the arrest and surrender of such a person. States Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Part and the procedure under their national law, comply with requests for arrest and surrender."

Under article 87 of the Rome Statute, where a State Party fails to comply with a request to cooperate, thereby preventing the Court from exercising its functions and powers, the Court may make a finding to that effect and refer the matter to the Assembly of States Parties.

Article 27 of the Rome Statute provides that the Statute shall apply equally to all persons without any distinction based on official capacity. Article 27 of the Rome Statute also provides that immunities which may attach to the official capacity of a person shall not bar the Court from exercising its jurisdiction over such a person. Article 98 of the Rome Statute provides that the Court may not proceed with a request for surrender which would require the requested State to act inconsistently with its obligations with respect to the State or diplomatic immunity of a person of a third State, unless the Court can first obtain the cooperation of that third State for the waiver of the immunity.

Under article 127 of the Rome Statute, a State Party may withdraw by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the withdrawal takes effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification unless the notification specifies a later date.

Article 127 of the Rome Statute also states that a withdrawal "shall not affect any cooperation with the Court in connection with criminal investigations and proceedings in relation to which the withdrawing State had a duty to cooperate

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and which were commenced prior to the date on which the withdrawal became effective".

The ICC Prosecutor said on 20 May 2024: "I count on all States Parties to the Rome Statute to take these applications and the subsequent judicial decision with the same seriousness they have shown in other Situations, meeting their obligations under the Statute."

Which governments have said whether they would arrest Netanyahu?

Christophe Lemoine, a spokesperson for France's Foreign Ministry, said on 21 November 2024 that Paris would react "in line with ICC statutes" and that whether France would arrest the Israeli leaders was "a point that is legally complex".

Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, said that "we will abide by all the regulations and rulings of the international courts", in remarks the Guardian reported on 22 November 2024. Germany's Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, said that Berlin was "bound by" the Court and that whether Netanyahu and Gallant would be arrested was "theoretical" for the time being, in remarks the Guardian reported on 22 November 2024.

Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, said on 22 November 2024: "I will guarantee Mr Netanyahu, if he comes, that the judgment will have no effect in Hungary and that we will not follow its terms." Italy's Defence Minister, Guido Crosetto, said on 22 November 2024: "By joining the court, we must apply its judgments, it is part of the treaty."

France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs said on 27 November 2024: "A state cannot be held to act in a way that is incompatible with its obligations in terms of international law with regard to immunities granted to states which are not party to the ICC." The ministry also said: "Such immunities apply to prime

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minister Netanyahu and other ministers in question, and must be taken into consideration should the ICC ask us to arrest them and hand them over."

In remarks to Parliament's foreign affairs committee that the Guardian reported on 27 November 2024, the UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, said: "Should those named seek to come into our country that doesn't allow me any discretion, I will issue that, transmit that to the courts, and then the courts will make their determination under our law."

Gergely Gulyás, chief of staff to Hungary's Prime Minister, said on 3 April 2025 that the government would "initiate the withdrawal procedure on Thursday in accordance with the constitutional and international legal framework". Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on 3 April 2025 that the "otherwise very important court" had "diminished into a political forum".

Hungary notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute on 2 June 2025. On 29 May 2026, the Government of Hungary notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw its notification of withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

What sanctions has the US imposed over the ICC warrants?

On 6 February 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14203, "Imposing Sanctions on the International Criminal Court", according to the US Department of the Treasury. The order said that the ICC "has further abused its power by issuing baseless arrest warrants targeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant". It also said: "The ICC has no jurisdiction over the United States or Israel, as neither country is party to the Rome Statute or a member of the ICC."

The International Criminal Court said on 7 February 2025: "The ICC condemns the issuance by the US of an Executive Order seeking to impose sanctions on its officials and harm its independent and impartial judicial work." The US

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Department of the Treasury said on 13 February 2025 that it had added the Prosecutor, Karim Khan, to its list of Specially Designated Nationals under the order.

The US Department of State said on 5 June 2025: “Today, the United States is sanctioning four individuals, currently serving as judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC).” The Department said: “Alapini Gansou and Hohler ruled to authorize the ICC’s issuance of arrest warrants targeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant.” It said of the other two: “Bossa and Ibanez Carranza ruled to authorize the ICC’s investigation against U.S. personnel in Afghanistan.”

The US Department of State said on 20 August 2025 that it was sanctioning “four individuals, currently serving on the International Criminal Court (ICC)”. The Department said: “Guillou is being designated for ruling to authorize the ICC’s issuance of arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant.” It said that the Deputy Prosecutors were designated “for continuing to support illegitimate ICC actions against Israel, including upholding the ICC’s arrest warrants targeting Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Gallant since they assumed leadership for the ICC’s Office of the Prosecutor”.

The International Criminal Court said, in a statement UN News reported on 20 August 2025, that it “stands firmly behind its personnel and victims of unimaginable atrocities” and “will continue fulfilling its mandates, undeterred, in strict accordance with its legal framework as adopted by the States Parties and without regard to any restriction, pressure or threat.”

The US Department of State said on 9 October 2026 that the United States “has imposed sanctions on 17 persons pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14203”. The Department said the same day: “The ICC is being designated pursuant to section 1(a)(ii)(A) of Executive Order 14203.”

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Frequently asked questions

Are the ICC arrest warrants over Gaza public?

The International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that the arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant "are classified as 'secret', in order to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations". The Court said the same day that the warrant for the highest commander of Hamas's military wing "is classified as 'secret' in order to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of investigations".

What crimes does the ICC say Yoav Gallant is suspected of?

According to the International Criminal Court's page for the Situation in the State of Palestine, Yoav Gallant, "Minister of Defence of Israel at the time of the alleged conduct", is suspected of "the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare and of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts".

Has Israel asked the ICC to withdraw the warrants?

On 9 May 2025, Israel asked Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court to withdraw, vacate or declare the warrants of no force or effect. On 16 July 2025, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected that request.

What is the status of the ICC warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant?

The International Criminal Court's case pages list Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant as "At large".

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What did the ICC rule about Hungary and the Netanyahu warrant?

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court ruled on 24 July 2025 that Hungary "failed to comply with its international obligations under the Statute by not executing the Court's request to provisionally arrest Mr Netanyahu while he was present on Hungarian territory between 3 and 6 April 2025". The Chamber "REFERS the matter of Hungary's non-compliance to the Assembly of States Parties", according to its decision.

Did Hungary withdraw from the ICC?

Hungary notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute on 2 June 2025. On 29 May 2026, the Government of Hungary notified the Secretary-General of its decision to withdraw its notification of withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

Does the Rome Statute give heads of government immunity from ICC warrants?

Article 27 of the Rome Statute provides that immunities which may attach to the official capacity of a person shall not bar the Court from exercising its jurisdiction over such a person. Article 98 of the Rome Statute provides that the Court may not proceed with a request for surrender which would require the requested State to act inconsistently with its obligations with respect to the State or diplomatic immunity of a person of a third State, unless the Court can first obtain the cooperation of that third State for the waiver of the immunity.

Will the ICC Prosecution seek more arrest warrants over Gaza?

The International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that the Prosecution "envisions that further applications for warrants of arrest will be submitted". The

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ICC Prosecutor said on 20 May 2024: "My Office will not hesitate to submit further applications for warrants of arrest if and when we consider that the threshold of a realistic prospect of conviction has been met."

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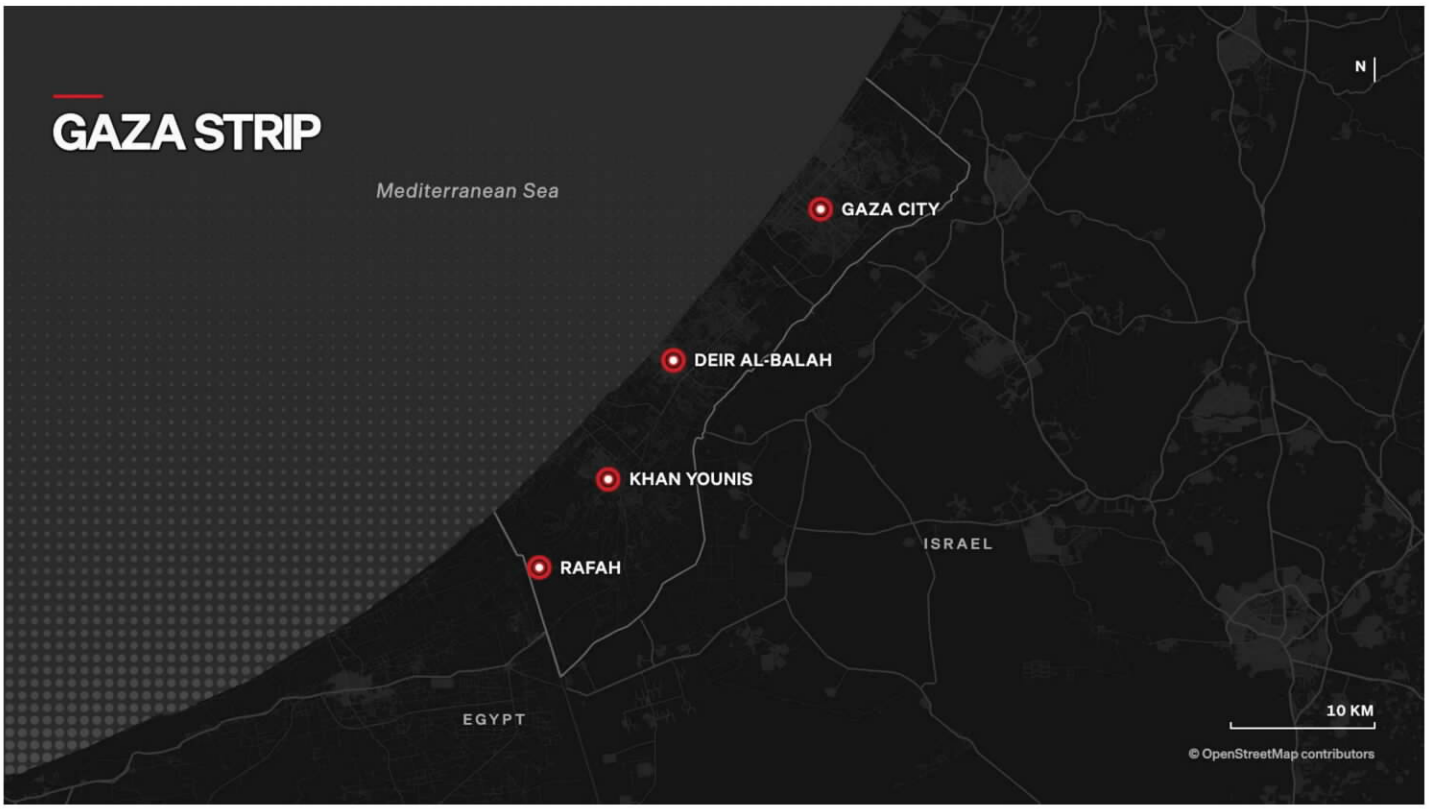
Diplomacy and Negotiations

WHAT CEASEFIRES HAVE THERE BEEN IN GAZA SINCE 2008?

A dated timeline of each ceasefire and truce between Israel and Hamas in Gaza from June 2008 to October 2025, with what the mediators and parties said.

TIMELINE 16 November 2026

Gaza ceasefire | Gaza Strip | Egypt | Qatar | Hamas | UN Security Council



The ceasefires and truces between Israel and Hamas in Gaza since 2008 began on 19 June 2008, 18 January 2009, 21 November 2012, 26 August 2014, 21 May

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2021, 24 November 2023, 19 January 2025 and 10 October 2025, as major outlets date them. Egypt brokered or proposed those of 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2021, and Qatar and Egypt mediated the truce of November 2023. The first entry below is dated 18 June 2008, and the latest 29 January 2026.

What Gaza ceasefires were there in 2008 and 2009?

A six-month truce between Israel and Hamas, brokered by Egypt, took effect in Gaza at dawn on 19 June 2008. The truce expired on 19 December 2008.

UN Security Council resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire in Gaza. Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire in Gaza from 2 a.m. on 18 January 2009, and Hamas declared a one-week ceasefire later that day.

- 18 June 2008: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that the truce would be “fragile and likely to be short-lived”, and that Israel would abide by the ceasefire with its armed forces ready to act if cross-border rocket attacks continued.
- 19 June 2008: A six-month truce between Israel and Hamas, brokered by Egypt, took effect in Gaza at dawn.
- 19 June 2008: Hamas’s leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, said that the truce would “bring stability to Israel if they commit themselves to it”.
- 18 December 2008: Hamas official Ayman Taha said that the calm “reached with Egyptian sponsorship on 19 June” was “finished because the enemy did not abide by its obligations”, and that “the calm is over”.
- 19 December 2008: The six-month truce between Israel and Hamas expired.
- 19 December 2008: Hamas said in a statement on its website that it held “the enemy fully responsible for ending the truce”.
- 8 January 2009: The UN Security Council adopted resolution 1860 by 14 votes to none, with the United States abstaining.

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- 8 January 2009: Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said at the Council that President Hosni Mubarak "personally welcomes the resolution", and called for "an immediate ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza".
- 8 January 2009: Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gabriela Shalev, said at the Council that "any arrangement must be fully respected and secured, including the total cessation of rocket fire and smuggling".
- 8 January 2009: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said at the Council that "an immediate and durable ceasefire is the first step".
- 8 January 2009: The UN Security Council stated in resolution 1860 that it "stresses the urgency of and calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza", and that it "welcomes the Egyptian initiative".
- 8 January 2009: US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the Council that the resolution "is a step towards our goals", and that Egypt's mediation efforts were "to be not just applauded, but supported".
- 17 January 2009: Hamas delegation spokesman Salah Bardwill said that Hamas was working towards "stopping the aggression, lifting the blockade, opening the crossings".
- 17 January 2009: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said that Israel had declared a unilateral ceasefire in Gaza from 2 a.m. on 18 January, and that "the aims that we laid down for the operation have been completely achieved".
- 18 January 2009: Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire in Gaza from 2 a.m.
- 18 January 2009: Hamas declared a one-week ceasefire.
- 18 January 2009: Senior Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk said on Syrian television that the groups demanded "that Israeli forces withdraw in one week and that they open all the border crossings to permit the entry of humanitarian aid and basic goods for our people in Gaza".
- 18 January 2009: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said at a gathering in Sharm el-Sheikh that, if the ceasefire held, "the government of Israel has no intention to stay in the Gaza Strip".

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- 21 January 2009: Israel's military said that Israeli troops had completed their withdrawal from Gaza.

What Gaza ceasefires were agreed in 2012 and 2014?

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, announced in Cairo by Egypt's foreign minister and the US secretary of state, took effect at 9 p.m. local time on 21 November 2012. The ceasefire ended eight days of fighting that began on 14 November 2012.

An open-ended ceasefire agreed by Israel, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority, brokered by Egypt, took effect at 7 p.m. local time on 26 August 2014. The ceasefire was reached on the 50th day of fighting that began on 8 July 2014.

- 21 November 2012: A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, announced in Cairo by Egypt's foreign minister and the US secretary of state, took effect at 9 p.m. local time.
- 21 November 2012: Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr said in Cairo that Egypt's efforts had reached "an agreement to a ceasefire and the return of calm", and that "the ceasefire is set to start at 9 p.m. Cairo time today".
- 21 November 2012: Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr also said that "Egypt calls upon the international community to be engaged in monitoring the implementation of the Egyptian-brokered agreement".
- 21 November 2012: The text of the agreement, as The Guardian quoted it, says that Israel will "stop all hostilities in the Gaza Strip by land, sea and air including incursions and targeting of individuals", and that all Palestinian groups will "stop all hostilities from the Gaza Strip against Israel including rocket attacks and all attacks along the border".
- 21 November 2012: Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said at a press conference in Cairo that Israel had "failed in its adventure".

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- 21 November 2012: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: “I know there are citizens expecting a more severe military action, and perhaps we shall need to do so.”
- 21 November 2012: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo that “the United States welcomes the agreement today for a ceasefire in Gaza”, and that “for it to hold, the rocket attacks must end”.
- 26 August 2014: An open-ended ceasefire agreed by Israel, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority, brokered by Egypt, took effect at 7 p.m. local time.
- 26 August 2014: Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said at the Shifa hospital in Gaza City: “We announce the victory today after achieving our goals.”
- 26 August 2014: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said through his spokesman that “any peace effort that does not tackle the root causes of the crisis will do little more than set the stage for the next cycle of violence”.
- 26 August 2014: US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: “We strongly support the ceasefire announcement.”
- 27 August 2014: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a news conference that Hamas had won nothing in the ceasefire deal and had been “hit hard”.

What Gaza ceasefires were there in 2021 and 2023?

A ceasefire between Israel, Hamas and the other groups in Gaza, proposed by Egypt, took effect at 2 a.m. local time on 21 May 2021. The ceasefire ended 11 days of fighting that began on 10 May 2021.

A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m. on 24 November 2023. The truce was extended by two days on 27 November 2023 and by a further day on 30 November 2023. The truce expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023.

- 20 May 2021: Hamas said that the agreement was “mutual and simultaneous”.

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- 20 May 2021: Israel's Prime Minister's Office said that the cabinet had unanimously approved the "mutual and unconditional" ceasefire proposed by Egypt, and that "the reality on the ground will be that which determines the future of the campaign".
- 20 May 2021: US President Joe Biden said that Israel had agreed to "a mutual, unconditional ceasefire to begin in less than two hours", and extended his "sincere gratitude to President Al Sisi and the senior Egyptian officials who played a critical role in this diplomacy".
- 21 May 2021: A ceasefire between Israel, Hamas and the other groups in Gaza, proposed by Egypt, took effect at 2 a.m. local time.
- 21 May 2021: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "If Hamas thinks we will tolerate a drizzle of rockets, it is wrong."
- 21 May 2021: UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that "Israeli and Palestinian leaders have a responsibility beyond the restoration of calm to start a serious dialogue to address the root causes of the conflict".
- 21 November 2023: US President Joe Biden said that it was "important that all aspects of this deal be fully implemented", and thanked Egypt and Qatar for their "critical leadership and partnership".
- 22 November 2023: Israel and Hamas announced an agreement on a truce, after weeks of talks mediated by Qatar.
- 22 November 2023: Hamas said that the agreement was a "humanitarian truce" under which 150 Palestinian women and children would be freed from Israeli jails.
- 22 November 2023: Israel's government said that it had approved the first stage of an outline under which at least 50 abductees would be released over four days, "during which there will be a lull in the fighting", and that "the release of every 10 additional abductees will result in an additional day of respite".
- 22 November 2023: Israel's government also said that it would "continue the war in order to return home all of the hostages, complete the elimination of

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Hamas and ensure that there will be no new threat to the State of Israel from Gaza".

- 22 November 2023: Qatar's foreign ministry said that the truce would "allow the entry of a larger number of humanitarian convoys and relief aid, including fuel designated for humanitarian needs".
- 24 November 2023: A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m.
- 24 November 2023: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "We are committed to returning all the hostages."
- 27 November 2023: The truce was extended by two days.
- 27 November 2023: Hamas said that it had agreed to extend the four-day truce by 48 hours, on the same conditions, after the intervention of Qatar and Egypt.
- 27 November 2023: UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that the extension was "a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle of the darkness of war".
- 30 November 2023: The truce was extended by a further day.
- 30 November 2023: Israel's military said that the truce with Hamas would continue.
- 30 November 2023: Israel's Prime Minister's Office said that a list of women and children had been delivered to Israel, and "therefore, the pause will continue".
- 1 December 2023: The truce expired at 7 a.m.
- 1 December 2023: Hamas said in a statement that Israel had made a "prior decision to resume its criminal aggression against the Gaza Strip".
- 1 December 2023: Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy said: "Having chosen to hold on to our women, Hamas will now take the mother of all thumpings."
- 1 December 2023: UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: "I deeply regret that military operations have started again in Gaza."

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What happened in Gaza ceasefire talks from May 2024 to March 2025?

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025.

- 31 May 2024: US President Joe Biden said that a new proposal had “three phases”, the first of which “would last for six weeks” and include “a full and complete ceasefire”, and that “it’s time for this war to end and for the day after to begin”.
- 10 June 2024: The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2735 by 14 votes to none, with the Russian Federation abstaining.
- 10 June 2024: Hamas said that it welcomed the resolution.
- 10 June 2024: Israel’s delegation to the Security Council said that “once those goals are met, the war will end”, and that Israel “will not engage in meaningless and endless negotiations that can be exploited by Hamas as a way of stalling for time”.
- 10 June 2024: The UN Security Council stated in resolution 2735 that it “welcomes the new ceasefire proposal announced on May 31, which Israel accepted, calls upon Hamas to also accept it, and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition”.
- 10 June 2024: The UN Security Council stated in the same resolution that the second phase would bring, “upon agreement of the parties, a permanent end to hostilities, in exchange for the release of all other hostages still in Gaza, and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza”, and the third “the start of a major multi-year reconstruction plan for Gaza”.
- 10 June 2024: The UN Security Council also stated that “the proposal says if the negotiations take longer than six weeks for phase one, the ceasefire will still continue as long as negotiations continue”.
- 10 June 2024: The US delegation to the Security Council said that “such a deal has proven elusive because Hamas has refused to accept any agreement”.

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- 15 January 2025: Hamas negotiator Khalil al-Hayya said in a televised speech from Qatar that the agreement was a “historic moment”.
- 15 January 2025: Islamic Jihad said in a statement that the deal was “an honorable agreement to stop the aggression”.
- 15 January 2025: Israeli government spokesperson David Mencer said that Israel was “prepared to pay a heavy price” for the 33 hostages.
- 15 January 2025: Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said that 33 Israeli hostages would be released in the first, 42-day phase, and: “We hope that this will be the last page of the war.”
- 15 January 2025: Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said that Qatar, the United States and Egypt would monitor the ceasefire through a body based in Cairo.
- 18 January 2025: Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office said that “the government has approved the hostage return plan”.
- 19 January 2025: A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time.
- 18 March 2025: Egypt’s foreign ministry called on the international community to “act immediately to halt the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip”.
- 18 March 2025: Hamas said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had decided to overturn the ceasefire agreement, “putting the captives in Gaza at risk of an unknown fate”.
- 18 March 2025: Hamas also said that hostage releases were due only in a scheduled second phase that Israel had agreed in January and had since refused to discuss or implement.
- 18 March 2025: Israel’s military and security agency said that they were “currently conducting extensive strikes” on Hamas targets in Gaza.
- 18 March 2025: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Hamas had refused to release hostages or accept a US proposal to extend the

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ceasefire: “This is why I authorized yesterday the renewal of military action against Hamas.”

- 18 March 2025: Qatar’s foreign ministry said that Israel’s “escalating policies will ultimately ignite the region and undermine its security and stability”.

What Gaza ceasefire took effect in October 2025?

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel’s government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump’s Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned.

- 9 October 2025: Israel and Hamas agreed to the first phase of a ceasefire plan in Gaza.
- 9 October 2025: Hamas said that it had agreed to the US president’s proposal, and that the deal included an Israeli withdrawal from the territory and a hostage-prisoner exchange.
- 9 October 2025: Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office said that the ceasefire would take effect once the government had ratified the agreement.
- 9 October 2025: UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on all parties to “abide fully” by the agreement’s terms.
- 9 October 2025: US President Donald Trump said in a post that he thanked “the mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey”.
- 10 October 2025: The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time.
- 10 October 2025: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: “I believed that if we applied heavy military pressure, combined with heavy diplomatic

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pressure, we would absolutely be able to return all of our hostages."

- 13 October 2025: The International Committee of the Red Cross said that it had facilitated the return of 20 hostages to Israeli authorities that day.
- 17 November 2025: The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2803 by 13 votes to none, with China and the Russian Federation abstaining.
- 17 November 2025: The UN Security Council stated in resolution 2803 that it "endorses the Comprehensive Plan, acknowledges the parties have accepted it, and calls on all parties to implement it in its entirety, including maintenance of the ceasefire, in good faith and without delay".
- 17 November 2025: The plan annexed to resolution 2803 says: "If both sides agree to this proposal, the war will immediately end. Israeli forces will withdraw to the agreed upon line to prepare for a hostage release."
- 26 January 2026: Israel's military said: "With this, all hostages have been returned from the Gaza Strip to the State of Israel."
- 29 January 2026: The International Committee of the Red Cross said that its release and transfer operations under the ceasefire agreement had been completed, "after the remains of the final deceased hostage were recovered by Israeli authorities".

What release figures did the parties give under the Gaza truces?

Israel's government said on 22 November 2023 that at least 50 abductees would be released over the four days of the truce it had approved. Hamas said on 22 November 2023 that 150 Palestinian women and children would be freed from Israeli jails under that agreement.

Qatar's prime minister said on 15 January 2025 that 33 Israeli hostages would be released in the first phase of the ceasefire that began on 19 January 2025. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that the

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operation under the October 2025 ceasefire began with the release and transfer of 20 living hostages and 1,808 detainees.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
at least 50 abductees	Israel's government	22 November 2023	"at least 50 abductees" to be released over four days, in the first stage of the outline
150 Palestinian women and children	Hamas	22 November 2023	to be freed from Israeli jails under the "humanitarian truce"
120 hostages	Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council	10 June 2024	"120 hostages are still being held by Hamas"
33 Israeli hostages	Qatar's prime minister	15 January 2025	to be released in the first, 42-day phase
20 hostages	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	returned to Israeli authorities that day
250 life sentence prisoners plus 1,700 Gazans	UN Security Council	17 November 2025	the plan annexed to resolution 2803: Israel "will release" them "once all hostages are released"
20 living hostages and 1,808 detainees	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	released and transferred when the operation began in October 2025
27 out of 28 hostages	International Committee of	29 January	deceased hostages whose return it

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
	the Red Cross	2026	facilitated in later phases

Frequently asked questions

What was the first Gaza truce after the start of 2008?

A six-month truce between Israel and Hamas, brokered by Egypt, took effect in Gaza at dawn on 19 June 2008. The truce expired on 19 December 2008.

What did Security Council resolution 1860 call for in January 2009?

UN Security Council resolution 1860 of 8 January 2009 called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire in Gaza. The Council stated in it that the ceasefire should lead "to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza".

Who announced the Gaza ceasefire of November 2012?

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, announced in Cairo by Egypt's foreign minister and the US secretary of state, took effect at 9 p.m. local time on 21 November 2012. Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr called it "the Egyptian-brokered agreement" on 21 November 2012.

When did the Gaza ceasefire of August 2014 begin?

An open-ended ceasefire agreed by Israel, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority, brokered by Egypt, took effect at 7 p.m. local time on 26

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August 2014. The ceasefire was reached on the 50th day of fighting that began on 8 July 2014.

How long did the Gaza truce of November 2023 last?

A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m. on 24 November 2023. The truce was extended by two days on 27 November 2023 and by a further day on 30 November 2023. The truce expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023.

What did Security Council resolution 2735 say about a Gaza ceasefire?

The UN Security Council stated in resolution 2735 of 10 June 2024 that it "welcomes the new ceasefire proposal announced on May 31, which Israel accepted, calls upon Hamas to also accept it". The Council stated that the proposal's second phase would bring "a permanent end to hostilities".

What happened to the January 2025 Gaza ceasefire on 18 March 2025?

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025. On 18 March 2025, Israel's military and security agency said that they were "currently conducting extensive strikes" on Hamas targets in Gaza.

When did the October 2025 Gaza ceasefire take effect?

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

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What does the Comprehensive Plan say about the return of hostages?

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned. Israel's military said on 26 January 2026: "With this, all hostages have been returned from the Gaza Strip to the State of Israel."

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History and Places

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF 6 TO 7 OCTOBER 2023, ACCORDING TO ISRAEL'S INVESTIGATIONS?

A timeline of the night of 6 to 7 October 2023 and the day that followed, as the IDF, the Israel Security Agency and the Prime Minister's Office stated it.

TIMELINE 16 November 2026

7 October 2023 | IDF | Israel Security Agency | Prime Minister's Office



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The IDF published a summary of its investigations into 7 October 2023 on 27 February 2025, and the Israel Security Agency published a summary of its investigation on 4 March 2025. An IDF expert team presented its review of the IDF's investigations on 10 November 2025. The Prime Minister's Office said on 3 September 2026 that it was publishing the prime minister's schedule for the morning of 7 October 2023. The first entry below is dated 6 October 2023, at 9 p.m., and the latest 3 September 2026.

What happened on the evening of 6 October 2023 before the attack?

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages. The IDF said in its investigation of the night, published on 27 February 2025, that the first sign came at 9 p.m. on 6 October.

- 6 October 2023: At 9 p.m., according to the IDF's investigation published on 27 February 2025, the Israel Security Agency identified a handful of Israeli SIM cards being activated in the hands of members of Hamas's Nukhba force.
- 6 October 2023: The IDF said in its investigation of 27 February 2025 that a representative of the Israel Security Agency updated the intelligence officers of the Gaza Division and Southern Command on the SIM cards by WhatsApp, and that more SIM cards were activated later in the night, "reaching several dozen in total."
- 6 October 2023: At 9:30 p.m., according to the IDF's investigation, the two intelligence officers updated their superiors, the commander of the Gaza Division and the head of Southern Command, about the SIM cards.
- 6 October 2023: In the evening hours, the IDF said in the summary it released on 27 February 2025, Israeli SIM cards were activated inside Gaza, and "this was not alerted as it had happened before."
- 6 October 2023: Around 11 p.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, Hamas began preparing its forces, after spending much of the day

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putting them on alert and gathering weapons.

- 6 October 2023: At 11:30 p.m., according to the IDF's investigation, "certain Hamas activity was detected," and the sign was dismissed after checks.

What happened before 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023?

The IDF's investigation of the night gives a run of calls and assessments from midnight to 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023. The IDF said in that investigation that calls and assessments continued until 6:29 a.m.

- 7 October 2023: At midnight, according to the IDF's investigation published on 27 February 2025, another indicative sign was received, and it was also dismissed after checks.
- 7 October 2023: Between 2 and 3 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation, the office of the Chief of the General Staff spoke with the Israel Security Agency about the developments.
- 7 October 2023: Between 2:30 and 3 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, another piece of intelligence about Hamas activity was received, and intelligence officers concluded after checks that it was "likely a drill."
- 7 October 2023: At 3:10 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation of 27 February 2025, the head of the Military Intelligence Directorate, the head of its Research Division and the head of another of its units were updated for the first time.
- 7 October 2023: Between 3:15 and 3:50 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, the head of Southern Command held an assessment with the intelligence officers of Southern Command and the Gaza Division and two senior intelligence officials of the Israel Security Agency.
- 7 October 2023: At 3:20 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation, the Chief of the General Staff was updated at home by his office manager and asked to speak with the head of Southern Command, and, waiting, wrote on a paper: "Don't convince ourselves that this is nothing."

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- 7 October 2023: At 3:30 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, the Israel Security Agency wrote up a report "stating that Hamas was acting according to its routine and was not interested in an escalation."
- 7 October 2023: The IDF said in its investigation of 27 February 2025 that no new information came from the Gaza Strip from 3:30 a.m.
- 7 October 2023: After the assessment that ended at 3:50 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, the head of Southern Command, in agreement with the Israel Security Agency, sent a counterterror force of the agency and the police's Yamam unit, known as a Tequila team, to the Gaza border "to be on alert."
- 7 October 2023: At 4 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation, the head of Southern Command told the commander of the Gaza Division's Northern Brigade to return home from his weekend vacation.
- 7 October 2023: By 4 a.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, Hamas had concluded the briefings of its forces.
- 7 October 2023: Between 4 and 4:30 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, the Chief of the General Staff held a call with the head of Southern Command, which the head of the Operations Directorate joined.
- 7 October 2023: In that call, the IDF said in its investigation, the Chief of the General Staff told officers to increase surveillance on Hamas and to hold a new assessment at 8:30 a.m., or earlier if new information came in.
- 7 October 2023: Between 4 and 5 a.m., according to the IDF's investigation, Southern Command and the Air Force held numerous calls on moving up the deployment of drones and moving a helicopter to the Ramon Airbase in southern Israel.
- 7 October 2023: Between 4:30 and 5:20 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation, the head of the Operations Directorate held calls with the head of the Research Division and other officers and worked to shorten the dispatch time of the Tequila team and the Air Force's drones.
- 7 October 2023: At 5:15 a.m., according to the schedule the Prime Minister's Office published on 3 September 2026, the head of the Israel Security Agency

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had a situation assessment document.

- 7 October 2023: By 5:30 a.m., the IDF said in its investigation of 27 February 2025, the commander of the Air Force had been updated, and the commander of the Navy was not updated that night.
- 7 October 2023: The Israel Security Agency said in its summary of 4 March 2025 that warning signs it received on the night of 6 October did not result in major actions being taken.
- 7 October 2023: The Israel Security Agency said in its summary of 4 March 2025 that during the night between 6 and 7 October there were gaps in the "handling of information and integration of intelligence," operations that did not follow the usual protocol, and a lack of "fusion" with the IDF's intelligence.
- 7 October 2023: According to the Israel Security Agency's report, published on 4 March 2025, a series of weak signs had not been attributed to Hamas's attack plans, and "That led to the mortal flaw in the decision-making on the night between 6 and 7 October."
- 7 October 2023: The IDF said in the summary of its expert team's review, published on 10 November 2025, that "On the night of Oct. 7, direct intelligence had accumulated which, if professionally analyzed, could and should have led to an alert and a significant operational response."
- 7 October 2023: According to the IDF's summary of the expert team's review of 10 November 2025, the team did not find a single officer among the commanders or the intelligence community who assembled a picture of the enemy's situation thoroughly and professionally on the night before the attack.
- 7 October 2023: The IDF said in the same summary of 10 November 2025 that "In the critical hours before the assault, not a single significant operational action was taken."

What happened after 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023?

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The IDF said in its investigations of 27 February 2025 that the attack began at 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023. The Prime Minister's Office timed the prime minister's first update to the same minute, in the schedule it published on 3 September 2026.

- 7 October 2023: At 6:29 a.m., according to the IDF's investigations published on 27 February 2025, Hamas launched an attack on Israel from the land, air and sea, "along with massive rocket fire."
- 7 October 2023: At 6:29 a.m., the Prime Minister's Office said in its schedule of 3 September 2026, the military secretary informed the prime minister for the first time that there was an attack from the Gaza Strip.
- 7 October 2023: Between 6:29 and 7 a.m., the IDF said in its investigations, the first wave of the ground attack set out for the IDF's border posts and planned to reach the Re'im base, which is the Gaza Division's headquarters, an intelligence base and the Sderot police station.
- 7 October 2023: At 6:37 a.m., according to the IDF's investigations, the Gaza Division declared "Parash Peleshet", its codeword for the most extreme infiltration scenario.
- 7 October 2023: At 6:43 a.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, it declared a state of emergency.
- 7 October 2023: At 6:44 a.m., according to the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister had a second update call with his military secretary and asked why nothing had appeared in the intelligence conveyed to him, whether a large-scale reserve mobilisation was required and whether it was possible to carry out "an assassination of the Hamas leadership."
- 7 October 2023: From 7 a.m., the IDF said in its investigations, the second wave of the ground attack moved on Israeli border communities and planned to reach sites deeper in Israel, including Air Force bases.
- 7 October 2023: At 7:10 a.m., according to the IDF's investigations, the Air Force declared that it was at war.

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- 7 October 2023: At 7:15 a.m., the IDF said in its investigations, the Air Force carried out its first drone strike, near Netiv HaAsara, and stopped a group of Hamas members from crossing the border.
- 7 October 2023: At 7:30 a.m., according to the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister left for the Kirya, the IDF's headquarters, after his convoy had been prepared, and spoke on the way with the defence minister, who told him that there was no clear picture.
- 7 October 2023: At 7:55 a.m., the IDF said in its investigations, fighter jets carried out an attack plan that included bombing Hamas tunnels and underground command centres, "under the assumption that the infiltration was being carried out using tunnels."
- 7 October 2023: Around 8 a.m., the Prime Minister's Office said, the prime minister arrived at the Kirya.
- 7 October 2023: From 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., according to the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister asked for and received intelligence updates and updates from the field from his military secretary's staff.
- 7 October 2023: At 8:40 a.m., the Prime Minister's Office said, the defence minister convened the Chief of the General Staff and the head of the Israel Security Agency to form a picture of the situation before the meeting with the prime minister.
- 7 October 2023: After 9 a.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, the attackers took advantage of IDF failures and seized opportunities to press the attack.
- 7 October 2023: From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to the IDF's investigations, a third wave of the ground attack came to back up the first two.
- 7 October 2023: At 9:30 a.m., the IDF said in its investigations, the commander of the Air Force told aircraft to strike in the border area, both to stop crossings into Israel and to stop returns to the Gaza Strip.
- 7 October 2023: At 9:47 a.m., according to the Prime Minister's Office, the military secretary received for the first time the Israel Security Agency's situation assessment document of 5:15 a.m.

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- 7 October 2023: At 9:55 a.m., the Prime Minister's Office said, the prime minister held a situation assessment in the IDF's underground command centre with the defence minister, the Chief of the General Staff, the director of the Mossad, the head of the Israel Security Agency, the national security adviser and the head of the Operations Directorate.
- 7 October 2023: At that assessment, according to the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister instructed that the border be "hermetically sealed to prevent hostages from being taken to Gaza", rejected the IDF's recommendation for a partial reserve mobilisation, instructed a full mobilisation, and ordered a war order and "preparations for the northern front."
- 7 October 2023: The Prime Minister's Office said that at the end of the meeting the prime minister held a limited security consultation with the defence minister and the Chief of the General Staff.

What happened later on 7 October 2023, according to the IDF?

The IDF said in its investigations of 27 February 2025 that the Gaza Division was "defeated for several hours" on 7 October 2023. The IDF said that this was "an insight that was not understood in real-time, but only afterward, during the investigations."

- 7 October 2023: Before noon, according to the IDF's investigations published on 27 February 2025, most of the abductions took place.
- 7 October 2023: Around 1 p.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, it stopped several of the "main attacks".
- 7 October 2023: At 3 p.m., the IDF said in its summary, there were still hundreds of attackers in Israel.
- 7 October 2023: By 4 p.m., according to the IDF's investigations, its forces had reached all of the areas under attack.

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- 7 October 2023: By 9 p.m., the IDF said in its summary of 27 February 2025, it had gained control of some of the communities and surrounding areas.
- 7 October 2023: Around midnight, the IDF said in its summary, dozens of attackers were still present.
- 7 October 2023: During the night of 7 October, according to the IDF's investigations, the IDF regained control of the border.

When were Israel's investigations into 7 October published?

The IDF published a summary of its investigations into 7 October 2023 on 27 February 2025. The investigation looked at Israeli military strategy, battle behaviour and intelligence before, during and after 7 October 2023. The IDF's initial investigation began in November 2023, and its Chief of the General Staff ordered all units to start investigations in March 2024.

The Israel Security Agency published a summary of its investigation into 7 October 2023 on 4 March 2025, five days after the IDF published its investigation. The agency's public summary ran to eight pages.

The IDF's Chief of the General Staff appointed an expert team on 22 March 2025 to review the IDF's investigations into 7 October 2023. The expert team presented its findings to the Chief of the General Staff and the General Staff forum on 10 November 2025.

- 27 February 2025: The IDF said that, in addition to the four General Staff investigations it presented that day, it had investigated 41 separate battles and major incidents of 7 October 2023.
- 27 February 2025: The IDF said in the summary of its investigations that before the attack it believed that "Hamas didn't want a full-scale war."
- 27 February 2025: The Prime Minister's Office said that the military had not given the prime minister the findings of its investigations into the war.

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- 4 March 2025: The Israel Security Agency published the summary of its investigation, in which it said that it had "failed in its mission" to prevent the attack.
- 4 March 2025: The head of the Israel Security Agency said in a statement with the summary that, had the agency acted differently "in the years leading up to the attack and during the night of the attack", the attack would have been avoided.
- 4 March 2025: The Prime Minister's Office said in response that "Shin Bet Chief completely failed in everything related to the organization's handling of Hamas, especially during the events of October 7."
- 10 November 2025: The IDF said that its expert team had identified six explanations for the failure of 7 October, the sixth of them "a flawed process of decision-making and use of force on the night of 7 October 2023", in a working translation of the Hebrew.
- 10 November 2025: The IDF said that the expert team had dealt only with the IDF's investigations, without examining the space between the political and military echelons or between the IDF and parallel security organs.
- 3 September 2026: The Prime Minister's Office said that it was publishing the prime minister's schedule for the morning of 7 October 2023 "following incorrect reports that were recently published."

What figures did Israel's investigations give for 7 October 2023?

On 27 February 2025, the IDF said in the summary of its investigations that between 5,000 and 5,600 people infiltrated Israel in three waves, and that 4,696 rockets and mortars were fired towards Israel. On 27 February 2025, the IDF said that the attack left 829 Israeli civilians, 76 foreign nationals and 415 security personnel dead, and that 251 hostages were taken into the Gaza Strip.

On 27 February 2025, the IDF said that it had just 767 soldiers deployed to the Gaza border that morning. On 27 February 2025, the IDF said in its

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investigations, as The Times of Israel relayed them, that the first wave numbered 1,175 members of Hamas's Nukhba force. On 27 February 2025, the IDF said in its summary, as Fox News relayed it, that 1,154 members of Hamas' Nukhba forces invaded with the first wave.

On 4 March 2025, the Israel Security Agency said that 45 Israeli SIM cards were activated overnight by Hamas operatives in Gaza.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
5,000 to 5,600	IDF	27 February 2025	infiltrated Israel in three waves
4,696	IDF	27 February 2025	rockets and mortars fired towards Israel
829	IDF	27 February 2025	Israeli civilians dead
76	IDF	27 February 2025	foreign nationals dead
415	IDF	27 February 2025	security personnel dead
251	IDF	27 February 2025	hostages taken into the Gaza Strip
767	IDF	27 February 2025	soldiers deployed to the Gaza border that morning
1,175	IDF	27 February 2025	members of Hamas's Nukhba force in the first wave, between 6:29 and 7 a.m.
1,154	IDF	27 February 2025	members of Hamas' Nukhba forces who invaded with the first wave at 6:29 a.m.
600	IDF	27 February 2025	"some 600" Nukhba in the second wave, between 7 and 9 a.m.

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
435	IDF	27 February 2025	"some 435" Nukhba in the third wave, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
1,325	IDF	27 February 2025	members of Hamas who joined during the second and third waves, starting at 7 a.m.
580	IDF	27 February 2025	members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, other groups and unaffiliated Palestinians who joined, starting at 7 a.m.
3,400	IDF	27 February 2025	inside Israeli territory between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
114	IDF	27 February 2025	locations at which the border fence was breached
37	IDF	27 February 2025	gates forced open
34	IDF	27 February 2025	areas under attack between 7 and 8 a.m.
11	IDF	27 February 2025	of those areas with IDF troops present
more than 1,600	IDF	27 February 2025	killed in Israel during the attack, by the IDF's estimate
149	IDF	27 February 2025	captured
45	Israel Security Agency	4 March 2025	Israeli SIM cards activated overnight by Hamas operatives in Gaza

Frequently asked questions

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When did the attack of 7 October 2023 begin, according to the IDF?

The IDF said in its investigations, published on 27 February 2025, that the attack began at 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023. The IDF said that Hamas launched an attack from the land, air and sea, "along with massive rocket fire."

When was the first sign of Hamas activity detected on 6 October 2023?

According to the IDF's investigation published on 27 February 2025, the Israel Security Agency identified a handful of Israeli SIM cards being activated in Gaza at 9 p.m. on 6 October 2023. The IDF said that more were activated later in the night, "reaching several dozen in total."

When was the IDF's Chief of the General Staff updated on the night of 7 October 2023?

The IDF said in its investigation of 27 February 2025 that the Chief of the General Staff was updated at home at 3:20 a.m. on 7 October 2023. According to the investigation, he held a call with the head of Southern Command between 4 and 4:30 a.m.

What did Israel's investigations say about decisions on the night of 6 to 7 October 2023?

The Israel Security Agency said in its summary of 4 March 2025 that warning signs it received on the night of 6 October 2023 did not result in major actions being taken. The IDF said in the summary of its expert team's review, published on 10 November 2025, that on the night of 7 October "direct intelligence had accumulated which, if professionally analyzed, could and should have led to an alert and a significant operational response."

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What is a Tequila team?

According to the IDF's investigation published on 27 February 2025, a Tequila team is a counterterror force made up of Israel Security Agency fighters and members of the police's Yamam unit. The IDF said that the head of Southern Command sent a Tequila team to the Gaza border after an assessment that ended at 3:50 a.m. on 7 October 2023.

When was Israel's prime minister told of the attack on 7 October 2023?

The Prime Minister's Office said in the schedule it published on 3 September 2026 that the military secretary informed the prime minister of the attack at 6:29 a.m. on 7 October 2023. The office said that the prime minister held a situation assessment with the heads of Israel's security services at 9:55 a.m.

How many people infiltrated Israel on 7 October 2023, according to the IDF?

On 27 February 2025, the IDF said in the summary of its investigations that between 5,000 and 5,600 people infiltrated Israel in three waves on 7 October 2023.

When did the IDF regain control of the Gaza border on 7 October 2023?

According to the IDF's investigations published on 27 February 2025, the IDF regained control of the border during the night of 7 October 2023. The IDF said that by 9 p.m. it had gained control of some of the communities and surrounding areas.

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Governance of Gaza

WHAT IS HAMAS?

Hamas: what it is, how governments and Hamas describe its structure, its history since 1987, dated designations, its 2017 document and statements on its role.

PROFILE 16 November 2026

Hamas | Gaza Strip | Palestinian legislative election | Central Elections Commission | Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades | New York Declaration



Hamas is a Palestinian group and political movement in the Gaza Strip. Hamas started in 1987, won the Palestinian legislative election of 25 January 2006, and

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became the sole ruler of the Gaza Strip in 2007.

What kind of group is Hamas?

Hamas is a Palestinian group and political movement in the Gaza Strip. On 1 May 2017, Hamas published a new policy document, the first since its founding charter.

Hamas said on 1 May 2017, in the first article of its "A Document of General Principles and Policies": "The Islamic Resistance Movement 'Hamas' is a Palestinian Islamic national liberation and resistance movement."

The same document says, in its second article: "Palestine, which extends from the River Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean in the west and from Ras Al-Naqurah in the north to Umm Al-Rashrash in the south, is an integral territorial unit." Its sixth article says: "The Palestinian people are one people, made up of all Palestinians, inside and outside of Palestine, irrespective of their religion, culture or political affiliation."

Article 16 of Hamas's document says: "Hamas affirms that its conflict is with the Zionist project not with the Jews because of their religion. Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine." Article 20 says that Hamas "considers the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967, with the return of the refugees and the displaced to their homes from which they were expelled, to be a formula of national consensus."

On Palestinian politics, article 28 of the document says: "Hamas believes in, and adheres to, managing its Palestinian relations on the basis of pluralism, democracy, national partnership, acceptance of the other and the adoption of dialogue." Article 29 says: "The PLO is a national framework for the Palestinian people inside and outside of Palestine." Article 31 says: "Hamas affirms that the role of the Palestinian Authority should be to serve the Palestinian people and

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safeguard their security, their rights and their national project." Article 37 says: "Hamas believes in cooperating with all states that support the rights of the Palestinian people. It opposes intervention in the internal affairs of any country."

Fawzi Barhoum, a spokesman for Hamas, said on 1 May 2017: "The document gives us a chance to connect with the outside world." He also said: "Hamas is not radical. We are a pragmatic and civilized movement."

How is Hamas organised, according to governments and Hamas?

The UK Home Office says that Hamas "formally established Hamas IDQ in 1992." The Home Office also says that the UK government "now assess that the approach of distinguishing between the various parts of Hamas is artificial."

The head of Hamas's political bureau, Khaled Meshal, announced Hamas's policy document at a press conference in Doha on 1 May 2017.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that he was filing applications for arrest warrants for three Hamas office holders. He described them as the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the "Commander-in-Chief of the military wing of Hamas, known as the Al-Qassam Brigades", and the "Head of Hamas Political Bureau".

Hamas's armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, said on 15 October 2025 that Hamas had "abided by what was agreed upon and has handed over all the living captives in its possession and the corpses it could access."

Israel's military said on 3 October 2026 that Ali Ahmed Al-Amoudi was "the deputy chairman of the political bureau in the Hamas terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip". Israel's military also said on 20 October 2026 that Hamas's General Security Mechanism "is a central, covert Hamas apparatus responsible for protecting senior Hamas officials."

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Hamas said on 6 July 2026 that it had dissolved its government in Gaza and was ready to hand over to a group of Palestinian technocrats. It said that the ministries and the staff it had appointed would stay in place, and that it would still oversee security and policing in parts of Gaza. Ismail Al-Thawabta, director of the Gaza Government Media Office, said on 6 July 2026 that the head of the "Government Emergency Committee" had resigned and that the body had been dissolved.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on 6 July 2026: "As long as Hamas retains its weapons, any civilian government will of course operate as Hamas dictates."

What happened in Hamas's history from 1987 to 2007?

Hamas started in 1987. Hamas's founding charter dates from 1988.

The Palestinian legislative election was held on 25 January 2006. Hamas stood in it as the Change and Reform List, in its first legislative election. Hamas won the election.

The Central Elections Commission said in its final results of 29 January 2006 that the list of Change and Reform obtained 74 seats, and that the Fatah Movement obtained 45 seats.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
74	Central Elections Commission	29 January 2006	seats, list of Change and Reform obtained
45	Central Elections Commission	29 January 2006	seats, Fatah Movement obtained

In June 2007, Hamas fighters seized the remaining Fatah positions in the Gaza Strip, including the presidential compound in Gaza City. On 14 June 2007, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the government and

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declared a state of emergency. By 15 June 2007, Hamas was in full control of the Gaza Strip.

What wars and ceasefires has Hamas been part of since 2008?

A six-month truce between Israel and Hamas, brokered by Egypt, took effect in Gaza at dawn on 19 June 2008. The truce expired on 19 December 2008. Israel declared a unilateral ceasefire in Gaza from 2 a.m. on 18 January 2009, and Hamas declared a one-week ceasefire later that day.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, announced in Cairo by Egypt's foreign minister and the US secretary of state, took effect at 9 p.m. local time on 21 November 2012. The ceasefire ended eight days of fighting that began on 14 November 2012.

An open-ended ceasefire agreed by Israel, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Palestinian Authority, brokered by Egypt, took effect at 7 p.m. local time on 26 August 2014. The ceasefire was reached on the 50th day of fighting that began on 8 July 2014. A ceasefire between Israel, Hamas and the other groups in Gaza, proposed by Egypt, took effect at 2 a.m. local time on 21 May 2021. The ceasefire ended 11 days of fighting that began on 10 May 2021.

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 and took hostages. Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground invasion. A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m. on 24 November 2023 and expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023. A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025.

In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict. The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. The plan provides that Hamas will have no role in the

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governance of Gaza, and that Gaza will be demilitarised under the supervision of independent monitors.

When did governments designate Hamas under their own laws?

The US Department of State designated Hamas a Foreign Terrorist Organization on 8 October 1997. The UK proscribed Hamas IDQ in March 2001, according to the UK Home Office.

On 27 December 2001, the Council of the European Union adopted a common position whose list of groups and entities names Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem. On 12 September 2003, the Council adopted a common position whose list names Hamas, including Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem.

The UK extended its proscription to Hamas as a whole in November 2021, according to the UK Home Office.

Australia's government listed the entire Hamas "as a terrorist organisation" on 4 March 2022. Australia had earlier proscribed Hamas's paramilitary wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

New Zealand's government designated Hamas in its entirety as a "terrorist entity" on 29 February 2024. New Zealand had designated the military wing of Hamas since 2010.

Argentina's government designated Hamas "a terrorist organization" on 12 July 2024 and ordered a freeze on its financial assets.

What statements on Hamas's role have been made since 2017?

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Khaled Meshal, head of Hamas's political bureau, said on 1 May 2017: "Hamas advocates the liberation of all of Palestine but is ready to support the state on 1967 borders without recognising Israel or ceding any rights." Hamas said on 1 May 2017 that its new document does not replace its 1988 charter.

On 1 May 2017, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Hamas is attempting to fool the world, but it will not succeed." Netanyahu's office said: "Hamas's document is a smokescreen."

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said in a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron on 10 June 2025: "Hamas will no longer rule Gaza and must hand over its weapons and military capabilities to the Palestinian Security Forces."

The New York Declaration is the outcome text of a UN conference co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, held in New York from 28 to 30 July 2025. The UN General Assembly endorsed the declaration on 12 September 2025. The declaration says: "In the context of ending the war in Gaza, Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority, with international engagement and support, in line with the objective of a sovereign and independent Palestinian State."

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said on 12 September 2025 that "Hamas is the biggest winner of any endorsement here today".

Doron Spielman, a spokesperson for Israel's Prime Minister's Office, said on 2 August 2026: "The most important concern for Israel is that nothing can happen before Hamas completely and truly disarms." Basem Naim, a member of Hamas's political bureau, said in an interview CNN aired on 20 August 2026: "the plan is talking in clear words about everything, including the decommissioning of weapons and Hamas is committed to all what has been signed."

Frequently asked questions

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When was Hamas founded?

Hamas started in 1987. Hamas's founding charter dates from 1988.

When did Hamas win the Palestinian legislative election?

Hamas won the Palestinian legislative election held on 25 January 2006, in which it stood as the Change and Reform List. The Central Elections Commission said in its final results of 29 January 2006 that the list of Change and Reform obtained 74 seats.

When did Hamas take control of the Gaza Strip?

Hamas became the sole ruler of the Gaza Strip in 2007. By 15 June 2007, Hamas was in full control of the Gaza Strip.

What is Hamas's military wing called?

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that the "military wing of Hamas" is "known as the Al-Qassam Brigades". The UK Home Office says that Hamas "formally established Hamas IDQ in 1992."

When did the United States designate Hamas?

The US Department of State designated Hamas a Foreign Terrorist Organization on 8 October 1997.

When did the UK proscribe Hamas?

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The UK proscribed Hamas IDQ in March 2001, according to the UK Home Office. The Home Office says that the proscription was extended to Hamas as a whole in November 2021.

When did the European Union list Hamas?

On 27 December 2001, the Council of the European Union adopted a common position whose list names Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem. On 12 September 2003, the Council adopted a common position whose list names Hamas, including Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem.

What did Hamas say about a Palestinian state in its 2017 policy document?

Hamas's "A Document of General Principles and Policies" of 1 May 2017 says that Hamas "considers the establishment of a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967, with the return of the refugees and the displaced to their homes from which they were expelled, to be a formula of national consensus."

Has Hamas said it dissolved its government in Gaza?

Hamas said on 6 July 2026 that it had dissolved its government in Gaza and was ready to hand over to a group of Palestinian technocrats. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on 6 July 2026 that Hamas's "apparent willingness to 'make room' for a technocratic government is designed to prevent its own disarmament."

What does the New York Declaration say about Hamas?

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The New York Declaration, which the UN General Assembly endorsed on 12 September 2025, says: "In this context, Hamas must free all hostages." It also says that "Hamas must end its rule in Gaza and hand over its weapons to the Palestinian Authority".

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Courts and Law

WHAT IS SOUTH AFRICA'S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE ICJ?

South Africa v. Israel at the International Court of Justice: the 2023 application, the 2024 orders, the interventions and the stage the case is at.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

International Court of Justice | South Africa v. Israel | Genocide Convention | Gaza Strip



South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 29 December 2023, concerning obligations in the Gaza Strip

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under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. South Africa asked the Court to adjudge and declare that Israel "has breached and continues to breach its obligations under the Genocide Convention", and Israel asked the Court on 12 January 2024 to "Remove the case from the General List." The Court issued orders on provisional measures on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024. On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

When did South Africa bring its case against Israel at the ICJ?

South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice on 29 December 2023, concerning obligations in the Gaza Strip under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The case is Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel).

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted in Paris on 9 December 1948 and entered into force on 12 January 1951. Article IX of the Convention provides that disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to its interpretation, application or fulfilment shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute. Israel signed the Convention on 17 August 1949 and ratified it on 9 March 1950, and South Africa acceded to it on 10 December 1998, according to the UN Secretary-General as depositary.

South Africa said in its application that the case "concerns acts threatened, adopted, condoned, taken and being taken by the Government and military of the State of Israel against the Palestinian people, a distinct national, racial and ethnical group, in the wake of the attacks in Israel on 7 October 2023." The

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application said that "South Africa unequivocally condemns all violations of international law by all parties, including the direct targeting of Israeli civilians and other nationals and hostage-taking by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups." South Africa said in the same paragraph: "The acts and omissions by Israel complained of by South Africa are genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnical group, that being the part of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip ('Palestinians in Gaza')."

South Africa said in the application that "pursuant to Article 36 (1) of the Court's Statute and Article IX of the Genocide Convention, the Court has jurisdiction to hear the claims submitted in the present Application by South Africa against Israel." It said that "Neither South Africa nor Israel has entered any reservation to Article IX", and that "Israel has not responded directly to South Africa's Note Verbale sent on 21 December 2023."

On 29 December 2023, Lior Haiat, the spokesperson for Israel's foreign ministry, said: "Israel rejects with disgust the blood libel spread by South Africa in its application to the international court of justice."

What did South Africa ask the ICJ to order and declare?

South Africa's application to the International Court of Justice includes a request that the Court indicate provisional measures, under Article 41 of the Court's Statute.

In its section on the relief sought, South Africa said: "While reserving the right to revise, supplement or amend this Application, and subject to the presentation to the Court of the relevant evidence and legal arguments, South Africa respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare". Its first request is "that the Republic of South Africa and the State of Israel each have a duty to act in accordance with their obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to the members of the

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Palestinian group, to take all reasonable measures within their power to prevent genocide".

South Africa's second request is that the State of Israel "has breached and continues to breach its obligations under the Genocide Convention, in particular the obligations provided under Article I, read in conjunction with Article II, and Articles III (a), III (b), III (c), III (d), III (e), IV, V and VI". South Africa asked the Court to declare that Israel "must cease forthwith any acts and measures in breach of those obligations", "must perform the obligations of reparation in the interest of Palestinian victims" and "must offer assurances and guarantees of non-repetition of violations of the Genocide Convention".

South Africa's application of 29 December 2023 requested nine provisional measures. It asked the Court, "as a matter of extreme urgency, pending the Court's determination of this case on the merits, to indicate the following provisional measures in relation to the Palestinian people as a group protected by the Genocide Convention." The first it requested reads: "The State of Israel shall immediately suspend its military operations in and against Gaza." The third reads: "The Republic of South Africa and the State of Israel shall each, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to the Palestinian people, take all reasonable measures within their power to prevent genocide." The eighth asked that Israel "submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one week", and the ninth that Israel "refrain from any action and shall ensure that no action is taken which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve."

The International Court of Justice held public hearings on South Africa's request for the indication of provisional measures on 11 and 12 January 2024, at the Peace Palace. Israel said through Tal Becker on 12 January 2024 that "Israel is in a war of defence against Hamas, not against the Palestinian people".

Israel requested in its submissions of 12 January 2024 that the Court "(1) Reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by South

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Africa; and (2) Remove the case from the General List."

What did the ICJ order on 26 January 2024?

Article 41 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice gives the Court the power to indicate, if it considers that circumstances so require, any provisional measures which ought to be taken to preserve the respective rights of either party. In its order of 26 January 2024, the Court indicated six measures, each opening with the words "The State of Israel shall".

The order of 26 January 2024 states: "(1) By fifteen votes to two, The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention". Its second measure, also by fifteen votes to two, states that Israel "shall ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit any acts described in point 1 above".

By sixteen votes to one, the Court ordered that Israel "shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". By sixteen votes to one, it ordered that Israel "shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip".

By fifteen votes to two, the Court ordered that Israel "shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of Article II and Article III of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide against members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip". By fifteen votes to two, it ordered Israel to "submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one month as from the date of this Order."

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The Court said in the same order that "At the present stage of the proceedings, the Court is not required to ascertain whether any violations of Israel's obligations under the Genocide Convention have occurred." It said: "The Court deems it necessary to emphasize that all parties to the conflict in the Gaza Strip are bound by international humanitarian law. It is gravely concerned about the fate of the hostages abducted during the attack in Israel on 7 October 2023 and held since then by Hamas and other armed groups, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 26 January 2024: "Israel's commitment to international law is unwavering. Equally unwavering is our sacred commitment to continue to defend our country and defend our people." South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said the same day: "In exercising the order, there would have to be a ceasefire." She added: "Without it the order doesn't actually work."

What further measures did the ICJ order in March and May 2024?

South Africa asked the International Court of Justice for additional measures in a letter dated 12 February 2024, and the Court received Israel's observations on it on 15 February 2024. The Court gave its decision on that request on 16 February 2024, in a letter from the Registrar to the Parties.

South Africa said in its letter that it "respectfully calls upon the Court to consider as a matter of the greatest urgency whether the developing circumstances in Rafah require that it exercise its power under Article 75(1) of the Rules of Court to prevent further imminent breach of the rights of Palestinians in Gaza." Israel said in its observations: "These provisional measures relate to the present situation of hostilities in Gaza as a whole, and Israel's legal commitments referred to above apply to any action that it may take in the context of these hostilities." The Court said in its decision that the situation "demands immediate and effective implementation of the provisional measures indicated

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by the Court in its Order of 26 January 2024, which are applicable throughout the Gaza Strip, including in Rafah, and does not demand the indication of additional provisional measures."

South Africa filed a further request on 6 March 2024, and Israel filed observations on it. South Africa said in that request: "Israel has thus shown contempt for the Court and its Order in what it has done." Israel said in observations filed with the Court dated 15 March 2024: "In the light of all of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the Court should refuse to accept South Africa's latest request and not indicate any further provisional measures."

In its order of 28 March 2024, whose French text is authoritative, the Court "Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Order of 26 January 2024", by fourteen votes to two. Its English text states that Israel shall, "in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by Palestinians in Gaza, in particular the spread of famine and starvation", unanimously, "Take all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, in full co-operation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to Palestinians throughout Gaza, including by increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary". By fifteen votes to one, it ordered Israel to "Ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit acts which constitute a violation of any of the rights of the Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including by preventing, through any action, the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance".

South Africa filed another request on 10 May 2024, and the Court held public hearings on it on 16 and 17 May 2024. In its order of 24 May 2024, the Court "Reaffirms the provisional measures indicated in its Orders of 26 January 2024 and 28 March 2024, which should be immediately and effectively implemented",

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by thirteen votes to two. By thirteen votes to two, it ordered that Israel shall, "in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by civilians in the Rafah Governorate", "Immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part". By thirteen votes to two, it ordered Israel to "Maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance", and it indicated a further measure on access to the Gaza Strip for investigators mandated by UN organs.

Israel's National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a joint statement on 24 May 2024: "Israel has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." Zane Dangor, director-general of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation, said the same day: "This order is groundbreaking as it is the first time that explicit mention is made for Israel to halt its military action in any area of Gaza, this time specifically in Rafah."

Each order's measures are set out on the page What has the ICJ ordered in South Africa v. Israel?.

Which States have filed to intervene in South Africa v. Israel?

Under Article 62 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, it is for the Court to decide upon a request to intervene. Under Article 63, every state so notified has the right to intervene in the proceedings, and if it uses this right, the construction given by the judgment is equally binding upon it.

Nicaragua applied for permission to intervene under Article 62 on 23 January 2024, according to the Court's press release of 8 February 2024. In 2024, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Spain, Türkiye, Chile, the Maldives and Bolivia filed

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declarations of intervention under Article 63, according to the Court, and Palestine filed both an application under Article 62 and a declaration under Article 63 on 31 May 2024. The same day, Palestine filed a declaration accepting the competence of the Court for disputes covered by Article IX of the Genocide Convention.

In 2025, Ireland, Cuba, Brazil, the Comoros and Belgium filed declarations under Article 63, and Belize filed an application under Article 62 together with a declaration under Article 63, according to the Court. In March 2026, Paraguay, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Iceland, Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji filed declarations under Article 63, according to the Court's list of 22 September 2026.

According to the Court's press releases, Nicaragua told the Court on 1 April 2025 that it had decided to withdraw its application, and Colombia told the Court on 18 September 2026 that it had decided to withdraw its declaration. The Court's case page lists the declarations of Cuba, the Comoros and Belgium in French only.

What stage is South Africa v. Israel at now?

South Africa filed its Memorial, and Israel filed its Counter-Memorial within a time-limit the Court and its President extended to 12 March 2026. By an order of 5 April 2024, the Court had fixed 28 October 2024 as the time-limit for South Africa's Memorial and 28 July 2025 as the time-limit for Israel's Counter-Memorial. On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

The Court's order of 21 May 2026 says that the Agent of South Africa "considered that a second round of written pleadings was warranted". It says that the Deputy Agent of Israel "stated that his Government considered that a second round of written pleadings was not necessary".

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The same order says that South Africa's Agent asked for at least 18 months to file its Reply, citing "the voluminous nature of the Counter-Memorial (including its annexes)". The order says that South Africa's Agent described the Counter-Memorial as containing "objections to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the Application". The order "Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision."

The Court said in its order of 26 January 2024 that "the decision given in the present proceedings in no way prejudges the question of the jurisdiction of the Court to deal with the merits of the case or any questions relating to the admissibility of the Application or to the merits themselves." It said that a finding on violations of the Genocide Convention "could be made by the Court only at the stage of the examination of the merits of the present case."

Under Article 94 of the UN Charter, each Member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the Court in any case to which it is a party. The judgment is final and without appeal, under Article 60 of the Statute.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
6	International Court of Justice	26 January 2024	provisional measures indicated
2	International Court of Justice	28 March 2024	further measures indicated
3	International Court of Justice	24 May 2024	further measures indicated
9	South Africa	29 December 2023	provisional measures requested

Frequently asked questions

When did South Africa file its case against Israel at the ICJ?

South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice on 29 December 2023. The case is Application of the Convention on the

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Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel).

What treaty does South Africa rely on in its case against Israel?

South Africa said in its application of 29 December 2023 that "pursuant to Article 36 (1) of the Court's Statute and Article IX of the Genocide Convention, the Court has jurisdiction to hear the claims submitted in the present Application by South Africa against Israel." Article IX of the Convention provides that disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to its interpretation, application or fulfilment shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute.

What did Israel ask the ICJ to do?

Israel requested in its submissions of 12 January 2024 that the Court "(1) Reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by South Africa; and (2) Remove the case from the General List."

What did the ICJ say about the hostages in South Africa v. Israel?

In its order of 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice said that it "is gravely concerned about the fate of the hostages abducted during the attack in Israel on 7 October 2023 and held since then by Hamas and other armed groups, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release." In its order of 28 March 2024, the Court "reiterates its call for their immediate and unconditional release."

Has the ICJ decided the merits of South Africa v. Israel?

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The Court said in its order of 26 January 2024 that a finding on violations "could be made by the Court only at the stage of the examination of the merits of the present case." Its order of 21 May 2026 "Reserves the subsequent procedure for further decision."

When are the next filings due in South Africa v. Israel?

On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

Which States have withdrawn from intervening in South Africa v. Israel?

According to the International Court of Justice, Nicaragua told the Court on 1 April 2025 that it had decided to withdraw its application to intervene of 23 January 2024. Colombia told the Court on 18 September 2026 that it had decided to withdraw its declaration of intervention of 5 April 2024, according to the Court.

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Aid and Crossings

WHAT IS THE GAZA HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation: what it is, where its sites were, who ran it, its dated history, and dated statements on its role.

PROFILE 16 November 2026

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation | Gaza Strip | Rafah | Deir al-Balah | aid distribution



The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is a US-registered organisation that distributed food in the Gaza Strip. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began operations in Gaza on 26 May 2025. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation

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suspended its operations in Gaza when the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on 10 October 2025.

What kind of organisation is the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is a US-registered organisation that distributed food in the Gaza Strip. It was registered in the US state of Delaware two weeks after US President Donald Trump took office.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said on 26 May 2025 that it had "commenced operations in Gaza" and delivered "truck loads of food to its Secure Distribution Sites, where distribution to the Gazan people began".

The Foundation said on 10 March 2026, in a letter to the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures: "GHF was established as an independent organization with only one goal: to deliver emergency food aid to civilians in Gaza." It said in the same letter: "GHF received no funding from the Israeli government."

On 24 November 2025, the Foundation announced that it was ending its operations in Gaza.

Where were the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's distribution sites?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's food distribution sites were in southern and central Gaza, operated by US private security contractors and located inside Israeli military zones. The Foundation operated several sites in southern Gaza and one site in central Gaza.

Israel's military said on 27 May 2025 that "four aid distribution centers were established in recent weeks, in accordance with the directive of the political

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echelon and in close coordination with the United States." It said that two of the centres, "located in Tel al-Sultan and the Morag Corridor in the Rafah area, began operating today (Tuesday)".

UN OCHA said on 5 June 2025 that on 27 May "the militarized distribution mechanism of food supplies began, through the newly established Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), at two points set up in northwestern Rafah and Deir al Balah."

Israel's military said on 30 June 2025 that "it was decided to temporarily close the first aid distribution center in the Tel al-Sultan area and to establish a new distribution center nearby."

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 7 August 2025: "All four GHF-run distribution sites are in areas under full Israeli military control, and 'secured' by private American armed contractors."

Israel's military said on 28 August 2025: "The distribution center in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood will be replaced by the two centers currently being established in the southern Strip, with the aim of improving the response and the safety of distribution."

Who ran the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and secured its sites?

Jake Wood, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's executive director, resigned on 25 May 2025. Jake Wood said that it had become "clear that it is not possible to implement this plan while also strictly adhering to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, which I will not abandon."

The Foundation said on 26 May 2025 that it would "not be deterred" by the resignation. It said that critics "who benefit from the status quo have been more focused on tearing this apart than on getting aid in".

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On 26 May 2025, the Foundation named John Acree, a former senior manager at USAID, as interim executive director. On 3 June 2025, the Foundation appointed Johnnie Moore as its new director. In November 2025, John Acree was the Foundation's executive director.

Israel's military said on 27 May 2025: "The centers are operated by international aid organizations and secured by an American civilian security company in the Gaza Strip." It said on 3 June 2025: "The IDF allows the American Civil Organization (GHF) to operate independently in order to enable the distribution of aid to the Gazan residents."

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said on 10 March 2026: "GHF contractors provided security solely inside the perimeter of the aid distribution sites, and had no role or involvement in operations conducted by the IDF or Hamas outside the sites."

What has happened to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation since February 2025?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation registered an affiliate in Geneva on 12 February 2025. It changed its name from the Global Humanitarian Fund to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation on 28 April 2025.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began operations in Gaza on 26 May 2025. On 27 May 2025, hundreds of Palestinians collected food parcels from one of its sites in the southern city of Rafah.

On 4 June 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said that its hubs would be closed due to logistical work, and so the Israeli military could make "preparations on the access routes to the centers."

On 2 July 2025, the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations said in a notice that it could order the dissolution of the Foundation's Geneva entity

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unless creditors came forward. The Foundation said on 2 July 2025 that it had made “a strategic decision not to start operations in Switzerland”.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation suspended its operations in Gaza when the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on 10 October 2025. It had three food distribution sites in Gaza at the time.

On 24 November 2025, the Foundation announced that it was ending its operations in Gaza.

What has been said about the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’s role?

On 27 May 2025, the Gaza Government Media Office said that Israel’s efforts to distribute aid had “failed miserably”.

On 27 May 2025, Israel’s military said that its troops had “fired warning shots in the area outside the compound” of the distribution centre in the Rafah area.

On 27 May 2025, UN OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke said: “We do not participate in this modality for the reasons that we have given.” He said that the operation was “a distraction from what is actually needed”.

On 27 May 2025, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said that the footage from the Foundation’s site in Rafah was “heartbreaking”. He said: “We and our partners have a detailed, principled, operationally sound plan supported by member states to get aid to a desperate population.”

On 27 May 2025, US Department of State spokesperson Tammy Bruce said: “I think that most of us would agree that this is good news… the real story here is that there’s food aid going in.”

On 28 May 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said that it had distributed 14,550 food boxes, or 840,262 meals. It said: “Unfortunately, there are many parties who wish to see GHF fail.”

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On 28 May 2025, Jonathan Whittall of UN OCHA said: “Yesterday, we saw tens of thousands of desperate people under fire, storming a militarized distribution point established on the rubble of their homes.”

On 1 June 2025, Israel’s military said that “the IDF did not fire at civilians while they were near or within the humanitarian aid distribution site and that reports to this effect are false.”

On 3 June 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said of incidents along the approach routes to its centres: “This was an area well beyond our secure distribution site.”

On 3 June 2025, Israel’s military said: “The troops carried out warning fire, and after the suspects failed to retreat, additional shots were directed near a few individual suspects who advanced toward the troops.” Israel’s military said on 3 June 2025: “The IDF is aware of reports regarding casualties, and the details of the incident are being looked into.”

On 3 June 2025, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, through his spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric, that the loss of lives and injuries of Palestinians seeking aid were “unacceptable”, and called for an independent investigation into the incidents.

On 5 June 2025, UN OCHA said: “The UN calls for investigations into the killing and injury of Palestinians trying to access food through the new militarized distribution hubs in Gaza.”

On 26 June 2025, Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott of the US Department of State said: “we have approved funding for $30 million to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, and we call on other countries to also support the GHF, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, and its critical work.”

On 27 June 2025, Israel’s military said that it was operating “to allow and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid by the American ‘Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’ (GHF), and to secure the routes leading to the

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distribution centers". It said that "the IDF did not instruct the forces to deliberately shoot at civilians, including those approaching the distribution centers."

On 1 July 2025, Amnesty International and other organisations said in a joint statement that "The 400 aid distribution points operating during the temporary ceasefire across Gaza have now been replaced by just four military-controlled distribution sites". On 1 July 2025, Amnesty International and other organisations said that in less than four weeks, more than 500 Palestinians had been killed and almost 4,000 injured just trying to access or distribute food.

In figures UN OCHA published on 2 July 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that, between 27 May and 28 June, 408 people had been killed in incidents linked to the distribution sites.

On 1 July 2025, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said that the Foundation "provides nothing but starvation and gunfire". On 1 July 2025, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said that since the scheme began, at least 500 starving people had been reported killed and nearly 4,000 injured.

On 15 July 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that, as of 13 July, 875 people had been killed in Gaza while trying to get food, 674 of them in the vicinity of GHF sites.

On 22 July 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that, as of 21 July, 1,054 people had been killed in Gaza while trying to get food. On 22 July 2025, Thameen Al-Kheetan, spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said: "766 of them were killed in the vicinity of GHF sites and 288 near UN and other humanitarian organizations' aid convoys."

On 22 July 2025, UNRWA Director of Communications Juliette Touma said: "This cannot be our new norm. Humanitarian assistance is not the job of mercenaries."

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On 1 August 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that, since 27 May, at least 1,373 Palestinians had been killed while seeking food, 859 in the vicinity of the GHF sites and 514 along the routes of food convoys.

On 7 August 2025, Médecins Sans Frontières said that the Foundation's food distributions had become sites of "orchestrated killing and dehumanisation", not humanitarian aid. On 7 August 2025, Médecins Sans Frontières said that between 7 June and 24 July 2025, 1,380 casualties, including 28 dead, were received at its Al-Mawasi and Al-Attar clinics in southern Gaza, located near the GHF-run distribution sites.

On 22 August 2025, COGAT said: "Since the beginning of its operations, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) has distributed more than 2.2 million relief packages to civilians in need." On 22 August 2025, COGAT said that the packages were "delivered through four distribution centers across the Gaza Strip" and amounted to "over 132 million meals".

On 28 August 2025, Israel's military said: "Since the end of May until now, more than 2.3 million weekly food packages have been distributed to families through the four existing centers."

On 24 November 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's executive director, John Acree, said: "We are winding down our operations as we have succeeded in our mission of showing there's a better way to deliver aid to Gazans." On 24 November 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said that it had delivered a total of 3 million packages containing the equivalent of more than 187 million meals.

On 24 November 2025, Hamas said that the closure of the Foundation was "a deserved step".

On 24 November 2025, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said that the Foundation's shutdown would have "no impact" on UN operations "because we never worked with them".

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On 24 November 2025, US Department of State deputy spokesperson Tommy Pigott said: “GHF has shared valuable lessons learned with us and our partners.” He said that the Foundation’s model “played a huge role in getting Hamas to the table and achieving a ceasefire”.

On 10 March 2026, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said: “While operational from late May 2025 to late October 2025, GHF delivered more than 187 million meals directly to Palestinian civilians.” It said that “a critical distinction must be drawn between violence at the aid sites themselves and at a distance from aid sites, including at UN trucks and warehouses.”

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
14,550	Gaza Humanitarian Foundation	28 May 2025	food boxes distributed
840,262	Gaza Humanitarian Foundation	28 May 2025	meals distributed
$30 million	US Department of State	26 June 2025	funding approved to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation
500	Amnesty International	1 July 2025	Palestinians killed in less than four weeks trying to access or distribute food, more than
4,000	Amnesty International	1 July 2025	injured in less than four weeks, almost
408	Gaza Health Ministry	1 July 2025	people killed in incidents linked to the militarized distribution sites, 27 May to 28 June
500	UNRWA	1 July 2025	starving people reported killed since the scheme began, at least
4,000	UNRWA	1 July 2025	injured since the scheme began, nearly
875	UN Human Rights Office	15 July 2025	people killed in Gaza while trying to get food, as of 13 July

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
674	UN Human Rights Office	15 July 2025	killed in the vicinity of GHF sites, as of 13 July
1,054	UN Human Rights Office	22 July 2025	people killed in Gaza while trying to get food, as of 21 July
766	UN Human Rights Office	22 July 2025	killed in the vicinity of GHF sites, as of 21 July
1,373	UN Human Rights Office	1 August 2025	Palestinians killed while seeking food since 27 May, at least
859	UN Human Rights Office	1 August 2025	in the vicinity of the GHF sites, since 27 May
1,380	Médecins Sans Frontières	7 August 2025	casualties received at its Al-Mawasi and Al-Attar clinics, 7 June to 24 July 2025
28	Médecins Sans Frontières	7 August 2025	dead, among those casualties
2.2 million	COGAT	22 August 2025	relief packages distributed by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, more than
132 million	COGAT	22 August 2025	meals, over
2.3 million	IDF	28 August 2025	weekly food packages distributed since the end of May, more than
3 million	Gaza Humanitarian Foundation	24 November 2025	packages delivered
187 million	Gaza Humanitarian Foundation	24 November 2025	meals delivered, more than
187 million	Gaza Humanitarian Foundation	10 March 2026	meals delivered directly to Palestinian civilians, late May 2025 to late October 2025, more than

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Frequently asked questions

Who funded the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?

On 26 June 2025, the US Department of State said that it had approved funding for $30 million to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said on 10 March 2026: “GHF received no funding from the Israeli government.”

When did the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation start distributing food in Gaza?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began operations in Gaza on 26 May 2025. On 27 May 2025, hundreds of Palestinians collected food parcels from one of its sites in the southern city of Rafah.

Is the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation still operating in Gaza?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation suspended its operations in Gaza when the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on 10 October 2025. On 24 November 2025, the Foundation announced that it was ending its operations in Gaza.

Where is the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation registered?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation was registered in the US state of Delaware two weeks after US President Donald Trump took office. It registered an affiliate in Geneva on 12 February 2025. On 2 July 2025, the Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations said in a notice that it could order the dissolution of the Foundation’s Geneva entity unless creditors came forward.

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Who led the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?

Jake Wood, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's executive director, resigned on 25 May 2025. On 26 May 2025, the Foundation named John Acree, a former senior manager at USAID, as interim executive director. On 3 June 2025, the Foundation appointed Johnnie Moore as its new director.

How many meals did the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation say it delivered?

On 24 November 2025, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said that it had delivered a total of 3 million packages containing the equivalent of more than 187 million meals. On 10 March 2026, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation said that while operational from late May 2025 to late October 2025, it delivered more than 187 million meals directly to Palestinian civilians.

What did the UN Human Rights Office say about people killed near the Foundation's sites?

On 1 August 2025, the UN Human Rights Office said that, since 27 May, at least 1,373 Palestinians had been killed while seeking food, 859 in the vicinity of the GHF sites and 514 along the routes of food convoys.

Did the UN work with the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation?

On 27 May 2025, UN OCHA spokesperson Jens Laerke said: "We do not participate in this modality for the reasons that we have given." On 24 November 2025, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said that the Foundation's shutdown would have "no impact" on UN operations "because we never worked with them".

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Courts and Law

WHICH COUNTRIES HAVE INTERVENED IN SOUTH AFRICA V. ISRAEL AT THE ICJ?

The States that filed to intervene in South Africa v. Israel at the International Court of Justice, by date, under its Statute and Rules.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

International Court of Justice | South Africa v. Israel | Genocide Convention | Gaza Strip



According to the International Court of Justice, the States that have filed to intervene in South Africa v. Israel are Libya, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, Türkiye, Chile, the Maldives, Bolivia, Ireland, Cuba, Belize, Brazil, the Comoros, Belgium,

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Paraguay, the Netherlands, Iceland, Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji, as the Court listed them in a press release on 22 September 2026. Each filed a declaration of intervention under Article 63 of the Court's Statute, and Palestine and Belize also applied for permission to intervene under Article 62, according to the Court. According to the Court, Colombia filed a declaration on 5 April 2024 and informed the Court on 18 September 2026 that it had decided to withdraw it, and Nicaragua applied under Article 62 on 23 January 2024 and informed the Court on 1 April 2025 that it had decided to withdraw its application.

What do Article 62 and Article 63 of the ICJ Statute provide?

Article 62 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice provides that a state that considers it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision in a case may submit a request to the Court to be permitted to intervene.

The second paragraph of Article 62 of the Statute states: "It shall be for the Court to decide upon this request."

Article 63 of the Statute provides that, whenever the construction of a convention to which states other than those concerned in the case are parties is in question, the Registrar shall notify all such states forthwith.

The second paragraph of Article 63 of the Statute states: "Every state so notified has the right to intervene in the proceedings; but if it uses this right, the construction given by the judgment will be equally binding upon it."

In a press release on 22 September 2026, the International Court of Justice said that Article 62 "allows a State to seek permission to intervene in a case between other States, and thereby participate in the proceedings, when it considers that it has an interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision of the Court in that case". The Court said in the same release that Article 63 "affords

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States not parties to a dispute the right to intervene in a case when that case concerns the construction of a convention to which they are also parties; the interpretation of the relevant parts of that convention given by the Court in its decision in the case will then be equally binding on those States".

Under Article 82 of the Rules of Court, a State that wishes to intervene under Article 63 of the Statute files a declaration as soon as possible, and no later than the date fixed for the filing of the Counter-Memorial.

The declaration identifies the provisions of the convention whose construction the State considers to be in question, and states the construction for which it contends.

Which States filed declarations of intervention at the ICJ in 2024?

In 2024, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, Türkiye, Chile, the Maldives and Bolivia each filed a declaration of intervention in South Africa v. Israel under Article 63 of the Statute, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court gives each filing date in its press releases, and in its list of 22 September 2026.

Colombia filed its declaration of intervention on 5 April 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Colombia relies on its status as a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Colombia informed the Court on 18 September 2026 that it had decided to withdraw the declaration of intervention that it had filed under Article 63 of the Statute on 5 April 2024.

Libya filed its declaration of intervention on 10 May 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Libya relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and focuses its declaration on Article I, read in conjunction with Article II, and on Articles III, IV, V and VI of the Convention.

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Mexico filed its declaration of intervention on 24 May 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Mexico relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and seeks to give its view on the construction of the provisions of the Convention relevant to the case.

Palestine filed a declaration of intervention, together with an application for permission to intervene, on 31 May 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Palestine wishes to intervene on the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and IX of the Genocide Convention, as well as its Preamble.

Spain filed its declaration of intervention on 28 June 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Spain relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention, in availing itself of the right of intervention under the second paragraph of Article 63.

Türkiye filed its declaration of intervention on 7 August 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Türkiye relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and considers the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the Convention to be in question.

Chile filed its declaration of intervention on 12 September 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Chile relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and considers the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and IX of the Convention to be in question.

The Maldives filed its declaration of intervention on 1 October 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that the Maldives relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and focuses its intervention on Articles I, III, IV and VI, and on Articles II and IX, of the Convention.

Bolivia filed its declaration of intervention on 8 October 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Bolivia relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and considers the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and IX of the Convention to be in question.

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Which States filed declarations of intervention at the ICJ in 2025?

In 2025, Ireland, Cuba, Belize, Brazil, the Comoros and Belgium each filed a declaration of intervention in South Africa v. Israel under Article 63 of the Statute, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court's case page lists the declarations of Cuba, the Comoros and Belgium as available in French only.

Ireland filed its declaration of intervention on 6 January 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Ireland relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention, considers Articles I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the Convention to be in question, and offers its interpretation of Articles I, II and III.

Cuba filed its declaration of intervention on 10 January 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Cuba relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and offers its interpretation of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VIII and IX of the Convention.

Belize filed a declaration of intervention, in one document with an application for permission to intervene, on 30 January 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Belize relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention, considers the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI and IX to be in question, and offers its interpretation of Articles I, II, III, VI and IX.

Brazil filed its declaration of intervention on 17 September 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Brazil relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention, considers the construction of Articles I, II and III of the Convention to be in question, and offers its interpretation of them.

The Comoros filed its declaration of intervention on 29 October 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that the Comoros relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention and considers the construction of Articles I, III, IV, V and VI, read in conjunction with Article II, to be in

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question, as well as Article IX "in so far as it concerns the jurisdiction of the Court".

Belgium filed its declaration of intervention on 23 December 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Belgium relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention, considers the construction of Articles I, II, III, IV, V and VI to be in question, and focuses its intervention on Article II and the specific intent required under it.

Which States filed declarations of intervention at the ICJ in 2026?

In 2026, Paraguay, the Netherlands, Iceland, Namibia, the United States of America, Hungary and Fiji each filed a declaration of intervention in South Africa v. Israel under Article 63 of the Statute, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court's press releases give the filing dates as 3 March, 11 March and 12 March 2026.

Paraguay filed its declaration of intervention on 3 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Paraguay relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

The Netherlands filed its declaration of intervention on 11 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that the Netherlands relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

Iceland filed its declaration of intervention on 11 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Iceland relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

Namibia filed its declaration of intervention on 12 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Namibia relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

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The United States of America filed its declaration of intervention on 12 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that the United States relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

Hungary filed its declaration of intervention on 12 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Hungary relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

Fiji filed its declaration of intervention on 12 March 2026, according to the International Court of Justice. The Court said that Fiji relies on its status as a party to the Genocide Convention.

Which States applied to intervene under Article 62 of the ICJ Statute?

Nicaragua, Palestine and Belize each filed an application for permission to intervene in South Africa v. Israel under Article 62 of the Statute, according to the International Court of Justice. Palestine and Belize each filed a declaration of intervention under Article 63 with the application, the Court said.

Nicaragua filed an Application for permission to intervene “as a party” on 23 January 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. In the application, Nicaragua said that it “has interests of a legal nature that stem from the rights and obligations imposed by the Genocide Convention on all State Parties”.

Nicaragua informed the Court on 1 April 2025 that it had decided to withdraw the application for permission to intervene that it had submitted under Article 62 of the Statute on 23 January 2024.

Palestine filed its application for permission to intervene on 31 May 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. Palestine said that its application and declaration of intervention are “cumulative and alternative”. It also said that it has an “interest of a legal nature which may be affected by the decision in the case” and a “special interest” in the proceedings as a specially affected State.

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On 31 May 2024, Palestine filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice a declaration accepting the competence of the Court for disputes covered by Article IX of the Genocide Convention, under Security Council resolution 9 (1946).

Belize filed its application for permission to intervene on 30 January 2025, according to the International Court of Justice. Belize said that the "precise object" of its intervention is to protect its "interest in ensuring that Israel is held accountable for its violations of the Genocide Convention; its interest in ensuring that the authors of genocide do not enjoy impunity; and its interest in the prevention, suppression and punishment of genocide".

What stage has South Africa v. Israel reached at the ICJ?

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice on 29 December 2023, concerning obligations in the Gaza Strip under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Court issued orders on provisional measures on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024.

South Africa filed its Memorial, and Israel filed its Counter-Memorial within a time-limit the Court and its President extended to 12 March 2026. On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

Under Article 83 of the Rules, an application to intervene or a declaration of intervention is communicated to the parties to the case, which are invited to furnish written observations within a time-limit.

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In its press releases of 5 April 2024, 4 March 2026 and 13 March 2026, the International Court of Justice said that, in accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Court, South Africa and Israel had been invited to furnish written observations on the declarations of intervention filed in the case.

Under Article 84 of the Rules, the Court decides whether an intervention under Article 63 is admissible, as a matter of priority unless in view of the circumstances of the case it determines otherwise.

Frequently asked questions

Has Colombia withdrawn from South Africa v. Israel at the ICJ?

Colombia informed the Court on 18 September 2026 that it had decided to withdraw the declaration of intervention that it had filed under Article 63 of the Statute on 5 April 2024.

Did Nicaragua intervene in South Africa v. Israel?

Nicaragua filed an application for permission to intervene “as a party” under Article 62 of the Statute on 23 January 2024, according to the International Court of Justice. Nicaragua informed the Court on 1 April 2025 that it had decided to withdraw the application for permission to intervene that it had submitted under Article 62 of the Statute on 23 January 2024.

Does an ICJ judgment bind a State that intervenes under Article 63?

The second paragraph of Article 63 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice states: “Every state so notified has the right to intervene in the

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proceedings; but if it uses this right, the construction given by the judgment will be equally binding upon it."

What is the time-limit for a declaration of intervention at the ICJ?

Under Article 82 of the Rules of Court, a State that wishes to intervene under Article 63 of the Statute files a declaration as soon as possible, and no later than the date fixed for the filing of the Counter-Memorial.

Who decides whether an intervention at the ICJ is admissible?

Under Article 84 of the Rules, the Court decides whether an intervention under Article 63 is admissible, as a matter of priority unless in view of the circumstances of the case it determines otherwise.

What did Palestine file at the ICJ on 31 May 2024?

Palestine filed an application for permission to intervene under Article 62 and a declaration of intervention under Article 63 in South Africa's case against Israel on 31 May 2024, according to the Court. On 31 May 2024, Palestine filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice a declaration accepting the competence of the Court for disputes covered by Article IX of the Genocide Convention, under Security Council resolution 9 (1946).

What were South Africa and Israel asked to do about the declarations?

In its press releases on the declarations of intervention in South Africa v. Israel, including those of 5 April 2024 and 13 March 2026, the International Court of

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Justice said that South Africa and Israel had been invited to furnish written observations, in accordance with Article 83 of the Rules of Court.

What is the International Court of Justice?

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946.

When are the next written pleadings due in South Africa v. Israel?

On 21 May 2026, the International Court of Justice directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

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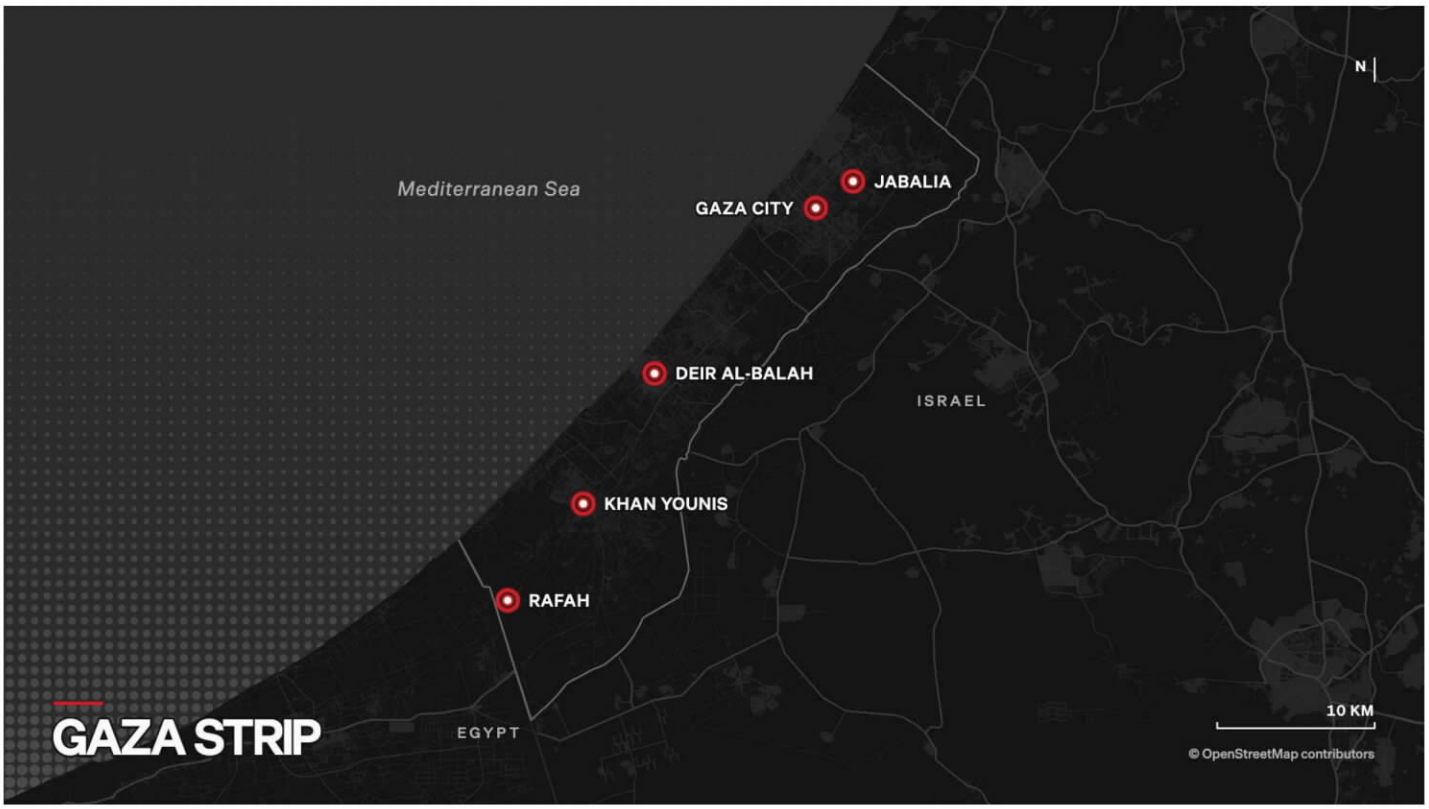
Displacement and Reconstruction

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT ETHNIC CLEANSING IN GAZA?

What UN officials, governments, organisations, Israel's government and Hamas have said about ethnic cleansing in Gaza, each dated.

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UN Human Rights Office | Human Rights Watch | Displacement | Gaza Strip



UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese said on 14 October 2023 that Israel was "seeking to justify what would amount to ethnic cleansing." UN Secretary-

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General António Guterres said in an interview The Guardian published on 30 October 2024: “We will do everything possible to help them remain there and to avoid ethnic cleansing that might occur if there is not strong determination from the international community.” Stéphane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, said on 5 February 2025: “Any forced displacement of people is tantamount to ethnic cleansing.” Israel’s Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 19 February 2026, of the UN Human Rights Office report released that day: “Office of the High Commissioner is engaged in a vicious campaign of demonization and disinformation against the State of Israel.”

What have UN bodies said about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?

Francesca Albanese has been the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 since 1 May 2022. Special Rapporteurs are part of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

The Special Rapporteur said in a statement on Gaza and Israel on 14 October 2023: “Again, in the name of self-defence, Israel is seeking to justify what would amount to ethnic cleansing.” In the same statement, she called on the international community to urgently mediate a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel’s forces.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in an interview The Guardian published on 30 October 2024, given on the sidelines of the COP16 biodiversity conference in Colombia: “The intention might be for the Palestinians to leave Gaza, for others to occupy it.” He said: “We will do everything possible to help them remain there and to avoid ethnic cleansing that might occur if there is not strong determination from the international community.”

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, addressed the opening of the 2025 session of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in New York on 5 February 2025. In the part of those remarks

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on Gaza, Guterres said that in the search for solutions the problem must not be made worse. He said: “It is essential to avoid any form of ethnic cleansing.”

Stéphane Dujarric is the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General. He answered journalists’ questions at the noon briefing in New York on 5 February 2025. Asked there about the US president’s plan for Gaza, Dujarric said: “Any forced displacement of people is tantamount to ethnic cleansing.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said on 16 May 2025 that the sharp escalation of attacks and killings that week in Gaza, including Israeli strikes on hospitals, was compounding the already desperate humanitarian situation. Türk said in the same statement that “there appears to be a push for a permanent demographic shift in Gaza that is in defiance of international law and is tantamount to ethnic cleansing.”

Francesca Albanese spoke at a press conference at the UN’s European headquarters in Geneva on 15 September 2025. The Special Rapporteur said there, of Gaza City: “This is the last piece of Gaza that needs to be rendered unliveable before advancing the ethnic cleansing of that piece of land.”

The UN Human Rights Office released a report in Geneva on 19 February 2026. The report covers the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025, in Gaza and the West Bank.

The UN Human Rights Office said on 19 February 2026 that the forcible transfers its report describes appear aimed at a permanent displacement of Palestinians, and that the report “raises concerns over ethnic cleansing by Israeli authorities in both Gaza and the West Bank”. The Office said that the report described “intensified attacks, the methodical destruction of entire neighbourhoods and the denial of humanitarian assistance” that “appeared to aim at a permanent demographic shift in Gaza”. The Office said in the report: “This, together with forcible transfers, which appear to aim at a permanent displacement, raise concerns over ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank.”

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What have governments said about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?

Jordan's Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, called on 25 October 2024 for pressure on Israel to end what he called "ethnic cleansing" in Gaza, according to The Guardian, as he met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in London. Speaking of northern Gaza, Safadi said to Blinken: "We do see ethnic cleansing taking place, and that has got to stop."

Husam Zomlot, the head of the Palestinian Mission to the UK, said on 5 February 2025, of the US president's plan for Gaza: "It's a call for ethnic cleansing, for the forced displacement and expulsion of a people from their native land."

Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 6 February 2025, after the US proposal for Gaza, that it "strongly opposes any proposal that could lead to the forced displacement or movement of Palestinians from their homeland." The ministry said: "Such inhumane actions constitute ethnic cleansing."

Saudi Arabia said on 8 August 2025, of Israel's plan to take over Gaza City, that it "categorically denounces Israeli occupation authorities' persistence in committing crimes of starvation, brutal practices, and ethnic cleansing against the brotherly Palestinian people".

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Badr Abdelatty, said in Paris on 2 October 2025, of the war in Gaza: "It is beyond revenge. This is ethnic cleansing and genocide in motion." Asked in Paris whether he feared that the US plan for Gaza could lead to the forced displacement of Palestinians, Abdelatty said that Egypt would not accept that.

What have organisations said about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?

B'Tselem issued a statement titled "The world must stop the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza" on 22 October 2024. B'Tselem said in it that Israel's operation in

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the northern Gaza Strip had begun on 5 October 2024 and that the area had been under a near complete siege since then. It said that "Israel intends to forcibly displace northern Gaza's residents by committing some of the gravest crimes under the laws of war".

Human Rights Watch released its report "Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged": Israel's Forced Displacement of Palestinians in Gaza on 14 November 2024.

Human Rights Watch said on 14 November 2024 that Israeli authorities had caused the massive, deliberate forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 2023. It said: "The Israeli authorities' organized, violent displacement of Palestinians in Gaza, who are members of another ethnic group, is likely planned to be permanent in the buffer zones and security corridors." It said: "Such actions of the Israeli authorities amount to ethnic cleansing."

Oxfam said on 27 November 2024: "Israel is in the late stages of ethnic cleansing of the North Gaza governorate." Amitabh Behar, Oxfam's Executive Director, said in the same statement: "Israel's ethnic cleansing of the North Gaza governorate proves once again that it is operating with impunity from the dictates of international law." Behar said that Oxfam's staff in Gaza had been trying for nearly two months to reach starving civilians and had been blocked by the Israeli military, and that Israel was laying infrastructure for a long-term military presence.

Médecins Sans Frontières released a report on Gaza on 19 December 2024. MSF said that the report highlights how repeated Israeli military attacks on civilians in Gaza, and the systematic denial of humanitarian assistance, are destroying the conditions of life.

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 19 December 2024: "Our teams in the north of Gaza are seeing clear signs of ethnic cleansing as Palestinians are forcibly displaced, trapped, and bombed." Christopher Lockyear, its secretary general, said: "While we don't have legal authority to establish intentionality, the signs of ethnic cleansing and the ongoing devastation" were "undeniable".

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Hassan Jabareen, the director of Adalah, said on 26 January 2025 that to "clean" Gaza immediately after the war would be "a continuation of the war, through the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations said on 26 January 2025 that the US president's suggestion for Gaza was "delusional and dangerous nonsense". It said: "The Palestinian people are not willing to abandon Gaza, and neighbouring countries are not willing to help Israel ethnically cleanse Gaza."

What have Israel's government and Hamas said about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?

Hamas said, in a statement Reuters reported on 29 January 2024, that a conference in Jerusalem on resettling Gaza "revealed the intentions to implement the crimes of displacement and ethnic cleansing against our Palestinian people".

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 14 November 2024, of the Human Rights Watch report, that "Human Rights Watch's rhetoric regarding Israel's conduct in Gaza is completely false and detached from reality." Marmorstein also said: "Contrary to claims in HRW's report, Israel's efforts are directed solely at dismantling Hamas's terror capabilities and not at the people of Gaza." He said: "Israel will continue to operate in accordance with the law of armed conflict."

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 19 December 2024, of the Médecins Sans Frontières report: "Israel does not target medical teams or individuals uninvolved in terrorist activities." He said that the organisation's teams "saw with their own eyes how Hamas systematically exploits hospitals for terrorist activities and operations". He said that the report "fails to even mention the medical condition" of the hostages held by Hamas.

Hamas said in a statement on 8 August 2025 that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government was pursuing "ethnic cleansing". It said that the

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government was ignoring the fate of Israeli hostages by expanding the war, and that the Israeli security cabinet's decision to take control of Gaza City was "a full-fledged war crime".

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN said in a statement on 15 September 2025, of the Special Rapporteur's remarks on Gaza City: "Her numerous statements have showcased her willingness to go to extreme lengths in (the) delegitimization of the State of Israel." The Mission said: "According to her, Hamas doesn't embed itself in civilian infrastructure, doesn't cynically use civilians as human shields, and generally doesn't really exist."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said in a statement on 19 February 2026 that the UN Human Rights Office had lost its credibility. Of the Office's report, the mission said: "Office of the High Commissioner is engaged in a vicious campaign of demonization and disinformation against the State of Israel."

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese	14 October 2023	"what would amount to ethnic cleansing"
UN Secretary-General António Guterres	30 October 2024	"to avoid ethnic cleansing that might occur"
UN Secretary-General António Guterres	5 February 2025	"It is essential to avoid any form of ethnic cleansing."
UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric	5 February 2025	"Any forced displacement of people is tantamount to ethnic cleansing."
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk	16 May 2025	"tantamount to ethnic cleansing"
UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese	15 September 2025	"before advancing the ethnic cleansing of that piece of land"

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
UN Human Rights Office	19 February 2026	"raises concerns over ethnic cleansing by Israeli authorities in both Gaza and the West Bank"
Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi	25 October 2024	"We do see ethnic cleansing taking place"
Palestinian Mission to the UK	5 February 2025	"It's a call for ethnic cleansing"
Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	6 February 2025	"Such inhumane actions constitute ethnic cleansing."
Saudi Arabia	8 August 2025	"ethnic cleansing against the brotherly Palestinian people"
Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty	2 October 2025	"This is ethnic cleansing and genocide in motion."
B'Tselem	22 October 2024	"The world must stop the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza"
Human Rights Watch	14 November 2024	"Such actions of the Israeli authorities amount to ethnic cleansing."
Oxfam	27 November 2024	"in the late stages of ethnic cleansing of the North Gaza governorate"
Médecins Sans Frontières	19 December 2024	"clear signs of ethnic cleansing"
Adalah	26 January 2025	"a continuation of the war, through the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people"

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
Council on American-Islamic Relations	26 January 2025	"neighbouring countries are not willing to help Israel ethnically cleanse Gaza"
Hamas	29 January 2024	"the crimes of displacement and ethnic cleansing"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	14 November 2024	"completely false and detached from reality"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	19 December 2024	"Israel does not target medical teams or individuals uninvolved in terrorist activities."
Hamas	8 August 2025	"ethnic cleansing"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN	15 September 2025	"her willingness to go to extreme lengths"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	19 February 2026	"a vicious campaign of demonization and disinformation against the State of Israel"

Frequently asked questions

What did the UN Secretary-General say about ethnic cleansing in February 2025?

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 5 February 2025, at the opening of the 2025 session of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in New York: "It is essential to avoid any form of ethnic cleansing."

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What did the UN spokesperson say when asked about the US plan for Gaza?

Stéphane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, was asked at the noon briefing in New York on 5 February 2025 about the US president's plan for Gaza. Dujarric said: "Any forced displacement of people is tantamount to ethnic cleansing."

What did Francesca Albanese say about Gaza City in September 2025?

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese said in Geneva on 15 September 2025, of Gaza City: "This is the last piece of Gaza that needs to be rendered unliveable before advancing the ethnic cleansing of that piece of land." Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN said the same day that her statements showed "her willingness to go to extreme lengths in (the) delegitimization of the State of Israel."

What did Volker Türk say about Gaza in May 2025?

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said on 16 May 2025 that "there appears to be a push for a permanent demographic shift in Gaza that is in defiance of international law and is tantamount to ethnic cleansing."

What period does the UN Human Rights Office report of February 2026 cover?

The UN Human Rights Office report released in Geneva on 19 February 2026 covers the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025, in Gaza and the West Bank.

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How did Israel respond to the UN Human Rights Office report of February 2026?

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 19 February 2026: "Office of the High Commissioner is engaged in a vicious campaign of demonization and disinformation against the State of Israel."

What did Jordan's foreign minister say about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?

Jordan's Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, said in London on 25 October 2024, of northern Gaza: "We do see ethnic cleansing taking place, and that has got to stop."

What did Médecins Sans Frontières say about northern Gaza in December 2024?

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 19 December 2024: "Our teams in the north of Gaza are seeing clear signs of ethnic cleansing as Palestinians are forcibly displaced, trapped, and bombed." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Oren Marmorstein said the same day: "Israel does not target medical teams or individuals uninvolved in terrorist activities."

What did Human Rights Watch say about displacement in Gaza in November 2024?

Human Rights Watch said on 14 November 2024 that the displacement of Palestinians in Gaza "is likely planned to be permanent in the buffer zones and security corridors." It said: "Such actions of the Israeli authorities amount to ethnic cleansing."

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How did Israel respond to the Human Rights Watch report on displacement in Gaza?

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 14 November 2024 that "Human Rights Watch's rhetoric regarding Israel's conduct in Gaza is completely false and detached from reality."

What did B'Tselem say about northern Gaza in October 2024?

B'Tselem issued a statement titled "The world must stop the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza" on 22 October 2024. B'Tselem said that Israel's operation in the northern Gaza Strip had begun on 5 October 2024, that the area had been under a near complete siege since then, and that the world's nations had to take action.

What did Oxfam say about the North Gaza governorate in November 2024?

Oxfam said on 27 November 2024: "Israel is in the late stages of ethnic cleansing of the North Gaza governorate." Its Executive Director, Amitabh Behar, said that Oxfam's staff had been blocked by the Israeli military from reaching starving civilians there for nearly two months.

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WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT GENOCIDE IN GAZA?

What the ICJ, UN bodies, governments, human rights organisations, Israel's government and Hamas have said about genocide in Gaza, each dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) said in its order of 26 January 2024 in South Africa v. Israel that "at the present stage of the proceedings, the Court is not required to ascertain whether any violations of Israel's obligations under the Genocide Convention have occurred," and that "at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible." Israel said before the Court on 12 January 2024, through Tal Becker: "If there were acts of genocide, they have been perpetrated against Israel." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 26 January 2024: "The charge of genocide levelled against Israel is not only false, it's outrageous, and decent people everywhere should reject it."

What has the International Court of Justice said about genocide in Gaza?

The International Court of Justice hears South Africa v. Israel under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which is dated 9 December 1948 and entered into force on 12 January 1951. Article II of the Convention reads: "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such". Article II then lists five acts.

Article IX of the Convention provides that disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfilment of the Convention shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute. Israel deposited its instrument of ratification on 9 March 1950, and South Africa deposited its instrument of accession on 10 December 1998.

South Africa filed an application against Israel at the International Court of Justice on 29 December 2023, concerning obligations in the Gaza Strip under the Convention. The Court issued orders on provisional measures on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024. South Africa filed its Memorial, and Israel filed its Counter-Memorial within a time-limit the Court and its President extended to 12

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March 2026. On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

The ICJ said in its order of 26 January 2024: “At the present stage of the proceedings, the Court is not required to ascertain whether any violations of Israel’s obligations under the Genocide Convention have occurred. Such a finding could be made by the Court only at the stage of the examination of the merits of the present case.” The Court said in the same paragraph that “at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the Convention.”

The Court said in the order that “the Palestinians appear to constitute a distinct “national, ethnical, racial or religious group”, and hence a protected group within the meaning of Article II of the Genocide Convention.” It said that “at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible.” The Court said: “This is the case with respect to the right of the Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide and related prohibited acts identified in Article III, and the right of South Africa to seek Israel’s compliance with the latter’s obligations under the Convention.”

The ICJ ordered on 26 January 2024, by fifteen votes to two, that “The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention”. The Court ordered, by sixteen votes to one, that Israel “shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide in relation to members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip”.

The Court said in its decision of 16 February 2024: “The Court emphasizes that the State of Israel remains bound to fully comply with its obligations under the Genocide Convention and with the said Order, including by ensuring the safety and security of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.”

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The ICJ ordered on 28 March 2024, by fifteen votes to one in the Court's English text, that Israel "Ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit acts which constitute a violation of any of the rights of the Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including by preventing, through any action, the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance".

The ICJ ordered on 24 May 2024, by thirteen votes to two, that Israel "Immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

What have UN bodies said about genocide in Gaza?

UN human rights experts, among them Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, said on 16 November 2023 that "grave violations committed by Israel against Palestinians in the aftermath of 7 October, particularly in Gaza, point to a genocide in the making." The experts said: "Many of us already raised the alarm about the risk of genocide in Gaza."

Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, said in her report "Anatomy of a genocide" to the Human Rights Council's session of 26 February to 5 April 2024 that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating that Israel has committed genocide has been met."

The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, said on 29 October 2024 that "her prevention mandate does not allow her to express a position on whether the crime of genocide or any other specific international crime has been committed, which can only be determined by a competent, independent and impartial court of law." The Special Adviser said

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that she "reiterates her full respect to the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice."

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said on 16 September 2025: "It's for the court to decide whether it's genocide or not, and we see the evidence mounting."

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. The Commission said on 16 September 2025 that "Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip". Navi Pillay, Chair of the Commission, said: "The Commission finds that Israel is responsible for the commission of genocide in Gaza."

The Commission said on 23 June 2026, in a report on violations against Palestinian children, that Israeli authorities and security forces had deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in "genocide", crimes against humanity and "war crimes" in Gaza. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said on 23 June 2026, through its chair, Srinivasan Muralidhar: "The evidence shows that Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces."

What have governments said about genocide in Gaza?

South Africa said in its application of 29 December 2023 that Israel "has perpetrated and is perpetrating genocidal acts identified in Article II" of the Convention, and that "Israel, its officials and/or agents, have acted with the intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, part of a protected group under the Genocide Convention".

The German government said on 12 January 2024, through a government spokesperson: "The German government decisively and expressly rejects the accusation of genocide brought against Israel before the international court of

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justice." The spokesperson said: "In light of German history and the crimes against humanity of the Shoah, the German government is particularly committed to the (UN) genocide convention."

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa on 18 February 2024 that what was happening in the Gaza Strip was a "genocide." Lula da Silva also said on 18 February 2024: "What is happening in the Gaza Strip with the Palestinian people has no parallel in history. Indeed, it occurred when Hitler decided to kill the Jews."

South Africa said in a request to the International Court of Justice of 6 March 2024 that Israel "has instead doubled-down on its genocidal aims and acts."

Ireland's Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin, said on 27 March 2024, of Ireland's intervention in the case: "We believe there is a case, given how this war has been conducted." He said: "We will be inviting the court to consider the issue of broadening how you determine whether genocide has taken place or not on the basis of an entire population being collectively punished."

US President Joe Biden said on 20 May 2024: "Contrary to allegations against Israel made by the International Court of Justice, what's happening is not genocide. We reject that."

The US Department of State said on 16 September 2025, of the Commission of Inquiry's report: "Israel went to war in self-defense and has consistently taken steps to minimize civilian casualties. That is not a genocide."

What have human rights organisations said about genocide in Gaza?

Amnesty International said on 5 December 2024 that its research had "found sufficient basis to conclude that Israel has committed and is continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip". Agnès

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Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said: "Amnesty International's report demonstrates that Israel has carried out acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention, with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza."

Amnesty International Israel, the organisation's Israeli section, said on 5 December 2024: "While the Israeli section of Amnesty International does not accept the accusation that Israel is committing genocide, based on the information available to us, we are concerned that serious crimes are being committed in Gaza, that must be investigated."

Human Rights Watch said on 19 December 2024 that "Israeli authorities are responsible for the crime against humanity of extermination and for acts of genocide." The organisation said that "the policy may amount to the crime of genocide." Tirana Hassan, its executive director, said that the policy was "nothing short of the crime against humanity of extermination, and an act of genocide."

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 19 December 2024, through its secretary general, Christopher Lockyear: "What our medical teams have witnessed on the ground throughout this conflict is consistent with the descriptions provided by an increasing number of legal experts and organisations concluding that genocide is taking place in Gaza."

B'Tselem said in its report of 28 July 2025: "An examination of Israel's policy in the Gaza Strip and its horrific outcomes, together with statements by senior Israeli politicians and military commanders about the goals of the attack, leads us to the unequivocal conclusion that Israel is taking coordinated action to intentionally destroy Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip." Yuli Novak, B'Tselem's executive director, said: "Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians."

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel said on 28 July 2025 that its analysis concluded "that the onslaught meets the criteria for genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide". Guy

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Shalev, its executive director, said: “As people who believe in the sanctity of life, we are obligated to speak the truth: this is genocide, and we must fight it.”

The International Association of Genocide Scholars adopted a resolution, published on 1 September 2025, that states: “Israel’s policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide in article II of the United Nations convention for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide (1948).” Melanie O’Brien, the association’s president, said that the resolution was “a definitive statement from experts in the field of genocide studies that what is going on on the ground in Gaza is genocide”.

What have Israel’s government and Hamas said about genocide in Gaza?

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a document updated on 8 December 2023: “The use of the term “genocide” in relation to Israel’s lawful targeting of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations in Gaza empties the term of meaning.” The ministry said in the same document: “Israel is at war with Hamas, not with the people of Gaza.”

Israel said before the International Court of Justice on 12 January 2024, through Tal Becker: “If there were acts of genocide, they have been perpetrated against Israel.” Israel requested in its submissions that day that the Court “(1) Reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by South Africa; and (2) Remove the case from the General List.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 26 January 2024, the day of the Court’s order: “The charge of genocide levelled against Israel is not only false, it’s outrageous, and decent people everywhere should reject it.”

Israel said in observations the Court received on 15 February 2024 that “its commitment to the observance of international law, including the Genocide Convention and international humanitarian law, is unwavering”.

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Hamas said on 24 May 2024, through its official Basem Naim: “We welcome the court’s request to allow investigation committees to reach the Gaza Strip to investigate acts of war of genocide against the Palestinian people and Hamas pledges to cooperate with investigation committees.”

Israel’s National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a joint statement on 24 May 2024: “The charges of genocide brought by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice in the Hague are false, outrageous and morally repugnant.”

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 5 December 2024, of Amnesty International’s report: “The deplorable and fanatical organisation Amnesty International has produced a fabricated report that is entirely false and based on lies.”

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman of Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 19 December 2024 of Human Rights Watch’s report: “This report is full of lies that are appalling even when compared to HRW’s already low standards.”

David Mencer, a spokesperson for Israel’s government, said on 28 July 2025, of the reports of B’Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel: “There is no intent, [which is] key for the charge of genocide.”

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 1 September 2025 that the resolution of the International Association of Genocide Scholars was based on “Hamas lies”, and called it an “embarrassment to the legal profession”.

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 16 September 2025: “Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report and calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry.”

Israel’s Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 16 September 2025 that “Israel categorically rejects the libelous rant published today by the Commission of Inquiry, spreading the malicious “genocide” narrative, in attempt to delegitimize and demonize the State of Israel.” The mission said that “Israel

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remains committed to international law, and as stated many times, aims to dismantle Hamas, and invests many efforts and resources in minimizing harm to the civilian population".

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026, of the Commission's report on children: "Israel dismisses this libelous sham." The mission said that Israel "consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict".

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
International Court of Justice	26 January 2024	"the Court is not required to ascertain whether any violations ... have occurred"
International Court of Justice	26 January 2024	"at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa ... are plausible"
International Court of Justice	16 February 2024	"remains bound to fully comply with its obligations under the Genocide Convention"
International Court of Justice	28 March 2024	"Ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit acts"
International Court of Justice	24 May 2024	"Immediately halt its military offensive"

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UN human rights experts	16 November 2023	"point to a genocide in the making"
Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese	Session of 26 February to 5 April 2024	"the threshold indicating that Israel has committed genocide has been met"
UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	29 October 2024	"her prevention mandate does not allow her to express a position"
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk	16 September 2025	"It's for the court to decide whether it's genocide or not"
UN Commission of Inquiry	16 September 2025	"Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip"
UN Commission of Inquiry	23 June 2026	"Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted"
South Africa	29 December 2023	"has perpetrated and is perpetrating genocidal acts identified in Article II"
German government	12 January 2024	"decisively and expressly rejects the accusation of genocide"

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Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	18 February 2024	"genocide"
South Africa	6 March 2024	"has instead doubled-down on its genocidal aims and acts"
Ireland's Tánaiste Micheál Martin	27 March 2024	"We believe there is a case, given how this war has been conducted."
US President Joe Biden	20 May 2024	"what's happening is not genocide"
US Department of State	16 September 2025	"That is not a genocide."
Amnesty International	5 December 2024	"has committed and is continuing to commit genocide"
Amnesty International Israel	5 December 2024	"does not accept the accusation that Israel is committing genocide"
Human Rights Watch	19 December 2024	"for acts of genocide"
Médecins Sans Frontières	19 December 2024	"concluding that genocide is taking place in Gaza"

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
B'Tselem	28 July 2025	"Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians."
Physicians for Human Rights-Israel	28 July 2025	"the onslaught meets the criteria for genocide"
International Association of Genocide Scholars	1 September 2025	"meet the legal definition of genocide"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 December 2023	"empties the term of meaning"
Israel, before the ICJ	12 January 2024	"If there were acts of genocide, they have been perpetrated against Israel."
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	26 January 2024	"not only false, it's outrageous"
Israel, before the ICJ	15 February 2024	"is unwavering"
Hamas	24 May 2024	"acts of war of genocide against the Palestinian people"
Israel's National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24 May 2024	"false, outrageous and morally repugnant"

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	5 December 2024	"a fabricated report that is entirely false and based on lies"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	19 December 2024	"This report is full of lies"
Israel's government	28 July 2025	"There is no intent, [which is] key for the charge of genocide."
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1 September 2025	"embarrassment to the legal profession"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	16 September 2025	"Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	16 September 2025	"Israel categorically rejects the libelous rant"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	23 June 2026	"Israel dismisses this libelous sham."

Frequently asked questions

Has the ICJ ruled on the merits of South Africa v. Israel?

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The International Court of Justice said in its order of 26 January 2024 in South Africa v. Israel that a finding on violations of the Genocide Convention "could be made by the Court only at the stage of the examination of the merits of the present case." On 21 May 2026, the Court directed a Reply by South Africa by 22 November 2027 and a Rejoinder by Israel by 22 May 2029.

What did the ICJ say was plausible in January 2024?

The International Court of Justice said in its order of 26 January 2024 that "at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible."

What does Article II of the Genocide Convention say?

Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, dated 9 December 1948, reads: "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such". Article II then lists five acts.

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about genocide in Gaza in September 2025?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said on 16 September 2025 that "Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip". Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the same day: "Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report and calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry."

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What has the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide said about Gaza?

Alice Wairimu Nderitu, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, said on 29 October 2024 that "her prevention mandate does not allow her to express a position on whether the crime of genocide or any other specific international crime has been committed, which can only be determined by a competent, independent and impartial court of law."

What did Amnesty International say about genocide in Gaza in December 2024?

Amnesty International said on 5 December 2024 that its research had "found sufficient basis to conclude that Israel has committed and is continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip". Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the same day that Amnesty International "has produced a fabricated report that is entirely false and based on lies."

What did the International Association of Genocide Scholars say about Gaza?

The International Association of Genocide Scholars adopted a resolution, published on 1 September 2025, that states: "Israel's policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide in article II of the United Nations convention for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide (1948)." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 1 September 2025 that it was based on "Hamas lies".

What has the US government said about genocide in Gaza?

US President Joe Biden said on 20 May 2024: "Contrary to allegations against Israel made by the International Court of Justice, what's happening is not

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genocide. We reject that." The US Department of State said on 16 September 2025: "That is not a genocide."

What did Hamas say about genocide after the ICJ's order of 24 May 2024?

Hamas said on 24 May 2024, through its official Basem Naim: "We welcome the court's request to allow investigation committees to reach the Gaza Strip to investigate acts of war of genocide against the Palestinian people and Hamas pledges to cooperate with investigation committees."

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Affairs)

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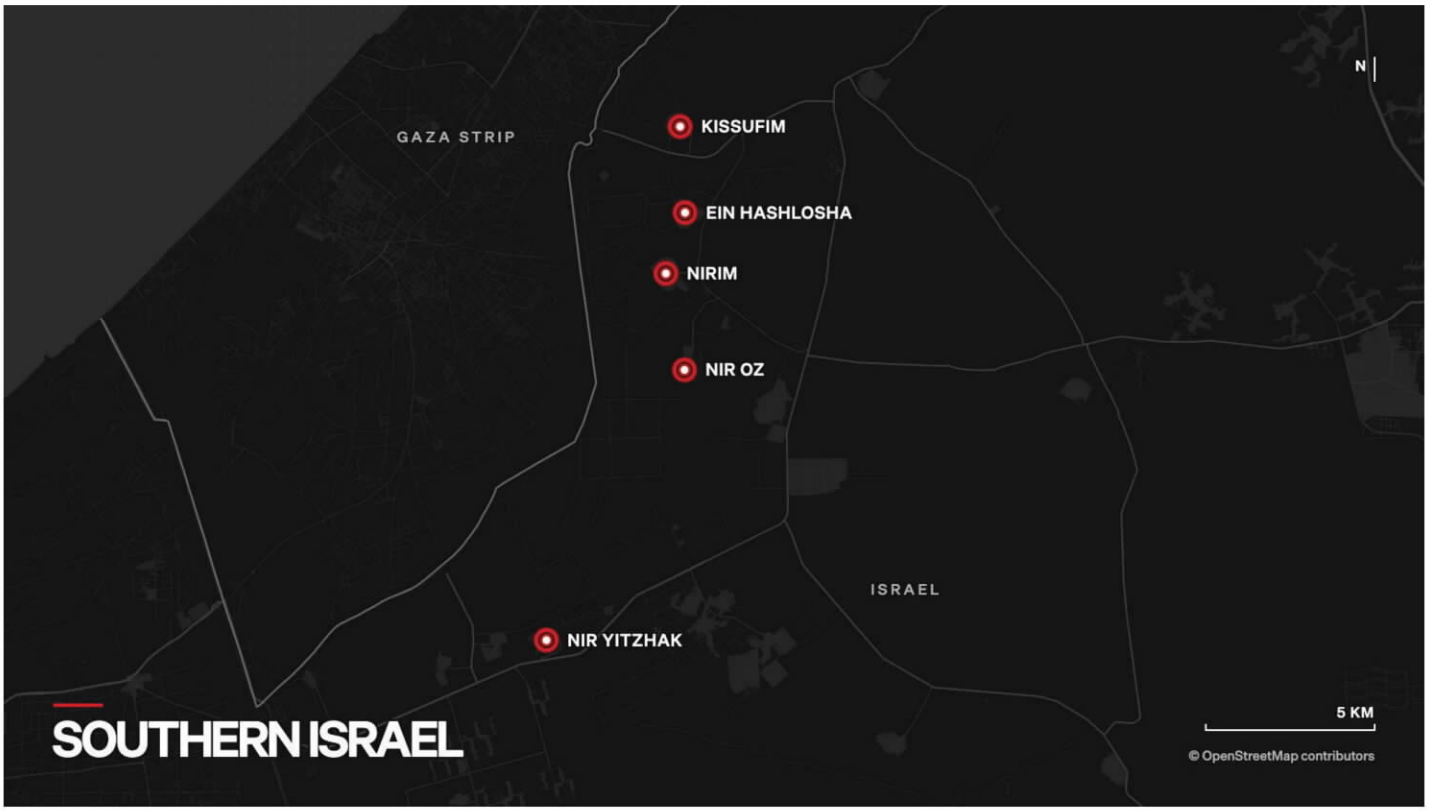
History and Places

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT HAMAS'S REASONS FOR THE 7 OCTOBER ATTACK?

What a UN commission, the US government, Israel's government, Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Hamas have said about Hamas's reasons for 7 October 2023.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

7 October 2023 | Hamas | UN Commission of Inquiry | Antony Blinken | Joe Biden | Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Iran



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The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in a paper dated 10 June 2024: "Statements made by Hamas leaders during and after the attack contained messages calling for the 'liberation' of the entire state of Israel through the acts committed on 7 October." Hamas said on 7 October 2023 that the attack was driven by Israel's escalated attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem and against Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

What happened when Hamas attacked Israel on 7 October 2023?

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages.

Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground invasion.

A truce between Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, took effect at 7 a.m. on 24 November 2023. The truce expired at 7 a.m. on 1 December 2023. A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

What is Hamas, the group that led the 7 October attack?

Hamas is a Palestinian group and political movement in the Gaza Strip. Hamas started in 1987.

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Hamas became the sole ruler of the Gaza Strip in 2007. In June 2007, Hamas fighters seized the remaining Fatah positions in the Gaza Strip, including the presidential compound in Gaza City. By 15 June 2007, Hamas was in full control of the Gaza Strip.

Hamas's founding charter dates from 1988. On 1 May 2017, Hamas published a new policy document, the first since its founding charter. The head of Hamas's political bureau, Khaled Meshal, announced it at a press conference in Doha.

On 21 January 2024, Hamas's media office released a document titled "Our Narrative… Operation Al-Aqsa Flood". It was published in Arabic and English.

What have UN bodies said about Hamas's aims for 7 October?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in a paper dated 10 June 2024, under the heading "Attack aims, planning and coordination": "Statements made by Hamas leaders during and after the attack contained messages calling for the 'liberation' of the entire state of Israel through the acts committed on 7 October."

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021.

The Commission issued a conference room paper dated 10 June 2024, "Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel". The paper was submitted to the Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session as information complementary to the Commission's official report.

The Commission's report to the same session covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023. The Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024.

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What has the US government said about Hamas's reasons for 7 October?

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, asked on CNN's State of the Union on 8 October 2023 whether the attack was in part to disrupt a normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia, said: "Certainly, that could have been part of the motivation." He went on: "Look, who opposes normalization? Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran. So it wouldn't be a surprise that part of the motivation may have been to disrupt efforts to bring Saudi Arabia and Israel together, along with other countries that may be interested in normalizing relations with Israel."

US President Joe Biden said on 20 October 2023 that he thought Hamas was motivated to attack Israel in part by a desire to stop that country from normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia. Biden said at the campaign fundraiser that day: "One of the reasons ... why Hamas moved on Israel, is because they knew I was about to sit down with the Saudis."

At a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on 25 October 2023, US President Joe Biden said: "I'm convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did ... is because of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel and regional integration overall." He said of that view: "I have no proof of this; just my instinct tells me."

What have Hamas, Israel and Iran said motivated 7 October?

Hamas said on 7 October 2023 that the attack was driven by Israel's escalated attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem and against Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

Hamas's military wing said on 7 October 2023, in its announcement of the operation, that the assault was in response to the blockade of Gaza, Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, violence at Al Aqsa, increasing attacks

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by settlers on Palestinians and the growth of settlements. “Enough is enough,” the military wing said.

CNN’s programme State of the Union aired on 8 October 2023, with interviews with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Israel’s Minister of Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer. Dana Bash hosted the programme.

Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer said on the programme on 8 October 2023: “So Hamas wants to kill Jews, that goes without saying. They also would like to kill the Saudi deal.” He said in the same answer: “And they’re also trying to do everything they can to free all the terrorists that Israel holds in our prisons. That’s what they’d like to achieve.”

The UN Security Council held its 9451st meeting in New York on 24 October 2023, on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Ministers and other high-level representatives took part.

Israel’s Minister for Foreign Affairs said at that meeting on 24 October 2023 that Hamas had three objectives for its attack: “murdering Jews, kidnapping hostages and derailing the expansion of peace, stability and normalization in our region.”

Khalil al-Hayya, a member of Hamas’s top leadership body, said in remarks to The New York Times reported in November 2023: “What could change the equation was a great act, and without a doubt, it was known that the reaction to this great act would be big.” He said: “We had to tell people that the Palestinian cause would not die.”

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in its paper “Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Frequently Asked Questions”, updated to 8 December 2023: “Hamas’s terror is not a result of Israeli restrictions. Israeli past restrictions were the direct result of Hamas’s terror.”

Hamas said in a statement on 27 December 2023: “Hamas denies the validity of the remarks given by the spokesperson of the Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Brigadier General Ramadan Sharif, regarding the operation of the Flood

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of al-Aqsa and its motives." It said: "We have repeatedly confirmed the motives and reasons for the operation of the Flood of al-Aqsa, and foremost are the dangers that threaten al-Aqsa Mosque."

The spokesman of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, said to Iran's ISNA news agency on 27 December 2023: "The Al-Aqsa Flood was one of the acts of revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani by the U.S. and the Zionists."

The commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Esmail Qaani, said in remarks to Iran's IRNA news agency in December 2023: "Due to the extensive crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of Palestine, they themselves took action."

Hamas said in a document it published on 21 January 2024, "Our Narrative... Operation Al-Aqsa Flood", that it set out to clarify "the motives behind" the attack. In the document, Hamas said that Palestinians faced Israeli incursions into al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, "assaults and humiliations" of Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons, and the blockade of the Gaza Strip. It said: "What was expected from the Palestinian people after all of that? To keep waiting and to keep counting on the helpless UN! Or to take the initiative in defending the Palestinian people, lands, rights and sanctities".

The same document said that on 7 October Hamas targeted Israeli military sites and sought to "arrest the enemy's soldiers" to pressure Israeli authorities to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

Khalil al-Hayya, the most senior Hamas leader outside Gaza, said in an interview with the BBC on 1 October 2024: "It was necessary to raise an alarm in the world to tell them that here there is a people who have a cause and have demands that must be met."

Hamas said in a second document, which it published on 24 December 2025, "Our Narrative... Al-Aqsa Flood: Two Years of Steadfastness and the Will for Liberation", that the attack was a "natural response".

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The statements on Hamas's reasons for the attack of 7 October 2023, by type of body, the parties last, and then by date:

STATED BY
UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, includ
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken
US President Joe Biden
US President Joe Biden

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STATED BY

Hamas

Hamas's military wing

Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer

Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hamas, through Khalil al-Hayya

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STATED BY
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hamas
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, through its spokesman
Commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
Hamas
Hamas, through Khalil al-Hayya

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STATED BY

Hamas

Frequently asked questions

What reason did Joe Biden give for the 7 October attack?

US President Joe Biden said at a press conference on 25 October 2023 that he was "convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did" was "the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel". He said in the same remarks: "I have no proof of this; just my instinct tells me."

Did Joe Biden link the 7 October attack to Saudi Arabia?

US President Joe Biden said at a campaign fundraiser on 20 October 2023: "One of the reasons ... why Hamas moved on Israel, is because they knew I was about to sit down with the Saudis."

What did Antony Blinken say about the motive for the 7 October attack?

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on CNN on 8 October 2023, asked whether the attack was in part to disrupt a normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia: "Certainly, that could have been part of the motivation."

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What did Hamas's military wing say when it announced the 7 October attack?

Hamas's military wing said on 7 October 2023 that the assault was in response to the blockade of Gaza, Israeli raids inside West Bank cities, violence at Al Aqsa, increasing attacks by settlers on Palestinians and the growth of settlements. "Enough is enough," the military wing said.

What did Israel say Hamas's objectives were on 7 October 2023?

Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs said at the UN Security Council on 24 October 2023 that Hamas had three objectives for its attack: "murdering Jews, kidnapping hostages and derailing the expansion of peace, stability and normalization in our region."

What did Ron Dermer say Hamas wanted from the 7 October attack?

Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer said on CNN on 8 October 2023: "So Hamas wants to kill Jews, that goes without saying. They also would like to kill the Saudi deal."

What did Israel's Foreign Ministry say about Gaza restrictions and the attack?

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in its paper of questions and answers on the war, updated to 8 December 2023: "Hamas's terror is not a result of Israeli restrictions. Israeli past restrictions were the direct result of Hamas's terror."

What did Iran's Revolutionary Guards say about the motive for 7 October?

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The spokesman of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, said on 27 December 2023: "The Al-Aqsa Flood was one of the acts of revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani by the U.S. and the Zionists." Hamas said in a statement on 27 December 2023: "We have repeatedly confirmed the motives and reasons for the operation of the Flood of al-Aqsa, and foremost are the dangers that threaten al-Aqsa Mosque."

When did Hamas publish its second "Our Narrative" document?

Hamas published "Our Narrative... Al-Aqsa Flood: Two Years of Steadfastness and the Will for Liberation" on 24 December 2025, according to The Jerusalem Post. Hamas said in the document that the attack of 7 October 2023 was a "natural response".

What did the commander of Iran's Quds Force say about the 7 October attack?

The commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Esmail Qaani, said in remarks to Iran's IRNA news agency in December 2023: "Due to the extensive crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of Palestine, they themselves took action."

What is Hamas's document "Our Narrative... Operation Al-Aqsa Flood"?

Hamas said in "Our Narrative... Operation Al-Aqsa Flood", a document it published on 21 January 2024, that it set out to clarify "the motives behind" the attack of 7 October 2023, and that on that day it sought to "arrest the enemy's soldiers" to pressure Israeli authorities to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

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What did Khalil al-Hayya say about the 7 October attack?

Khalil al-Hayya, a member of Hamas's top leadership body, said in remarks to The New York Times reported in November 2023: "We had to tell people that the Palestinian cause would not die." In an interview with the BBC on 1 October 2024, he said: "It was necessary to raise an alarm in the world to tell them that here there is a people who have a cause and have demands that must be met."

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Wider Region

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT IRAN'S ROLE IN THE 7 OCTOBER ATTACK?

What the US government, Hamas, Iran's government and Israel's government have said from 2023 to 2025 about Iran's role in the 7 October attack, each dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

Iran | Hamas | 7 October attack | Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps | UN Security Council



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on 8 October 2023 that "we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack." US

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National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on 10 October 2023: “We don’t have specific information that ties Iran to this attack.” John Kirby, the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, said on 11 October 2023, of Iran, that “we haven’t seen any specific evidence that tells us they were witting, involved in the planning, or involved in the resourcing”. Iran’s government said through its Permanent Mission to the UN on 8 October 2023 that “we are not involved in Palestine’s response, as it is taken solely by Palestine itself.”

What happened in the attack on Israel on 7 October 2023?

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages.

Israel’s military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground invasion.

Hamas is a Palestinian group and political movement in the Gaza Strip. Hamas started in 1987. Hamas became the sole ruler of the Gaza Strip in 2007.

What did the US government say about Iran’s role in October 2023?

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in an interview on CNN on 8 October 2023 that “there’s a long relationship between Iran and Hamas.” He said in the same interview that “Hamas wouldn’t be around in the way that it is without the support that it’s received from Iran over the years.” Blinken also said: “In this specific instance, we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack.”

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said at a White House press briefing on 10 October 2023 that “we have said since the beginning that Iran is complicit

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in this attack in a broad sense because they have provided the lion's share of the funding for the military wing of Hamas, they have provided training, they have provided capabilities, they have provided support, and they have had engagement and contact with Hamas over years and years." He said at the same briefing: "We don't have specific information that ties Iran to this attack." Sullivan also said: "We may gain that information in the hours and days ahead, but we don't presently have it."

In October 2023, John Kirby was the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House.

Kirby said at a White House press briefing on 11 October 2023: "We obviously recognize that there's broad complicity here by the Iranians, I mean, because of the longstanding support to Hamas." He said at the same briefing: "But we haven't seen any specific evidence that tells us they were witting, involved in the planning, or involved in the resourcing". Kirby said in a later answer at the same briefing that the US had not seen "specific evidence that Iran was directly involved with these specific sets of attacks."

Kirby said at a White House press briefing on 23 October 2023, asked whether Iran was directly involved in the attack: "We know there is complicity here by Iran." He said at the same briefing that he could not say that the US had seen intelligence that "shows that they were participating in, witting of, directing what happened on October 7th."

What has the US said about Iran's role since 2024?

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in the Annual Threat Assessment of the US intelligence community, dated 5 February 2024: "We assess that Iranian leaders did not orchestrate nor had foreknowledge of the HAMAS attack against Israel."

The UN Security Council held its 9602nd meeting in New York on 14 April 2024, on the situation in the Middle East. The representatives of Iran, Israel and Syria

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were invited to take part.

The United States delegation to the UN Security Council said on 14 April 2024: “In a broad sense, Iran was also complicit in the 7 October attack on Israel, because it has provided significant funding and training for the military wing of Hamas.” The delegation said in the same statement: “That Iranian support contributed to the current crisis in Gaza.”

What have Hamas, Iran and Israel said about Iran and 7 October?

Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad said in remarks to the BBC on 7 October 2023 that the group had direct backing for the attack from Iran.

Iran’s government said through its Permanent Mission to the UN on 8 October 2023: “We emphatically stand in unflinching support of Palestine; however, we are not involved in Palestine’s response, as it is taken solely by Palestine itself.” The mission also said: “They are attempting to justify their failure and attribute it to Iran’s intelligence power and operational planning.”

Ali Barakeh, a member of Hamas’s exiled leadership, said in an interview with the Associated Press in his Beirut office on 9 October 2023: “Only a handful of Hamas commanders knew about the zero hour.” Barakeh said that even the group’s closest allies were not informed in advance about the timing. He said that Iran and Lebanon’s Hezbollah have helped Hamas in the past, but that since the 2014 Gaza war Hamas has been producing its own rockets and training its own fighters.

Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in a speech on 10 October 2023: “For example, they say that Islamic Iran is behind this move [Al-Aqsa Storm Operation]. They are mistaken.” Khamenei also said in the speech: “But those who say that non-Palestinians are behind what the Palestinians have done do not know the Palestinian nation.” He said in the same speech: “But this action was carried out by the Palestinians themselves.”

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The UN Security Council held its 9451st meeting in New York on 24 October 2023, on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Ministers and other high-level representatives took part. Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs said at the meeting: "As Iran's proxy, Hamas had three objectives for its barbarous attack."

Israel's delegation to the UN General Assembly said on 26 October 2023 that a representative of "the evil regime that trained, funded and armed Hamas for the 7 October massacre" would address the Assembly. The delegation also said: "The ayatollah regime of Iran has the blood of thousands of Israelis on its hands."

Hamas said in a statement on 27 December 2023: "Hamas denies the validity of the remarks given by the spokesperson of the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Brigadier General Ramadan Sharif, regarding the operation of the Flood of al-Aqsa and its motives." Hamas said in the same statement: "We have repeatedly confirmed the motives and reasons for the operation of the Flood of al-Aqsa, and foremost are the dangers that threaten al-Aqsa Mosque." Hamas also said: "We also confirm that all acts of Palestinian resistance come in response to the Zionist occupation and its ongoing aggression against our people and our holy sites."

Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, the spokesman of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said in remarks to Iran's ISNA news agency on 27 December 2023: "The Al-Aqsa Flood was one of the acts of revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani by the U.S. and the Zionists." Sharif also said: "Certainly, these acts of revenge will continue in different times and places."

Esmail Qaani, the commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said in remarks to IRNA in December 2023 that Hamas planned and executed the October 7 attacks on southern Israel without Iranian help. Qaani said: "Palestinian resistance began its work with its own preparation and the plan it had set." Qaani also said: "Due to the extensive crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Muslim people of Palestine, they themselves took action."

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The UN Security Council held its 9602nd meeting in New York on 14 April 2024, on the situation in the Middle East. Iran's representative to the UN Security Council said at the meeting that "the main and long-standing threat to the peace and security of our region is well known to all, and the attempts to conceal it through disinformation, smear campaigns or baseless accusations against others are pointless and unfounded." The representative said at the same meeting: "Contrary to unfounded claims, Iran has no proxy in the region. No individual, group or country acts at Iran's behest." Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said at the same meeting that on 7 October Hamas acted "with Iranian funding, weaponry and training".

Iran's government said through its Permanent Mission to the UN in October 2024 that "any claim attempting to link it to Iran or Hezbollah" "is devoid of credence and comes from fabricated documents". The mission said in the same statement that "Doha-based Hamas officials have themselves stated that they, too, had no prior knowledge of the operation". The mission also said: "We consider Israel a criminal, anti-human, and lying regime, and we do not give any credit to its delusions."

Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said in an interview at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos on 22 January 2025: "We didn't know about October 7." Zarif also said: "Actually, we were supposed to have a meeting with the Americans on [the nuclear deal's] renewal on October 9, which was undermined and destroyed by this operation."

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on 6 April 2025: "I am presenting today unequivocal proof of Iran's support for Hamas' plan to destroy Israel and carry out the October 7 massacre."

The UN Security Council held its 9936th meeting in New York on 13 June 2025, under the agenda item "Threats to international peace and security". The representatives of Iran, Iraq, Israel and Kuwait were invited to take part. Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said at the meeting: "I invite them to

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recall the events of 7 October." The delegation said of that day that "we saw what Iran's proxy", Hamas, "was capable of."

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken	8 October 2023	"we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack"
US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan	10 October 2023	"We don't have specific information that ties Iran to this attack."
John Kirby, NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications	11 October 2023	"there's broad complicity here by the Iranians"
John Kirby, NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications	23 October 2023	"We know there is complicity here by Iran."
Office of the Director of National Intelligence	5 February 2024	"Iranian leaders did not orchestrate nor had foreknowledge of the HAMAS attack against Israel"
United States delegation to the UN Security Council	14 April 2024	"In a broad sense, Iran was also complicit in the 7 October attack on Israel"
Hamas, spokesman Ghazi Hamad	7 October 2023	said the group had direct

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
		backing for the attack from Iran
Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN	8 October 2023	"we are not involved in Palestine's response"
Hamas, Ali Barakeh	9 October 2023	"Only a handful of Hamas commanders knew about the zero hour."
Ayatollah Ali Khamenei	10 October 2023	"this action was carried out by the Palestinians themselves"
Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs	24 October 2023	"As Iran's proxy, Hamas had three objectives for its barbarous attack."
Israel's delegation to the UN General Assembly	26 October 2023	"the evil regime that trained, funded and armed Hamas"
Hamas	27 December 2023	"Hamas denies the validity of the remarks given by the spokesperson"
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, spokesman	27 December 2023	"one of the acts of revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani"

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Quds Force commander	December 2023	"began its work with its own preparation and the plan it had set"
Iran's representative to the UN Security Council	14 April 2024	"Iran has no proxy in the region"
Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council	14 April 2024	"with Iranian funding, weaponry and training"
Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN	October 2024	"is devoid of credence and comes from fabricated documents"
Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif	22 January 2025	"We didn't know about October 7."
Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz	6 April 2025	"unequivocal proof of Iran's support for Hamas' plan"
Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council	13 June 2025	"we saw what Iran's proxy"

Frequently asked questions

Did Iran say it was involved in the 7 October attack?

Iran's government said through its Permanent Mission to the UN on 8 October 2023 that "we are not involved in Palestine's response, as it is taken solely by

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Palestine itself." The mission said in October 2024 that "any claim attempting to link it to Iran or Hezbollah" "is devoid of credence and comes from fabricated documents".

What did Ayatollah Ali Khamenei say about the 7 October attack?

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in a speech on 10 October 2023 that "this action was carried out by the Palestinians themselves." Khamenei also said in the speech: "Of course, we support Palestine. We support their fight."

Did US intelligence say Iran knew about the 7 October attack in advance?

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in the Annual Threat Assessment of the US intelligence community, dated 5 February 2024: "We assess that Iranian leaders did not orchestrate nor had foreknowledge of the HAMAS attack against Israel."

What did a Hamas official tell the Associated Press about Iran in October 2023?

Ali Barakeh, a member of Hamas's exiled leadership, said in an interview with the Associated Press in Beirut on 9 October 2023: "Only a handful of Hamas commanders knew about the zero hour." He said that even the group's closest allies were not informed in advance about the timing.

What did Jake Sullivan say about Iran and the 7 October attack?

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said at a White House press briefing on 10 October 2023: "We don't have specific information that ties Iran to this attack."

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What did Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps say about the 7 October attack?

Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, the spokesman of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said on 27 December 2023: "The Al-Aqsa Flood was one of the acts of revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani by the U.S. and the Zionists." Hamas said in a statement the same day that it "denies the validity of the remarks given by the spokesperson".

What did Israel say about Iran at the UN in October 2023?

Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs said at the UN Security Council on 24 October 2023: "As Iran's proxy, Hamas had three objectives for its barbarous attack."

What did Mohammad Javad Zarif say about 7 October?

Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said in an interview in Davos on 22 January 2025: "We didn't know about October 7."

What did the US tell the UN Security Council about Iran in April 2024?

The United States delegation to the UN Security Council said on 14 April 2024: "In a broad sense, Iran was also complicit in the 7 October attack on Israel, because it has provided significant funding and training for the military wing of Hamas."

What did Israel's Defence Minister say about Iran and 7 October in 2025?

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Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on 6 April 2025: “I am presenting today unequivocal proof of Iran’s support for Hamas’ plan to destroy Israel and carry out the October 7 massacre.”

What did John Kirby say about Iran and the 7 October attack?

John Kirby, the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, said on 23 October 2023: “We know there is complicity here by Iran.” He said at the same briefing that he could not say that the US had seen intelligence that “shows that they were participating in, witting of, directing what happened on October 7th.”

What did Hamas say were the motives for the 7 October attack?

Hamas said in a statement on 27 December 2023: “We have repeatedly confirmed the motives and reasons for the operation of the Flood of al-Aqsa, and foremost are the dangers that threaten al-Aqsa Mosque.”

What did the commander of Iran’s Quds Force say about the 7 October attack?

Esmail Qaani, the commander of the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said in December 2023 that Hamas planned and executed the October 7 attacks on southern Israel without Iranian help. Qaani said: “Palestinian resistance began its work with its own preparation and the plan it had set.”

What did Iran tell the UN Security Council in April 2024 about its allies?

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Iran's representative to the UN Security Council said on 14 April 2024: "Contrary to unfounded claims, Iran has no proxy in the region. No individual, group or country acts at Iran's behest."

What did Antony Blinken say about Iran and the 7 October attack?

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on CNN on 8 October 2023: "In this specific instance, we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack." He said in the same interview that "there's a long relationship between Iran and Hamas."

What did Israel tell the UN Security Council about Iran in June 2025?

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 13 June 2025: "I invite them to recall the events of 7 October." The delegation said of that day that "we saw what Iran's proxy", Hamas, "was capable of."

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History and Places

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON 7 OCTOBER 2023?

What the ICC Prosecutor, UN bodies, governments, organisations, Israel and Hamas have said about sexual violence on 7 October 2023, each dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

7 October 2023 | Sexual violence | International Criminal Court | UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict | UN Security Council



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The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that it "continues to investigate reports of sexual violence committed on 7 October." Hamas said in a statement on 5 March 2024 that the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict's report on 7 October was based on "false claims".

What has the ICC Prosecutor said about sexual violence on 7 October?

The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021. The Prosecution filed applications for warrants of arrest in the Situation on 20 May 2024.

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied on 20 May 2024 for warrants of arrest for leaders of Hamas, for crimes that it said include "Rape and other acts of sexual violence as crimes against humanity".

The Office said on 20 May 2024 that it "continues to investigate reports of sexual violence committed on 7 October." It said that it was "advancing multiple and interconnected additional lines of inquiry, including concerning reports of sexual violence during the 7 October attacks".

What have UN bodies said about sexual violence on 7 October?

On 30 September 2009, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to provide coherent and strategic leadership on sexual violence in armed conflict. Pramila Patten, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, led a mission to Israel from 29 January to 14 February 2024, at the invitation of Israel's government.

UN Women said in a statement in December 2023 that it was "alarmed by the numerous accounts of gender-based atrocities and sexual violence during those

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attacks."

The Special Representative said in her mission report, published on 4 March 2024, that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape". The report said: "The mission team was unable to establish the prevalence of sexual violence and concludes that the overall magnitude, scope, and specific attribution of these violations would require a fully-fledged investigation."

The UN Security Council met on 11 March 2024 under its agenda item "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question". Pramila Patten, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, took part in the meeting.

The Special Representative told the Council on 11 March 2024: "With regard to the 7 October attacks, we found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, occurred". She said: "Although we met with some witnesses, despite our proactive outreach and efforts we did not meet with any survivors of sexual violence from the 7 October attacks."

Of Kibbutz Be'eri, the Special Representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that "we were also able to determine that at least two allegations of sexual violence that had been widely reported in the media were unfounded."

The UN Secretary-General said in his report of 4 April 2024 that the mission "did not draw conclusions on attribution to specific armed groups or determine prevalence of incidents of conflict-related sexual violence during and after the attacks of 7 October." He said: "Such a determination would require a fully-fledged investigation."

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel submitted its report

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to the Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session, which ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024. It covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023.

The Commission said in the report, dated 14 June 2024: "The Commission found indications that members of the military wing of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed acts of gender-based violence in several locations in southern Israel on 7 October." It said that it "identified patterns indicative of sexual violence in several locations". The Commission said that it "did not find credible evidence, however, that militants had received orders to commit sexual violence and was thus unable to reach a conclusion on the issue."

The Commission said in the same report that it "reviewed testimonies of rape obtained by journalists and the Israeli police but has not been able to independently verify such allegations". It said: "In addition, the Commission found some specific allegations to be false, inaccurate or contradictory with other evidence or statements and discounted them from its assessment." The report said: "The Hamas military wing rejected all accusations that its forces committed sexual violence against women in Israel."

The UN Secretary-General's report dated 15 July 2025 covers January to December 2024. The Secretary-General said in it that his Special Representative "also found reasonable grounds to believe that sexual violence occurred during the attacks of 7 October 2023 in multiple locations, including rape and gang rape." He said that Israel's government had "established an interministerial 'National Committee for Gender Violence focusing on the 7 October 2023 attacks'", and that it did not grant the UN access "to carry out fully fledged and independent investigations." He said: "I continue to call for accountability with due process of law for conflict-related sexual violence committed during the 7 October attacks and in their aftermath."

The UN Secretary-General named Hamas under "Non-State actors" in the annex to his report dated 15 July 2025, headed "List of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council".

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Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, said in a post on X on 14 November 2025, of 7 October: "No independent investigation found that rape took place".

The UN Secretary-General's report dated 21 April 2026 covers January to December 2025. The Secretary-General said in it, of accountability for the attacks of 7 October 2023, that since Hamas's listing in the annex to his previous report, "Hamas has not recognized any incidents of sexual violence and has not made commitments or taken measures to address violations related to sexual violence, including holding alleged perpetrators accountable." He said: "I continue to call for accountability with due process of law for sexual violence crimes committed during the attacks of 7 October and in their aftermath and call upon Hamas to adopt measures to address sexual violence."

What have governments said about sexual violence on 7 October?

President Joe Biden of the United States said on 5 December 2023 that it was on governments, international organizations, civil society and individual citizens "to forcefully condemn the sexual violence of Hamas terrorists without equivocation".

The UN Security Council met on 11 March 2024 under its agenda item "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question". Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Israel Katz, and the Permanent Observer of the Observer State of Palestine to the United Nations also took part.

Algeria's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that Algeria was "profoundly concerned about the harrowing finding of the mission team" on sexual violence during the attacks of 7 October 2023. China's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "The mission report released after the visit stated that there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual

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violence occurred at several locations across the Gaza periphery during the 7 October attacks."

Ecuador's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that the report "indicates that there are reasonable grounds to believe that, during the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October, acts of sexual violence occurred". France's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "France will do everything in its power to ensure that the reality of the crimes committed on 7 October is recognized and cannot be called into question."

Guyana's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "Guyana strongly condemns all acts of sexual violence committed during the conflict, including those committed on 7 October." Japan's representative, speaking in his national capacity as the Council's President on 11 March 2024, said: "Japan reiterates its deep sympathy and solidarity with the victims of sexual violence, including those affected by the brutal violence since the 7 October attacks."

Malta's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that Malta "is appalled by the reports that Israeli women were subjected to sexual violence" on 7 October 2023. The Republic of Korea's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that it was "profoundly shocked by the incidents of sexual violence, detailed in the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's report, on the occasion of the 7 October terrorist attacks by Hamas".

The Russian Federation's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "There is no justification for sexual violence against Israelis, and those responsible must be held accountable." She said in the same statement: "Ms. Patten's team was unable to meet with victims of the sexual violence that took place during the tragic events of 7 October."

Sierra Leone's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024, of the mission report's account of 7 October, that "any act of sexual violence and conflict-related sexual violence must be condemned". Slovenia's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "We are concerned that there are

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reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across southern Israel."

The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine said at the Council on 11 March 2024 that the Special Representative "also stressed that the visit was neither intended nor mandated to be investigative in nature". Switzerland's representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "The report stresses that there are reasonable grounds to believe that sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and sexual torture, were committed in several places."

The United Kingdom's minister at the Council said on 11 March 2024 that he noted "with deep concern the findings of Special Representative Patten, including reasonable grounds for believing that sexual violence occurred in Israel on 7 October". The United States' representative said at the Council on 11 March 2024: "There can be no doubt about what happened on 7 October."

What have organisations said about sexual violence on 7 October?

The Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel said in a report published on 21 February 2024 that sexual assaults during the attacks of 7 October were carried out "systematically and deliberately". The report said: "When most of the victims of sexual assaults are murdered, we have a moral and humanitarian obligation to amplify their silent cry."

Human Rights Watch released a report on 17 July 2024 titled "'I Can't Erase All the Blood from My Mind': Palestinian Armed Groups' October 7 Assault on Israel". The report covers the abuses committed on 7 October and does not examine the treatment of hostages in Gaza.

Human Rights Watch said on 17 July 2024 that the potential crimes against humanity needing more investigation include "rape or other sexual violence of comparable gravity". It said: "Human Rights Watch's investigation found evidence of acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including forced nudity,

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and the taking and the posting on social media, both without consent, of sexualized images."

Human Rights Watch said on 17 July 2024 that it "was not able to gather verifiable information through interviews with survivors of or witnesses to rape during the assault on October 7". It said: "Available evidence did not permit Human Rights Watch to draw conclusions regarding the specific identity of those who committed crimes involving sexual and gender-based, or whether these crimes were planned by the Palestinian armed groups who ordered the attacks." The organisation said that it sent a detailed information request on sexual and gender-based violence to the Israeli government, and that "It did not receive a substantive response to this request."

The Civil Commission on October 7 Crimes by Hamas Against Women and Children said in a report published on 12 May 2026 that sexual and gender-based violence against women, men and children was "systematic, widespread, and integral to" the attack of 7 October. The commission said that it had "clear and convincing evidence" of "patterns" of sexual and gender-based abuse across multiple sites.

What have Israel and Hamas said about sexual violence on 7 October?

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages.

Israel Police Superintendent Dudi Katz said, in remarks CNN published on 17 November 2023, that officers had collected statements and video clips that include accounts from people who reported seeing women raped. He said that investigators did not have firsthand testimony, and that it was not clear whether any rape victims survived.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a news conference on 5 December 2023 that women's rights organizations and human rights organizations had

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heard of the rape of Israeli women, and he asked them where they were.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on X on 4 March 2024 that he had ordered Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, to return to Israel for consultations over what he called an attempt to silence the UN report on mass rapes committed by Hamas and its aides on 7 October.

Hamas said in a statement on 5 March 2024 that the Special Representative's report was based on false claims and did not document any testimony from what she called the victims. Hamas said that the accusation had been refuted by all investigations.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said at the Security Council on 11 March 2024 that Israel was asking the Council to condemn the sexual violence crimes committed by Hamas. He said that the UN had been silent about Hamas's actions for too long.

Frequently asked questions

What did the UN report of March 2024 say about rape on 7 October?

The UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, said in her mission report published on 4 March 2024 that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape".

Did the UN say which armed group committed sexual violence on 7 October?

The UN Secretary-General said in his report of 4 April 2024 that the Special Representative's mission "did not draw conclusions on attribution to specific

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armed groups or determine prevalence of incidents of conflict-related sexual violence during and after the attacks of 7 October."

How did Hamas respond to the UN report on sexual violence on 7 October?

Hamas said in a statement on 5 March 2024 that the UN Special Representative's report was based on "false claims" and "did not document any testimony from what she calls the victims of these cases".

Is the ICC Prosecutor investigating sexual violence on 7 October?

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that it "continues to investigate reports of sexual violence committed on 7 October."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about sexual violence on 7 October?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report dated 14 June 2024 that it "identified patterns indicative of sexual violence in several locations", and that it "did not find credible evidence, however, that militants had received orders to commit sexual violence".

Is Hamas on the UN list of parties suspected of sexual violence in conflict?

The UN Secretary-General named Hamas under "Non-State actors" in the annex to his report dated 15 July 2025, headed "List of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual

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violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council". He said in his report dated 21 April 2026 that, since that listing, "Hamas has not recognized any incidents of sexual violence".

What did the UN Special Representative tell the Security Council in March 2024?

Pramila Patten, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, told the Security Council on 11 March 2024: "Although we met with some witnesses, despite our proactive outreach and efforts we did not meet with any survivors of sexual violence from the 7 October attacks."

What did Israel Police say about its investigation of sexual violence on 7 October?

Israel Police Superintendent Dudi Katz said, in remarks CNN published on 17 November 2023, that investigators did not have firsthand testimony of rape on 7 October, and that it was not clear whether any rape victims survived.

What has Human Rights Watch said about sexual violence on 7 October?

Human Rights Watch said on 17 July 2024: "Human Rights Watch's investigation found evidence of acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including forced nudity, and the taking and the posting on social media, both without consent, of sexualized images."

What reason did Israel give for recalling its UN ambassador in March 2024?

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Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a post on X on 4 March 2024 that he had recalled Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, for consultations over what he called an attempt to silence the UN report on mass rapes committed on 7 October.

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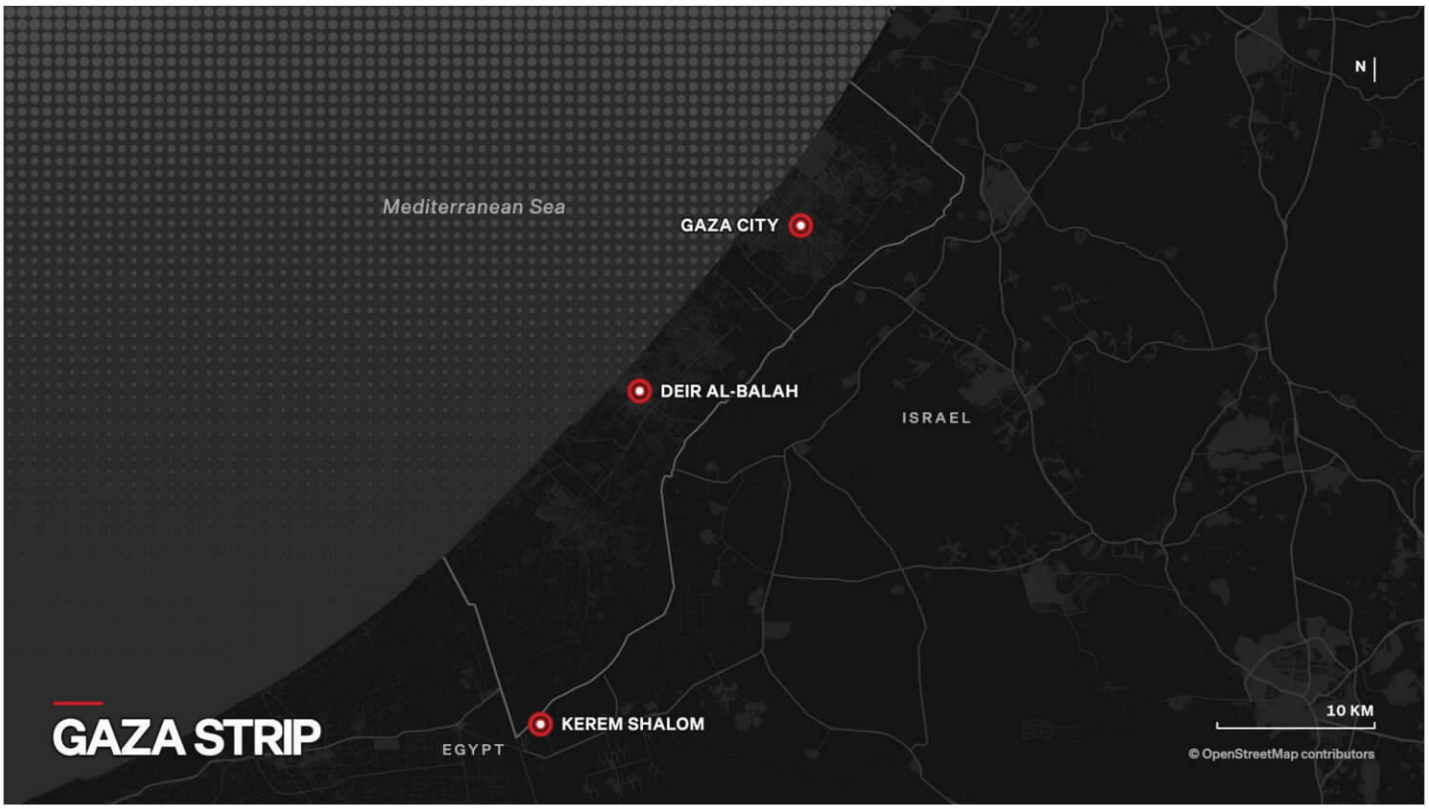
Food, Health and Water

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT STARVATION AS A WEAPON OF WAR IN GAZA?

What the ICC, UN bodies, governments, Oxfam, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty and Israel's government have said about starvation as a weapon in Gaza, each dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

International Criminal Court | Rome Statute | Food and aid | Gaza Strip



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The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) applied on 20 May 2024 for warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, for crimes that it said include "Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare". Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC issued warrants of arrest for both men on 21 November 2024, and said that each bears criminal responsibility for "the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare", on the standard of "reasonable grounds to believe". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: "The court in The Hague accuses us of a deliberate policy of starvation. This, when we have supplied Gaza with 700,000 tons of food to feed the people of Gaza."

What does the Rome Statute say about starvation in warfare?

The text of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was circulated on 17 July 1998, and the Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002. Article 8 of the Rome Statute, headed "War crimes", gives the Court jurisdiction in respect of war crimes.

Article 8(2)(b) of the Rome Statute covers "Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict". Its item (xxv) reads: "Intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions".

The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2417 at its 8267th meeting, on 24 May 2018. Resolution 2417 "strongly condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in a number of conflict situations and prohibited by international humanitarian law".

The preamble of resolution 2417 underlines "that using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare may constitute a war crime". The resolution strongly urges

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States to investigate violations of international humanitarian law related to the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.

What has the ICC said about starvation as a weapon in Gaza?

The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015, and the Statute entered into force for it on 1 April 2015. The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021.

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 20 May 2024: "Today I am filing applications for warrants of arrest before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court in the Situation in the State of Palestine." He applied for warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, and Yoav Gallant, the Minister of Defence of Israel, and the first of the crimes he set out against them was "Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare as a war crime contrary to article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Statute".

The Prosecutor said on 20 May 2024 that "these acts were committed as part of a common plan to use starvation as a method of war and other acts of violence against the Gazan civilian population". He said: "I specifically underlined that starvation as a method of war and the denial of humanitarian relief constitute Rome Statute offences." He also said: "Israel, like all States, has a right to take action to defend its population. That right, however, does not absolve Israel or any State of its obligation to comply with international humanitarian law."

On 21 November 2024, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court issued two decisions rejecting challenges by Israel, and issued warrants of arrest.

The Court said that the Chamber issued the warrants for the two men "for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024, the day the Prosecution filed the applications for warrants of arrest."

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The Chamber said that there were "reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity, from at least 8 October 2023 to 20 May 2024."

The Chamber said that it had "reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gallant bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare." The Court said: "The arrest warrants are classified as 'secret', in order to protect witnesses and to safeguard the conduct of the investigations."

What have UN bodies said about starvation as a weapon in Gaza?

UN special rapporteurs, among them Michael Fakhri, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, said on 16 January 2024: "It is unprecedented to make an entire civilian population go hungry this completely and quickly. Israel is destroying Gaza's food system and using food as a weapon against the Palestinian people." The special rapporteurs also said: "Aid needs to be delivered to Gazans immediately and without any hindrance to prevent starvation."

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, said on 19 March 2024: "The extent of Israel's continued restrictions on the entry of aid into Gaza, together with the manner in which it continues to conduct hostilities, may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war, which is a war crime."

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel submitted report A/HRC/56/26 to the Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session, which ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024. The report was submitted under Human Rights Council resolution S-30/1. The report covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023.

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The Commission said in the report, dated 14 June 2024: “The Commission concludes that Israel has used starvation as a method of war, a measure that will affect the health of the entire population of Gaza for decades to come, with particularly negative consequences for children.” The Commission said in the same paragraph: “Throughout the siege on Gaza, Israel has weaponized the withholding of life-sustaining necessities, specifically by cutting off supplies of water, food, electricity, fuel and other essential supplies, including humanitarian assistance.”

The General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/27, “Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations”, on 12 June 2025.

In the resolution of 12 June 2025, the Assembly “Strongly condemns any use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access, and stresses the obligation not to deprive civilians in the Gaza Strip of objects indispensable to their survival, including by wilfully impeding relief supplies and access”. The Assembly said in the preamble of the same resolution that it was “Strongly deploring the end of the ceasefire and the decision of the Israeli Government, since 2 March 2025, to block access to humanitarian aid, including life-saving supplies, notably food, medicine, fuel and cooking gas, for over 2 million people”.

The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, said in Geneva on 22 August 2025: “It is a famine in 2025. A 21st century famine watched over by drones and the most advanced military technology in history. It is a famine openly promoted by some Israeli leaders as a weapon of war.”

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, said on 22 August 2025: “It is a war crime to use starvation as a method of warfare, and the resulting deaths may also amount to the war crime of willful killing.”

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, said on 28 August 2025: “Starvation of the civilian population must never be used as a method of warfare. Civilians must be protected. Humanitarian access must be unimpeded.”

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What have governments said about starvation as a weapon in Gaza?

Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said in Brussels on 18 March 2024, at the opening of the European Humanitarian Forum: "Starvation is used as a weapon of war. Yes, starvation is used as a weapon of war. Let's say that."

The Permanent Missions to the UN of the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Guyana, Ireland, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom said in a joint statement at the United Nations on 23 July 2025: "We need to ensure accountability for actors who deliberately cause or prolong conflict-induced hunger in violation of international law. Using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare may constitute a war crime." The missions called on Israel "to adhere to its obligations under international law and UN Security Council Resolution 2417". The same statement said: "It is unacceptable that man-made and avoidable conflict-induced hunger continues to afflict civilians in Gaza."

Saudi Arabia said on 8 August 2025 that it "categorically denounces" what it called the "persistence in committing crimes of starvation" against the Palestinian people.

Algeria, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia and the United Kingdom, members of the UN Security Council, said in a joint statement on 27 August 2025: "This is a manmade crisis. The use of starvation as a weapon of war is clearly prohibited under international humanitarian law." The same statement said: "Security Council resolution 2417 of 2018 must be implemented."

What have humanitarian and rights organisations said about starvation in Gaza?

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Oxfam said on 25 October 2023: “Starvation is being used as a weapon of war against Gaza civilians”. Oxfam said in the same release that “In 2018, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2417, which unanimously condemned the use of starvation against civilians as a method of warfare”, and that “the unfolding humanitarian situation in Gaza squarely fits the prohibition condemned in the resolution”. Sally Abi Khalil, Oxfam’s Regional Middle East Director, said on 25 October 2023: “Millions of civilians are being collectively punished in full view of the world, there can be no justification for using starvation as a weapon of war.”

Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine director at Human Rights Watch, said on 18 December 2023: “For over two months, Israel has been depriving Gaza’s population of food and water, a policy spurred on or endorsed by high-ranking Israeli officials and reflecting an intent to starve civilians as a method of warfare.”

Human Rights Watch said on 5 March 2025: “Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have committed the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare”.

Amnesty International said on 2 May 2025 that Israel’s siege of Gaza constitutes “the war crime of using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare”. Amnesty International said in the same statement that “starvation and denial of life-saving essentials are being used as weapons of war”.

Human Rights Watch said on 19 May 2026: “Starving civilians as a method of warfare is a war crime under the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC).” Human Rights Watch said in the same release that it had “documented in December 2023 that Israel was using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza”.

What has Israel’s government said about starvation as a weapon in Gaza?

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Tal Heinrich, a spokeswoman for Israel's government, said on 13 March 2024: "There is no restriction on the amount of food and water that is allowed to be delivered into the Gaza Strip." She said: "We tried to better the mechanism of aid distribution across the Gaza Strip."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 May 2024, in an interview with CNN, that the ICC Prosecutor's application for warrants was based on a "pack of lies". Netanyahu also called Karim Khan a "rogue prosecutor that has put false charges and created false symmetries that are both dangerous and false".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: "The court in The Hague accuses us of a deliberate policy of starvation. This, when we have supplied Gaza with 700,000 tons of food to feed the people of Gaza." He said: "Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision."

The Prime Minister's Office said on 21 November 2024: "Israel utterly rejects the absurd and false actions and accusations against it by the International Criminal Court, which is a politically biased and discriminatory body." The office said that Netanyahu "will not yield to pressure, will not back down, and will not retreat until all the goals of the war set by Israel at the start of the campaign are achieved".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 27 July 2025, at a conference in Jerusalem: "There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza." He said that reports of starvation in Gaza were "a bold-faced lie". He said that Israel had "enabled humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the war to enter Gaza".

The Prime Minister's Office said on 22 August 2025: "The IPC report is an outright lie." The office said: "Israel does not have a policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation." The office said in the same statement: "The only ones being intentionally starved in Gaza are the Israeli hostages."

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Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court

UN special rapporteurs, among them the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk

UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Is

UN General Assembly

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher

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UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

EU High Representative Josep Borrell

Joint statement of permanent missions to the UN, the United Kingdom among them

Saudi Arabia

Joint statement of members of the UN Security Council, the United Kingdom among them

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Israel's government spokeswoman Tal Heinrich

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

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Frequently asked questions

What did the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber say about starvation in Gaza in November 2024?

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that it had "reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gallant bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: "Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision."

What did the ICC Prosecutor apply for on 20 May 2024?

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 20 May 2024 that he was filing applications for warrants of arrest before Pre-Trial Chamber I in the Situation in the State of Palestine. The crimes he set out for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence of Israel include "Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare".

What does the Rome Statute say about starvation of civilians?

Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court reads: "Intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions". Article 8 of the Rome Statute, headed "War crimes", gives the Court jurisdiction in respect of war crimes.

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What is UN Security Council resolution 2417?

The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2417 at its 8267th meeting, on 24 May 2018. Resolution 2417 “strongly condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in a number of conflict situations and prohibited by international humanitarian law”.

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about starvation in Gaza?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report dated 14 June 2024: “The Commission concludes that Israel has used starvation as a method of war, a measure that will affect the health of the entire population of Gaza for decades to come, with particularly negative consequences for children.”

What did the UN General Assembly say about starvation in Gaza in June 2025?

The General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/27 on 12 June 2025.

In the resolution of 12 June 2025, the Assembly “Strongly condemns any use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access”.

How did Netanyahu respond to the ICC’s starvation charge?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: “The court in The Hague accuses us of a deliberate policy of starvation. This, when we have supplied Gaza with 700,000 tons of food to feed the people of Gaza.”

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What has Israel's Prime Minister's Office said about a policy of starvation in Gaza?

The Prime Minister's Office said on 22 August 2025: "Israel does not have a policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 27 July 2025: "There is no policy of starvation in Gaza, and there is no starvation in Gaza."

What did the UN Secretary-General say about starvation in Gaza in August 2025?

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, said on 28 August 2025: "Starvation of the civilian population must never be used as a method of warfare."

What did members of the UN Security Council say about starvation in Gaza?

Algeria, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia and the United Kingdom, members of the UN Security Council, said in a joint statement on 27 August 2025: "The use of starvation as a weapon of war is clearly prohibited under international humanitarian law."

What did Human Rights Watch say about starvation in Gaza in 2025?

Human Rights Watch said on 5 March 2025: "Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have committed the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare".

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What did the EU's High Representative say about starvation in Gaza in March 2024?

Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said in Brussels on 18 March 2024: "Starvation is used as a weapon of war. Yes, starvation is used as a weapon of war. Let's say that."

What did Oxfam say about starvation in Gaza in October 2023?

Oxfam said on 25 October 2023: "Starvation is being used as a weapon of war against Gaza civilians".

When did the State of Palestine join the Rome Statute of the ICC?

The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015, and the Statute entered into force for it on 1 April 2015.

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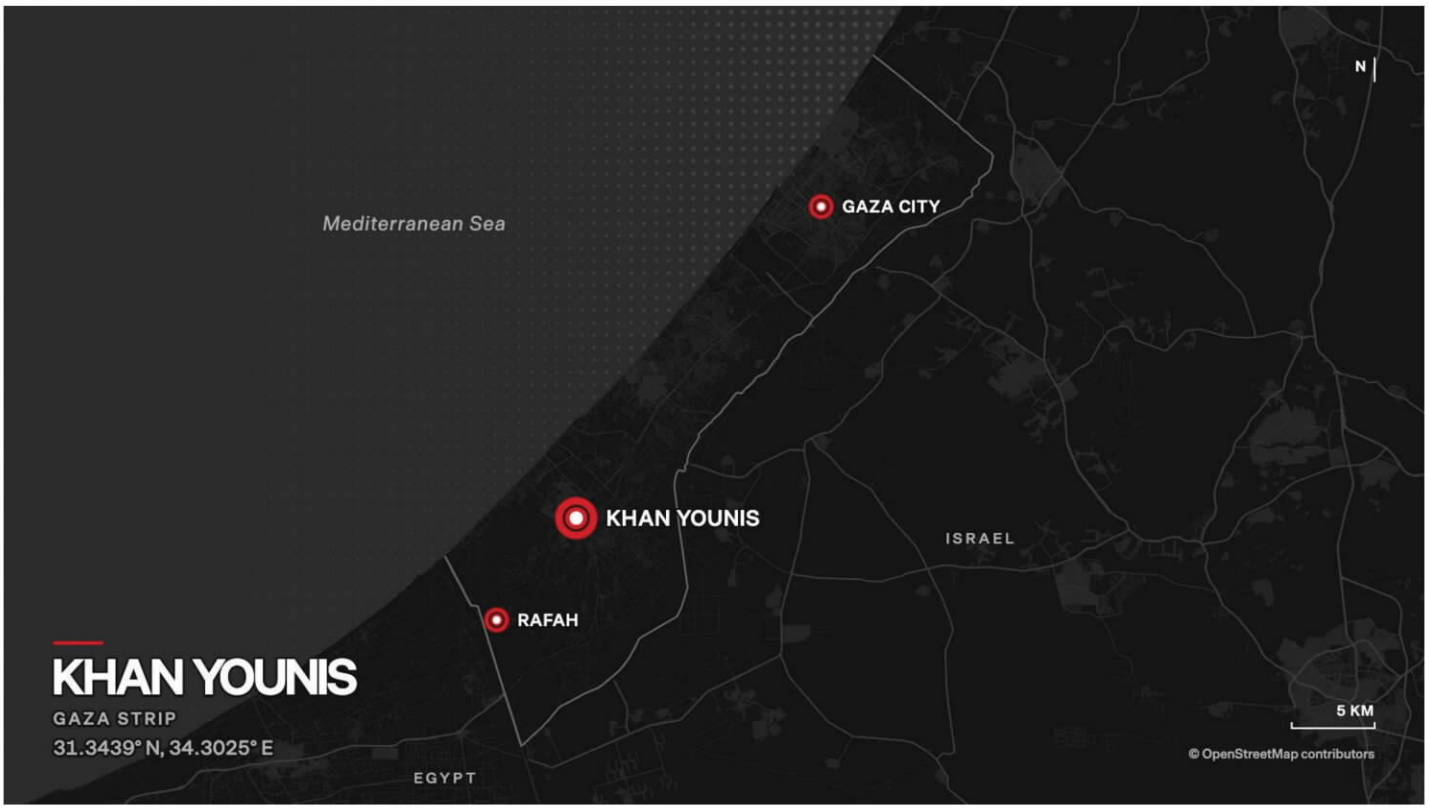
Strikes and Raids

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE STRIKE ON NASSER HOSPITAL ON 12 NOVEMBER 2026?

What UN bodies, the Board of Peace, foreign ministers, the IDF, Hamas and Gaza's ministries said about the strike on Nasser Hospital on 12 November 2026.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

Nasser Hospital | Khan Younis | Board of Peace | World Health Organization



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A strike hit the surgery building of Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis overnight into 12 November 2026. Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process ad interim, said on 12 November 2026 that he was "deeply alarmed by the attack". WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on 12 November 2026 that "Gaza's health facilities are lifelines for its people" and that "They must never be militarized or attacked." The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that it had struck "a senior Hamas terrorist and additional terrorists from Hamas' military wing while they were operating within Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis".

What happened at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on 12 November 2026?

A strike hit a building containing surgery wards at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis overnight into 12 November 2026. The strike hit the hospital's surgery department, damaging parts of the building's second floor.

Nasser Medical Complex, also called Nasser Hospital, is in Khan Younis. Khan Younis is a city in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Strikes hit Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on 25 August 2025.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025.

What have UN bodies said about the strike on Nasser Hospital?

Ramiz Alakbarov is the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process ad interim. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

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Ramiz Alakbarov said on 12 November 2026 that he was “deeply alarmed by the attack” on Nasser Hospital. He said: “The ongoing violence and recent increase in military operations exacerbate the immense human suffering in Gaza and jeopardize the increasingly fragile ceasefire.” He also said that under international humanitarian law, “all parties are obliged to protect and respect medical personnel and facilities, including hospitals, which must not be targeted or used for military purposes”. He said on 12 November 2026 that he renewed his call “for rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access.”

The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that after the strike on the surgery department of Nasser Medical Complex, “The department is reported to be extensively damaged.” It said: “Other hospital floors were also reportedly affected, including the surgical theatres, recovery unit and intensive care unit.” The organisation said: “WHO’s call remains unchanged: allow unhindered humanitarian access and let more medical and humanitarian supplies enter Gaza.”

The World Health Organization said in the same statement of 12 November 2026: “Assessment of the full impact is ongoing.” It said: “Health needs remain immense in Gaza and will only grow as winter sets in. Rain, flooding and the cold will worsen living conditions and raise the risk of disease amidst the crippled water and sanitation systems.”

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on 12 November 2026: “Gaza’s health facilities are lifelines for its people. They must be protected. They must never be militarized or attacked. The best medicine is peace.”

What has the Board of Peace said about the Nasser Hospital strike?

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict is annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803, which endorsed the plan on 17 November 2025. Resolution 2803 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a

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transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza.

The Board of Peace said in a statement dated 12 November 2026: “The tragic loss of life following an Israeli strike on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis underscores precisely why President Trump’s Comprehensive Peace Plan must be implemented immediately without further delay. Otherwise, we will continue to see tragedies in which Hamas alleges deliberate Israeli attacks on hospitals, Israel maintains that Hamas exploits these facilities for terrorist operations, and innocent Gazans ultimately pay the price.”

The Board of Peace said in the same statement: “The Board of Peace deplores the death of any civilians and strongly condemns Hamas’s continued exploitation of hospitals and other critical civilian infrastructure for military purposes. Both Israel and Hamas must immediately honor their commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Plan, including protecting civilians, maintaining the ceasefire, and advancing Gaza’s demilitarization.”

The statement of 12 November 2026 closes: “The Board of Peace has established a strategic framework to ensure Gazans can live safely and access essential medical care in secure, demilitarized facilities. All parties must cede the necessary authority and operational space to the Board of Peace to implement this framework without further obstruction or delay.”

What have governments said about the strike on Nasser Hospital?

The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Libya, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia and Sudan said in a joint statement on 14 November 2026 that patients and medical personnel were among the casualties of the strike on Nasser Hospital. The ministers said that the strike violated

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"international humanitarian law, which guarantees special protection for medical facilities and healthcare workers."

The ministers said in the same statement of 14 November 2026 that they condemned "continued Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians, including the targeting of tents and other sites sheltering displaced persons." The statement reads: "These attacks undermine the ceasefire agreement and efforts to restore security and stability in the Gaza Strip, and contradict the comprehensive plan of US President Donald Trump."

The joint statement of 14 November 2026 says: "The lack of adequate shelter and the deterioration of water, sanitation, and healthcare services are putting the lives of civilians, particularly children and infants, at grave risk." According to WAFA, the ministers also urged "the United States and the Board of Peace, each within its respective role, to intensify efforts to ensure Israel fully implements its obligations and lifts all restrictions on humanitarian aid deliveries".

According to WAFA, the ministers said in the joint statement of 14 November 2026 that they had "grave concern over continued Israeli restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid, shelter materials, including tents and mobile homes, and medical supplies." WAFA reported that the ministers called on Israel "to respond to appeals from the international community and the Board of Peace to increase humanitarian assistance".

The ministers said, in WAFA's words, that "Israel must uphold the ceasefire, protect civilians and medical facilities, and ensure the safe, sustained and unhindered delivery of sufficient humanitarian assistance". They said that they remained committed "to working with regional and international partners to consolidate the ceasefire, implement all phases of the plan and increase humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people."

What have the IDF, Hamas and Nasser Hospital said about the strike?

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Hamas said on 12 November 2026 that it had not used the hospital as a base for operations. Hamas, through a spokesperson, said on 12 November 2026 that the strike was a “full-fledged war crime”.

The IDF said on 12 November 2026: “Overnight (Thursday), the IDF and ISA struck a senior Hamas terrorist and additional terrorists from Hamas’ military wing while they were operating within Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.” The IDF said that the targets were struck “after the Hamas terrorist organization had established a presence within the hospital complex and used it as a command center for military and terrorist activities against IDF troops and the State of Israel.” It said that steps were taken “to mitigate harm to civilians, including the use of precision munitions and aerial surveillance.”

The IDF said in a second post on 12 November 2026 that it had targeted the commander of Hamas’ Khan Younis Brigade, “alongside additional terrorists who were hiding inside the Nasser Hospital”. It said of the commander: “He was also responsible for holding numerous hostages captive throughout the war.” The IDF said that the men were struck “in order to remove the threat they posed after turning the Nasser Hospital compound into a headquarters and operating from there to advance dozens of terrorist plots against our forces”. The IDF said: “Prior to the strike, advance warnings were issued to the population.”

The IDF said in a third post on 12 November 2026: “The hospital’s second floor serves as a Hamas military headquarters, where civilians are not permitted to enter and which is under strict security”. It said: “Throughout the war, dozens of hostages were held captive at Nasser Hospital, many of them from Kibbutz Nahal Oz, including women, children, elderly people, and foreign nationals.” The IDF said: “Furthermore, prior to the strike, the IDF warned and demanded on several occasions, including recently, that the military activity at the hospital be halted. Despite the warnings, the military activity at the hospital did not cease.” It said in the same post: “The IDF operates in accordance with international law, strikes military targets only, and respects the special protection afforded to medical facilities and medical personnel and does not target them as such.”

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The IDF also said on 12 November 2026 that it had held “warning conversations” with Gaza health officials before the strike, and that it had made clear that “if the activity was not halted, it would act to remove the threats posed by it.”

Ahmed al-Farra, the general director of Nasser Hospital, said on 12 November 2026 that no warning came before the attack. He said that surgeries and other services had been suspended because of damage to the building, and that patients who needed the hospital’s “specialized surgeries” would “face an unknown fate.” He said: “Imagine if this event happened in another country in the world. Would the world fall silent about it? No, by God, no.” He added, in English: “No one’s safe here.”

The IDF said on 13 November 2026: “The IDF has clear indications that Hamas has conducted terrorist activities from within Nasser Hospital over the past several years, both before and since the outbreak of the war, including as recently as the past few weeks.” It said that a document its troops seized, which it dated to 2019, named interrogation sites including “a location in Nasser Hospital”.

The IDF said on 16 November 2026: “Last Thursday, the IDF targeted a room and a floor within Nasser Hospital that were being used as a military command center by Hamas’ military wing.” The IDF said on 16 November 2026 that “members of Hamas’ military wing were among those killed in the strike”. It said: “The IDF operates in accordance with international law and carried out the strike only after the military use of the hospital did not cease despite the warnings.”

STATED BY	DATE
UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process ad interim Ramiz Alakbarov	12 Novembe 2026

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World Health Organization	12 Novembe 2026
Board of Peace	12 Novembe 2026
Foreign ministers' joint statement	14 Novembe 2026
Gaza Government Media Office	12 Novembe 2026
Gaza Health Ministry	12 Novembe 2026
Hamas	12 Novembe 2026

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STATED BY	DATE
IDF	12 Novembe 2026
Nasser Hospital	12 Novembe 2026
IDF	13 Novembe 2026
IDF	16 Novembe 2026

What casualty figures were given for the Nasser Hospital strike?

Gaza civil defence spokesperson Mahmoud Basal said on 12 November 2026 that the strike hit the surgery department of the hospital, causing extensive damage and killing a doctor alongside several other people.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 12 November 2026 that the strike resulted in “the rise of 6 martyrs from the health staff, patients and companions”, among them a doctor and a child aged 13. The office said in the same statement, in a working translation from the Arabic, that there were “more than 25 wounded”.

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The Gaza Government Media Office said that the strike, at dawn on 12 November 2026, hit "the surgery department in the 'Al-Yassin' building at Nasser Medical Complex in the city of Khan Younis". The office said in the same statement that it placed "large question marks over the actual role of the 'Board of Peace' and the 'National Committee for the Administration of Gaza'". The office also called for "serious international investigations into these violations".

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 12 November 2026 that the strike on the surgery building "resulted in the rise of 6 martyrs from health staff, patients and companions". The ministry said that the strike also caused "the injury of a large number of them".

The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same statement of 12 November 2026: "Targeting a medical facility that includes patients receiving treatment and teams performing their humanitarian and professional duty represents a serious attack on the health system and a flagrant violation of international laws and conventions that ensure the protection of medical facilities, employees and patients." The ministry said: "The ministry confirms that the continued targeting of hospitals and their medical facilities exacerbates the suffering of the sick and wounded, and threatens what remains of the ability of the health sector to provide its services, in light of the catastrophic conditions in the Gaza Strip."

The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that the surgery department of Nasser Medical Complex "was hit, resulting in six deaths" and "injuring at least 27 others". The World Health Organization said in the same statement that the dead included "a health worker, patients and companions".

The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that since October 2023 it "has documented 1056 attacks on health care in Gaza, resulting in 1010 deaths and 1725 injuries."

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
6	Gaza Government Media Office	12 November 2026	"the rise of 6 martyrs from the health staff, patients and companions" (working translation)

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
more than 25	Gaza Government Media Office	12 November 2026	“more than 25 wounded” (working translation)
6	Gaza Health Ministry	12 November 2026	“the rise of 6 martyrs from health staff, patients and companions”
six	World Health Organization	12 November 2026	“six deaths”
at least 27	World Health Organization	12 November 2026	“injuring at least 27 others”

Frequently asked questions

When was Nasser Hospital struck in November 2026?

A strike hit the surgery building of Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis overnight into 12 November 2026. The Gaza Health Ministry said on 12 November 2026 that the strike came “in the hours after midnight”. The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that the surgery department was hit “in the early morning hours”.

What did the IDF say it was targeting at Nasser Hospital on 12 November 2026?

The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that it had targeted the commander of Hamas’ Khan Younis Brigade, “alongside additional terrorists who were hiding inside the Nasser Hospital”. The IDF said on 16 November 2026 that it had targeted “a room and a floor within Nasser Hospital that were being used as a military command center by Hamas’ military wing.”

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Did the IDF say it gave a warning before the Nasser Hospital strike?

The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that it had "warned and demanded on several occasions, including recently, that the military activity at the hospital be halted." Ahmed al-Farra, the general director of Nasser Hospital, said on 12 November 2026 that no warning came before the attack. The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that it had held "warning conversations" with Gaza health officials before the strike.

What did the World Health Organization say about the Nasser Hospital strike?

The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that the surgery department of Nasser Medical Complex "was hit, resulting in six deaths" and "injuring at least 27 others". WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on 12 November 2026: "Gaza's health facilities are lifelines for its people. They must be protected." The World Health Organization said on 12 November 2026 that "Assessment of the full impact is ongoing."

What did the Board of Peace say about the strike on Nasser Hospital?

The Board of Peace said on 12 November 2026 that the strike "underscores precisely why President Trump's Comprehensive Peace Plan must be implemented immediately without further delay." It said in the same statement that it "strongly condemns Hamas's continued exploitation of hospitals and other critical civilian infrastructure for military purposes." The Board of Peace said that "Both Israel and Hamas must immediately honor their commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Plan". It said that without the plan, "innocent Gazans ultimately pay the price."

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Which foreign ministers signed the joint statement on the Nasser Hospital strike?

The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Libya, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia and Sudan said in a joint statement on 14 November 2026 that the strike violated "international humanitarian law, which guarantees special protection for medical facilities and healthcare workers." According to WAFA, the ministers urged "the United States and the Board of Peace, each within its respective role, to intensify efforts to ensure Israel fully implements its obligations".

What did the UN Special Coordinator say about the Nasser Hospital strike?

Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process ad interim, said on 12 November 2026 that he was "deeply alarmed by the attack" on Nasser Hospital. He said that "The ongoing violence and recent increase in military operations exacerbate the immense human suffering in Gaza and jeopardize the increasingly fragile ceasefire." He renewed, on 12 November 2026, his call "for rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access."

What did Hamas say about the Nasser Hospital strike?

Hamas said on 12 November 2026 that it had not used Nasser Hospital as a base for operations. Hamas, through a spokesperson, said on 12 November 2026 that the strike was a "full-fledged war crime".

What did the Gaza Health Ministry say about the Nasser Hospital strike?

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The Gaza Health Ministry said on 12 November 2026 that the strike on the surgery building "resulted in the rise of 6 martyrs from health staff, patients and companions". The ministry said that targeting the facility was "a serious attack on the health system". The Gaza Health Ministry said on 12 November 2026 that the strike came "in the hours after midnight".

Has Nasser Hospital been struck before 12 November 2026?

Nasser Medical Complex, also called Nasser Hospital, is in Khan Younis. Khan Younis is a city in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Strikes hit Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on 25 August 2025.

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Courts and Law

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT WAR CRIMES IN GAZA?

What the ICC, UN bodies, governments, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Israel's government and Hamas have said about war crimes in Gaza, dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

International Criminal Court | UN Commission of Inquiry | Hamas | Gaza Strip



The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied on 20 May 2024 for warrants of arrest for three leaders of Hamas and for the Prime Minister and the

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Minister of Defence of Israel, over what he said were “war crimes and crimes against humanity”. Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court issued warrants of arrest on 21 November 2024 for the two Israeli office holders and for the highest commander of the military wing of Hamas. Hamas said on 20 May 2024 that it “strongly denounces the attempts of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to equate the victim with the executioner”. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2024: “I reject with disgust the comparison of the prosecutor in the Hague between democratic Israel and the mass murderers of Hamas.”

What has the International Criminal Court said about war crimes in Gaza?

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court gives the Court jurisdiction with respect to the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute on 2 January 2015. The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021.

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that it had “reasonable grounds to believe” that three leaders of Hamas “bear criminal responsibility for the following war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of Israel and the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 7 October 2023”. The list the Prosecutor gave for them includes “Taking hostages as a war crime” and “Cruel treatment as a war crime”, the latter “in the context of captivity”.

The Prosecutor said on 20 May 2024 that he had “reasonable grounds to believe” that the Prime Minister of Israel and the Minister of Defence of Israel “bear criminal responsibility for the following war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 8 October 2023”. The list he gave for them includes “Starvation of

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civilians as a method of warfare as a war crime" and "Intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as a war crime".

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court issued a warrant of arrest on 21 November 2024 for the highest commander of the military wing of Hamas, "for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed on the territory of the State of Israel and the State of Palestine from at least 7 October 2023." The Chamber said of the hostages: "After being taken to Gaza, most of them were detained in secret locations, including apartments and underground tunnels." It said that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of hostage taking was committed."

Pre-Trial Chamber I issued warrants of arrest on 21 November 2024 for the two Israeli office holders the Prosecutor had named, "for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024". The Chamber said that it "found reasonable grounds to believe" that both men "bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare." It also said that each of them bears criminal responsibility "as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population."

What have UN bodies said about war crimes in Gaza?

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said on 19 March 2024: "The extent of Israel's continued restrictions on the entry of aid into Gaza, together with the manner in which it continues to conduct hostilities, may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war, which is a war crime."

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel submitted report A/HRC/56/26 to the Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session, which ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024. The report covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023.

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The Commission said in the report, dated 14 June 2024: “In relation to Israeli military operations in Gaza from 7 October, the Commission concludes that Israel has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.” The Commission said in the same report that “the war crime of taking hostages had been committed”, including against “women abducted in Israel and taken to Gaza.”

The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the Commission’s third report, dated 11 September 2024. It examines the treatment of detainees and hostages and attacks on medical facilities and personnel from 7 October 2023 to August 2024.

The Commission said in that report that “Israeli security forces have deliberately killed, wounded, arrested, detained, mistreated and tortured medical personnel and targeted medical vehicles, constituting the war crimes of wilful killing and mistreatment and the crime against humanity of extermination.” It said in the same report, of the hostages held by Palestinian armed groups, that “Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed the war crimes of torture, inhuman or cruel treatment, rape and sexual violence”.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a six-month update report on the human rights situation in Gaza, dated 8 November 2024. The report covers the period from 1 November 2023 to 30 April 2024. It is based on monitoring and documentation by the Office.

The UN Human Rights Office said in the report: “In many instances, the violations documented in this report by the parties could amount to war crimes.” The Office said in the same report: “It is essential that there is due reckoning with serious allegations of violation of international law, through credible and impartial judicial bodies, and that, in the meantime, all relevant evidence is collected, preserved and investigated.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said on 22 August 2025, of famine in Gaza: “It is a war crime to use starvation as a method of warfare, and

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the resulting deaths may also amount to the war crime of willful killing."

What have governments said about war crimes in Gaza?

US President Joe Biden said on 20 May 2024, of the Prosecutor's applications: "The ICC prosecutor's application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous." He said in the same statement: "We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security."

The EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said on 5 August 2024 that the European Union was "gravely concerned over the continuing destruction of key civilian infrastructure, including a water treatment plant in Rafah, and joins international calls for clarity on this incident." The High Representative said in the same statement: "We recall that targeting critical life-saving infrastructure constitutes a war crime and urge all parties to take all feasible precautions to avoid harm to civilians, humanitarian workers, and critical civilian infrastructure."

US President Joe Biden said on 21 November 2024, of the Chamber's warrants: "The ICC issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous." He said in the same statement: "We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security."

The permanent missions to the UN of the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Guyana, Ireland, Mexico, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom said in a joint statement on conflict and hunger in Gaza on 23 July 2025: "We need to ensure accountability for actors who deliberately cause or prolong conflict-induced hunger in violation of international law. Using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare may constitute a war crime."

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What have organisations said about war crimes in Gaza?

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said on 20 October 2023, of Israeli air strikes in Gaza: "Our research points to damning evidence of war crimes in Israel's bombing campaign that must be urgently investigated."

Human Rights Watch said on 18 December 2023: "The Israeli government is using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is a war crime".

Human Rights Watch said on 14 November 2024 that "Israeli authorities have caused the massive, deliberate forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 2023 and are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity".

Human Rights Watch said on 5 March 2025: "Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have committed the war crime of using starvation as a method of warfare".

Amnesty International said on 2 May 2025 that Israel's siege on the Gaza Strip constituted "the war crime of using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare".

Amnesty International said on 11 December 2025 that its report "documents abuses by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups during the attacks of 7 October 2023 on southern Israel and the treatment of those seized and held captive in the occupied Gaza Strip." Amnesty said in the report that "all held in Gaza were unlawfully detained as hostages" and that "many of these violations constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder and torture."

What have Israel's government and Hamas said about war crimes in Gaza?

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Hamas said on 20 May 2024, of the Prosecutor's applications, that it "strongly denounces the attempts of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to equate the victim with the executioner". Hamas said in the same statement that it "demands the cancellation of all arrest warrants".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2024, of the Prosecutor's applications: "I reject with disgust the comparison of the prosecutor in the Hague between democratic Israel and the mass murderers of Hamas."

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on its page on the war in Gaza, updated on 3 August 2024: "The IDF is committed to examining alleged misconduct of IDF forces, and to holding wrongdoers accountable by means of appropriate measures."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 10 October 2024, of the Commission of Inquiry's report on health care, detainees and hostages, that it was "another blatant attempt by the CoI to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel and obstruct its right to protect its population".

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 14 November 2024, of the Human Rights Watch report of that day: "Contrary to claims in HRW's report, Israel's efforts are directed solely at dismantling Hamas's terror capabilities and not at the people of Gaza." He also said: "Israel will continue to operate in accordance with the law of armed conflict."

Hamas said on 21 November 2024 that the Court's decision on the warrants for the two Israeli office holders "constitutes an important historical precedent, and a correction to a long path of historical injustice against our people".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024, of the Chamber's decision: "Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision."

Hamas said on 8 August 2025, of the Israeli security cabinet's decision on Gaza City, that it was "a full-fledged war crime".

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Hamas said in a statement on 11 December 2025 that Amnesty International's report on Palestinian armed groups was a "flawed and unprofessional report" and asked Amnesty to retract it.

A Hamas spokesperson said on 12 November 2026, of the strike on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, that it was a "full-fledged war crime."

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Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk

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Frequently asked questions

Who did the ICC Prosecutor apply for arrest warrants against in May 2024?

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied on 20 May 2024 for warrants of arrest for three leaders of Hamas and for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence of Israel. He said that the Israeli office holders “bear criminal responsibility for the following war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the territory of the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 8 October 2023”.

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What did the ICC say about hostages held in Gaza?

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that the war crime of hostage taking was committed." The Chamber said of the hostages: "After being taken to Gaza, most of them were detained in secret locations, including apartments and underground tunnels."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about Israel's military operations in Gaza?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report of 14 June 2024: "In relation to Israeli military operations in Gaza from 7 October, the Commission concludes that Israel has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about attacks on hospitals in Gaza?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report to the General Assembly dated 11 September 2024 : "In relation to the attacks on Nasr, Shifa', Awdah and Turkish hospitals, the Commission finds that, in view of the excessive number of civilian deaths and injuries, as well as the damage caused to and the destruction of the hospitals' facilities, Israeli security forces failed to adhere to the principles of precaution, distinction and proportionality, constituting the war crimes of wilful killing and attacks against protected objects."

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What did the UN Human Rights Office say about war crimes in Gaza in November 2024?

The UN Human Rights Office said in its six-month update report on Gaza, dated 8 November 2024: “In many instances, the violations documented in this report by the parties could amount to war crimes.” The report covers the period from 1 November 2023 to 30 April 2024.

What did the United States say about the ICC warrants for Israeli leaders?

US President Joe Biden said on 21 November 2024: “The ICC issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous.” He had said on 20 May 2024: “The ICC prosecutor’s application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous.”

What did Amnesty International say about the hostages held in Gaza?

Amnesty International said on 11 December 2025 that “all held in Gaza were unlawfully detained as hostages” and that “many of these violations constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder and torture.” Hamas said in a statement on 11 December 2025 that the report was a “flawed and unprofessional report” and asked Amnesty to retract it.

How did Israel and Hamas respond to the ICC Prosecutor’s applications?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2024: “I reject with disgust the comparison of the prosecutor in the Hague between democratic Israel and the mass murderers of Hamas.” Hamas said on 20 May 2024 that it “demands the cancellation of all arrest warrants”.

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What has Israel's military said about investigating misconduct in Gaza?

The IDF Military Advocate General's Corps said on its page on the war in Gaza, updated on 3 August 2024: "The IDF is conducting examinations and investigations of alleged misconduct in the context of operational activity, in accordance with its obligations under Israeli and international law."

When did the ICC open its investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine?

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021. The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015.

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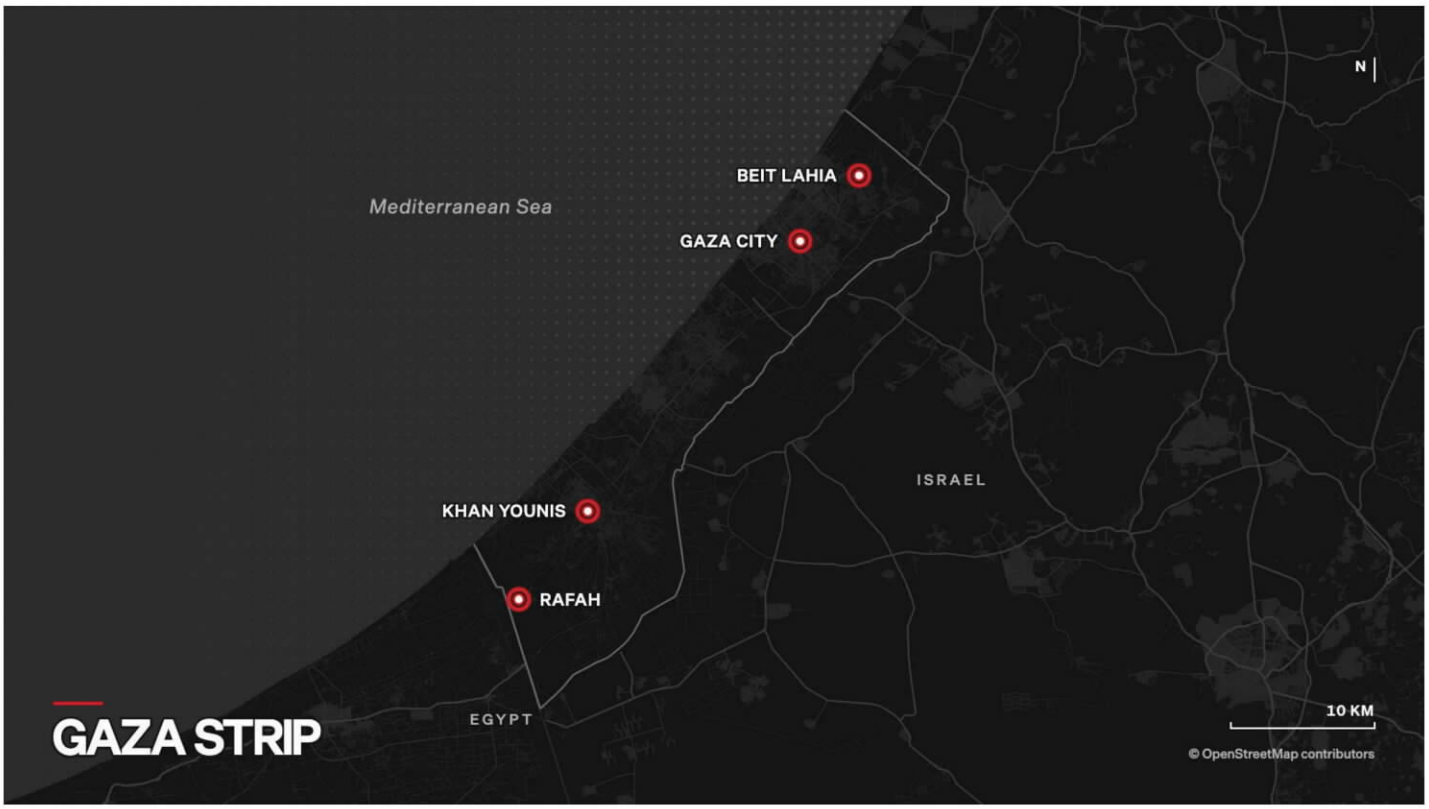
Courts and Law

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT WHETHER GAZA IS OCCUPIED?

What the Supreme Court of Israel, the ICJ, UN bodies, Human Rights Watch, the ICRC, Israel's government and the Palestinian Authority have said, each dated.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

International Court of Justice | Supreme Court of Israel | ICRC | Gaza Strip



The Supreme Court of Israel said in a judgment of 30 January 2008 that "since September 2005 Israel no longer has effective control over what happens in the

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Gaza Strip." The International Court of Justice said in its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 that "Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has not entirely released it of its obligations under the law of occupation." Israel's Ministry of Justice said in 2022 that "the Gaza Strip has not been under Israeli control since September 12, 2005" and that "Israel clearly does not have effective control in the Gaza Strip."

When did Israel withdraw its forces from the Gaza Strip?

Israel's Cabinet adopted a resolution on the disengagement plan on 6 June 2004. Israel declared a formal end to military rule in the Gaza Strip on 11 September 2005.

Israel had already removed its settlers from Gaza. The last Israeli troops left the Gaza Strip at dawn on 12 September 2005, when the last officer shut the Kissufim border.

Who has governed the Gaza Strip since Israel's withdrawal in 2005?

The Gaza Strip is a territory between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. The Gaza Strip is divided into five governorates: North Gaza, Gaza, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah.

The Rafah crossing is on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Kerem Shalom crossing is on the border of Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip, a few kilometres from the Rafah crossing.

Hamas is a Palestinian group and political movement in the Gaza Strip. Hamas started in 1987.

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COGAT, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories, is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in the West Bank and in regard to the Gaza Strip. The unit reports to Israel's Minister of Defense. COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for the Gaza Strip issues entry permits into Israel.

The Palestinian legislative election was held on 25 January 2006. Hamas stood in it as the Change and Reform List, in its first legislative election. Hamas won the election.

In June 2007, Hamas fighters seized the remaining Fatah positions in the Gaza Strip, including the presidential compound in Gaza City. On 14 June 2007, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the government of Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, of Hamas, and declared a state of emergency. By 15 June 2007, Hamas was in full control of the Gaza Strip.

Hamas led an attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, in which its gunmen targeted border communities and took hostages. Israel's military offensive in Gaza after the attack began with air strikes and was followed by a ground invasion.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict is annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803, which endorsed the plan on 17 November 2025. The plan provides that Gaza will be demilitarised under the supervision of independent monitors.

Resolution 2803 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza, and authorised a temporary International Stabilization Force in Gaza, both until 31 December 2027, subject to further action by the Council. A committee of Palestinian technocrats, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, was appointed in January 2026.

The Comprehensive Plan provides that Israeli forces will withdraw to an agreed line to prepare for a hostage release, and that battle lines will remain frozen until

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conditions are met for a complete staged withdrawal. Resolution 2803 provides that, as the International Stabilization Force establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces will withdraw from the Gaza Strip based on standards, milestones and timeframes linked to demilitarisation, save for a security perimeter presence.

What have courts said about whether Gaza is occupied?

The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, gave judgment on 30 January 2008 in the case of Jaber Al-Bassiouni Ahmed and others v. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. The petition concerned the reduction of the supply of electricity and fuel to the Gaza Strip.

The Supreme Court of Israel said in the judgment of 30 January 2008: “We should point out in this context that since September 2005 Israel no longer has effective control over what happens in the Gaza Strip. The military government that was in force in this territory in the past was ended by a decision of the government, and Israeli soldiers are no longer stationed in the territory on a permanent basis, nor are they in charge of what happens there.”

The Court said in the same paragraph: “In these circumstances, the State of Israel does not have a general duty to ensure the welfare of the residents of the Gaza Strip or to maintain public order in the Gaza Strip under all of the laws of a belligerent occupation under international law.” It said that Israel’s main duties toward the residents of the Gaza Strip “derive from the state of armed conflict that exists between it and the Hamas organization that controls the Gaza Strip”, from “the degree of control exercised by the State of Israel over the border crossings”, and from the relationship “as a result of which the Gaza Strip is currently almost completely dependent upon the supply of electricity from Israel.”

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On 30 December 2022, the UN General Assembly decided to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. On 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice delivered its advisory opinion, in the case entitled Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The International Court of Justice said in the opinion of 19 July 2024 that the territory the Assembly asked about "encompasses the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip". The Court said: "The Gaza Strip is an integral part of the territory that was occupied by Israel in 1967 (see paragraph 78 above). Following the 1967 armed conflict, Israel, as the occupying Power, placed the Gaza Strip under its effective control."

The Court said in the opinion that "in 2004, Israel announced a 'Disengagement Plan'", and that "By 2005, Israel had completed the withdrawal of its army and the removal of the settlements in the Gaza Strip." It said: "A State occupies territory that is not its own when, and to the extent that, it exercises effective control over it."

The Court said that "Physical military presence in the occupied territory is not indispensable for the exercise by a State of effective control, as long as the State in question has the capacity to enforce its authority, including by making its physical presence felt within a reasonable time". It said: "Where an occupying Power, having previously established its authority in the occupied territory, later withdraws its physical presence in part or in whole, it may still bear obligations under the law of occupation to the extent that it remains capable of exercising, and continues to exercise, elements of its authority in place of the local government."

The International Court of Justice said: "Based on the information before it, the Court considers that Israel remained capable of exercising, and continued to exercise, certain key elements of authority over the Gaza Strip, including control of the land, sea and air borders, restrictions on movement of people and goods, collection of import and export taxes, and military control over the buffer zone,

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despite the withdrawal of its military presence in 2005. This is even more so since 7 October 2023."

The Court said, in its conclusion on the Gaza Strip: "In light of the above, the Court is of the view that Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has not entirely released it of its obligations under the law of occupation. Israel's obligations have remained commensurate with the degree of its effective control over the Gaza Strip."

What have UN bodies said about whether Gaza is occupied?

The UN Security Council adopted resolution 1860 on 8 January 2009. The Security Council adopted resolution 2720 on 22 December 2023.

The UN Security Council, in its resolution of 8 January 2009, stated that it was "Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the territory occupied in 1967 and will be a part of the Palestinian state".

The Secretary-General transmitted the report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel to the General Assembly's seventy-seventh session, dated 14 September 2022.

The Commission said in the report of 14 September 2022: "Although Israel disengaged from Gaza in 2005, the Commission notes that Israel continues to occupy the territory by virtue of the control it exercises over, inter alia, the airspace and territorial waters of Gaza, as well as its land crossings at the borders, supply of civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity, and key governmental functions such as the management of the Palestinian population registry." It said in its conclusions: "Israel remains in occupation of Gaza by virtue of the control exercised over, inter alia, its airspace and territorial waters, its land crossings at the borders and its supply of civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity."

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The Security Council, in its resolution of 22 December 2023, stated that it was "Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the territory occupied in 1967, and reiterating the vision of the two-State solution, with the Gaza Strip as part of the Palestinian State". The same resolution said that the Council "Rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of Gaza".

Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, said in her report to the Human Rights Council's session of 26 February to 5 April 2024: "Since it imposed the siege on Gaza in 2007, which tightened the closure imposed since 1993, Israel, the occupying Power, has carried out five major assaults before the present one."

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report of 14 June 2024: "The Commission notes that the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, and the occupied Syrian Golan, which are currently under Israeli occupation, are covered under both international humanitarian law and international human rights law."

What have organisations said about whether Gaza is occupied?

Human Rights Watch said on 28 October 2004, of the disengagement plan: "The Israeli government's plan to remove troops and Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip would not end Israel's occupation of the territory. As an occupying power, Israel will retain responsibility for the welfare of Gaza's civilian population."

Sarah Leah Whitson, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division, said on 28 October 2004: "Israel plans to reconfigure its occupation of the territory, but it will remain an occupying power with responsibility for the welfare of the civilian population." She said in the same

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release: “Under international law, the test for determining whether an occupation exists is effective control by a hostile army, not the positioning of troops.”

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement on 19 July 2024 that it “considers the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as the Gaza Strip, which constitute the occupied Palestinian territory, as remaining under Israeli occupation governed by treaty and customary rules of international humanitarian law (IHL), comprising the rules of belligerent occupation, and by international human rights law (IHRL).”

The ICRC said in an article of 26 July 2024: “The ICRC considers Gaza to remain occupied territory on the basis that Israel still exercises effective control over the Strip, notably through key elements of authority over the strip, including over its borders”.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in its frequently asked questions of 8 October 2025: “Even if Israel no longer maintains a permanent presence inside the Gaza Strip, it continues to be bound by certain obligations under the law of occupation that are commensurate with the degree to which it exercises control over it.”

What have Israel’s government and the Palestinian Authority said about Gaza’s status?

Israel’s government said in the Cabinet resolution of 6 June 2004 on the disengagement plan: “The completion of the plan will serve to dispel the claims regarding Israel’s responsibility for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.” The resolution said: “Upon completion of this process, there shall no longer be any permanent presence of Israeli security forces in the areas of Gaza Strip territory which have been evacuated.”

Israel’s government said in the same resolution: “The State of Israel will guard and monitor the external land perimeter of the Gaza Strip, will continue to

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maintain exclusive authority in Gaza air space, and will continue to exercise security activity in the sea off the coast of the Gaza Strip."

The Palestinian Authority said on 12 September 2005, as the BBC reported it, that without total freedom of movement between Gaza and Egypt "the Israeli occupation of Gaza will not have really ended."

Israel's government said in its replies to the UN Human Rights Committee of 12 July 2010: "In these circumstances Israel can clearly not be said to have effective control in the Gaza Strip, in the sense envisaged by the Hague Regulations."

Israel's Ministry of Justice said in 2022, in a follow-up to Israel's oral presentation before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: "Unlike in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip has not been under Israeli control since September 12, 2005, when Israel's last IDF forces left the area of the Gaza Strip following the implementation of Israel's 'Disengagement Initiative'. Since then, Israel clearly does not have effective control in the Gaza Strip."

Israel's Ministry of Justice said in the same text: "As a consequence, as also affirmed in 2007 by the Israeli High Court of Justice, Israel does not have a general duty to ensure the welfare of the population of the Gaza Strip." It said: "The Gaza Strip shares a border with Egypt, over which goods and persons transfer actively."

Frequently asked questions

What did the ICJ say about Gaza in its advisory opinion of July 2024?

The International Court of Justice said in its advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 that "Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has not entirely released it of its obligations under the law of occupation." The Court said that "Israel's obligations have remained commensurate with the degree of its effective control over the Gaza Strip."

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Which elements of authority over Gaza did the ICJ name?

The International Court of Justice said on 19 July 2024 that Israel "continued to exercise, certain key elements of authority over the Gaza Strip, including control of the land, sea and air borders, restrictions on movement of people and goods, collection of import and export taxes, and military control over the buffer zone". The Court said: "This is even more so since 7 October 2023."

What did the Supreme Court of Israel say about Gaza in 2008?

The Supreme Court of Israel gave judgment on 30 January 2008 on a petition concerning the reduction of the supply of electricity and fuel to the Gaza Strip. The Court said in its judgment that "since September 2005 Israel no longer has effective control over what happens in the Gaza Strip" and that Israel "does not have a general duty to ensure the welfare of the residents of the Gaza Strip".

When did Israeli troops leave the Gaza Strip?

The last Israeli troops left the Gaza Strip at dawn on 12 September 2005, when the last officer shut the Kissufim border. Israel declared a formal end to military rule in the Gaza Strip on 11 September 2005.

What has the ICRC said about whether Gaza is occupied?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in an article of 26 July 2024: "The ICRC considers Gaza to remain occupied territory on the basis that Israel still exercises effective control over the Strip". The ICRC said on 8 October 2025 that Israel "continues to be bound by certain obligations under the law of occupation that are commensurate with the degree to which it exercises control over it."

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What has the UN Security Council said about the status of the Gaza Strip?

The UN Security Council said in its resolutions of 8 January 2009 and 22 December 2023 that it was "Stressing that the Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the territory occupied in 1967". The resolution of 22 December 2023 added "with the Gaza Strip as part of the Palestinian State".

What did Israel's 2004 disengagement plan say about responsibility for Gaza?

Israel's government said in the Cabinet resolution of 6 June 2004: "The completion of the plan will serve to dispel the claims regarding Israel's responsibility for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip." The resolution said that Israel "will continue to maintain exclusive authority in Gaza air space".

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about Gaza in 2022?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report of 14 September 2022: "Israel remains in occupation of Gaza by virtue of the control exercised over, inter alia, its airspace and territorial waters, its land crossings at the borders and its supply of civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity."

When did Hamas take control of the Gaza Strip?

In June 2007, Hamas fighters seized the remaining Fatah positions in the Gaza Strip, including the presidential compound in Gaza City. By 15 June 2007, Hamas was in full control of the Gaza Strip.

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What is the Board of Peace in Gaza?

UN Security Council resolution 2803 of 17 November 2025 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza. A committee of Palestinian technocrats, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, was appointed in January 2026.

What does COGAT do in regard to the Gaza Strip?

COGAT, the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories, is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in the West Bank and in regard to the Gaza Strip. COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for the Gaza Strip issues entry permits into Israel.

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Courts and Law

WHY DOES THE ICC HAVE JURISDICTION OVER GAZA?

The Rome Statute's jurisdiction articles, the State of Palestine's accession, the ICC's ruling on Gaza and Israel's challenges to the Court's jurisdiction.

EXPLAINER 16 November 2026

International Criminal Court | Rome Statute | Situation in the State of Palestine | Gaza Strip



The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said on 17 November 2023 that, "[i]n accordance with the Rome Statute," his Office "has jurisdiction

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over crimes committed on the territory of a State Party and with respect to the nationals of States Parties." On 5 February 2021, Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC "decided, by majority, that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine, a State party to the ICC Rome Statute, extends to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem", according to the Court. Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 7 February 2021 that Israel "is not a Party to the ICC and has not consented to its jurisdiction". On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber remanded the matter to Pre-Trial Chamber I for a new ruling on the substance of Israel's challenge.

What does the Rome Statute say about where the ICC has jurisdiction?

The Rome Statute limits the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Under article 12 of the Rome Statute, a State which becomes a Party to the Statute accepts the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to those crimes.

Article 12 of the Rome Statute says: "In the case of article 13, paragraph (a) or (c), the Court may exercise its jurisdiction if one or more of the following States are Parties to this Statute or have accepted the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with paragraph 3: (a) The State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred or, if the crime was committed on board a vessel or aircraft, the State of registration of that vessel or aircraft; (b) The State of which the person accused of the crime is a national."

Article 11 of the Rome Statute says that where a State becomes a Party after the Statute's entry into force, the Court "may exercise its jurisdiction only with respect to crimes committed after the entry into force of this Statute for that State, unless that State has made a declaration under article 12, paragraph 3." A State which is not a Party may accept the jurisdiction of the Court by a declaration lodged with the Registrar, under article 12 of the Rome Statute.

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Article 13 of the Rome Statute provides that the Court may exercise its jurisdiction where a situation is referred to the Prosecutor by a State Party or by the Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, or where the Prosecutor has initiated an investigation.

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 17 November 2023: "In accordance with the Rome Statute, my Office has jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory of a State Party and with respect to the nationals of States Parties."

How did the State of Palestine accept the ICC's jurisdiction?

The UN General Assembly decided on 29 November 2012 to accord Palestine non-member observer State status in the United Nations. On 1 January 2015, the State of Palestine lodged a declaration under the Rome Statute accepting the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court since 13 June 2014.

The Rome Statute is open to accession by all States, with instruments of accession deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015, and the Statute entered into force for it on 1 April 2015.

On 22 May 2018, the State of Palestine referred the Situation since 13 June 2014 to the Prosecutor, with no end date. On 17 November 2023, the Prosecutor received a further referral of the Situation from South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti, and on 18 January 2024 Chile and Mexico submitted a referral.

The ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said on 20 December 2019: "As there has been a referral from the State of Palestine, there is no requirement to seek Pre-Trial Chamber's authorisation before proceeding to open an investigation, and I do not seek to do so."

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Bensouda said on 3 March 2021: “Under the Rome Statute, where a State Party has referred a situation to the Office of the Prosecutor and it is determined that a reasonable basis exists to commence an investigation, the Office is obliged to act.” The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021.

What did the ICC rule on Gaza jurisdiction in February 2021?

Pre-Trial Chamber I issued its decision on the Prosecutor’s request for a ruling on the Court’s territorial jurisdiction on 5 February 2021. On 22 January 2020, the Prosecutor asked Pre-Trial Chamber I for a ruling on the scope of the Court’s territorial jurisdiction in the Situation.

The ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said on 20 December 2019 that she had “sought confirmation that the ‘territory’ over which the Court may exercise its jurisdiction, and which I may subject to investigation, comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza.”

In the operative part of its decision of 5 February 2021, Pre-Trial Chamber I said that “Palestine is a State Party to the Statute”. The Chamber said, by majority, with Judge Péter Kovács dissenting, that “as a consequence, Palestine qualifies as ‘[t]he State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred’ for the purposes of article 12(2)(a) of the Statute”. In the same operative part, the majority said that “the Court’s territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine extends to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.”

Pre-Trial Chamber I said in the decision of 5 February 2021: “Palestine is therefore a State Party to the Statute, and, as a result, a ‘State’ for the purposes of article 12(2)(a) of the Statute. These issues have been settled by Palestine’s accession to the Statute.” The Chamber also said that “its conclusions in this

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decision are limited to defining the territorial parameters of the Prosecutor's investigation in accordance with the Statute."

The International Criminal Court said on 5 February 2021 that Pre-Trial Chamber I "recalled that the ICC is not constitutionally competent to determine matters of statehood that would bind the international community." According to the Court, the Chamber noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution of 29 November 2012 on the status of Palestine, "[reaffirmed] the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to independence in their State of Palestine on the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967". The Court said that Judge Kovács, the Presiding Judge, appended a partly dissenting opinion in which he disagrees that Palestine qualifies as "[t]he State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred" for the purposes of article 12(2)(a) of the Statute.

The Court said on 5 February 2021 that the Chamber had held, by majority, that the arguments regarding the Oslo Agreements "are not pertinent to the resolution of the issue of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in Palestine." Pre-Trial Chamber I said in its decision: "When the Prosecutor submits an application for the issuance of a warrant of arrest or summons to appear under article 58 of the Statute, or if a State or a suspect submits a challenge under article 19(2) of the Statute, the Chamber will be in a position to examine further questions of jurisdiction which may arise at that point in time."

Bensouda said on 3 March 2021 that, in their ruling, "the judges entered no findings on the alleged crimes the Office identified, they only held that we have competence to investigate them."

Is Israel a party to the ICC's Rome Statute?

In a declaration made on signing the Rome Statute on 31 December 2000, the Government of Israel said that it "signs the Statute while rejecting any attempt to interpret provisions thereof in a politically motivated manner against Israel and

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its citizens." Israel signed the Rome Statute on 31 December 2000 and has not ratified it.

In a communication received by the UN Secretary-General on 28 August 2002, the Government of Israel said that "Israel does not intend to become a party to the treaty. Accordingly, Israel has no legal obligations arising from its signature on 31 December 2000."

Israel said in its challenge to the Court's jurisdiction, dated 23 September 2024: "Israel is a State not party to the Statute. Israel's consistent and well-established position is that only sovereign States can accept the jurisdiction of the Court."

The International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that Pre-Trial Chamber I had "noted that the acceptance by Israel of the Court's jurisdiction is not required, as the Court can exercise its jurisdiction on the basis of territorial jurisdiction of Palestine, as determined by Pre-Trial Chamber I in a previous composition."

How has Israel challenged the ICC's jurisdiction since 2024?

Israel challenged the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in the Situation in the State of Palestine in September 2024.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 20 September 2024 that Israel had submitted "its official challenge to the ICC's jurisdiction" and that, in one of its briefs, "Israel outlined the ICC's manifest lack of jurisdiction in the present case."

Under article 19 of the Rome Statute, the jurisdiction of the Court may be challenged by a person for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued, by a State which has jurisdiction over a case, or by a State from which acceptance of jurisdiction is required under article 12, and the Prosecutor may seek a ruling from the Court on a question of jurisdiction.

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Israel said in its challenge, dated 23 September 2024, that it challenged the Court's jurisdiction under article 19(2)(c) of the Rome Statute "in the pending application concerning Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, or in any other investigative action on the same jurisdictional basis."

Israel said in the same filing: "The absence of sovereign Palestinian territory means that there is no 'territory of' a State (within the meaning of Article 12(2)(a)) over which the Court may exercise its jurisdiction." It said that the Oslo Accords "make clear that the Palestinian authorities have no criminal jurisdiction" over "Area C, Jerusalem and Israeli nationals".

The International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that Pre-Trial Chamber I "considered that pursuant to article 19(1) of the Statute, States are not entitled to challenge the Court's jurisdiction under article 19(2) prior to the issuance of a warrant of arrest." Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the challenge as premature on 21 November 2024. Israel filed a notice of appeal on 27 November 2024.

The Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court said on 24 April 2025 that the Pre-Trial Chamber had committed "an error of law by failing to sufficiently address Israel's argument that it was entitled to make a jurisdictional challenge under article 19(2)(c) of the Statute." On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber reversed the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I on Israel's challenge and remanded the matter to Pre-Trial Chamber I for a new ruling on the substance of Israel's challenge.

After the remand of 24 April 2025, the Court's list of filings in the Situation shows observations on Israel's challenge filed by the State of Palestine and by victims in June 2025. The Court's list of filings in the Situation shows Israel's consolidated reply to observations on its challenge, dated 1 August 2025.

What have Israel and the Palestinian Authority said about ICC jurisdiction?

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Israel's Attorney General, Avichai Mandelblit, said on 20 December 2019 that "the Court lacks jurisdiction in relation to Israel and that any Palestinian actions with respect to the Court are legally invalid." He said in the same statement: "Only sovereign states can delegate criminal jurisdiction to the Court."

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki said on 5 February 2021 that the Chamber's decision "opens the door to the pursuit of criminal accountability for the most egregious crimes under the Court's mandate". Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said on 5 February 2021 that the decision "is a victory for justice and humanity, for the values of truth, fairness and freedom, and for the blood of the victims and their families."

Israel's Attorney General said on 6 February 2021 that "the ICC lacks any jurisdiction on this matter given, among other reasons, that no sovereign Palestinian state exists nor does any territory belonging to such an entity; and moreover, that the Palestinian Authority has no jurisdiction over Israeli citizens". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 6 February 2021: "The court established to prevent atrocities like the Nazi Holocaust against the Jewish people is now targeting the one state of the Jewish people."

Israel's Foreign Ministry said on 7 February 2021: "Israel is not a Party to the ICC and has not consented to its jurisdiction. Only sovereign States can delegate jurisdiction to the Court, and there is not, nor has there ever been, a Palestinian state." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 3 March 2021 that the Court had decided "[w]ithout any jurisdiction".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024: "Israel does not, Israel will not recognize the validity of this decision."

Frequently asked questions

What crimes can the ICC try under the Rome Statute?

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The Rome Statute limits the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

When did the State of Palestine join the ICC?

The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015, and the Statute entered into force for it on 1 April 2015.

Does the ICC's jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine cover crimes committed in Israel?

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 17 November 2023 that his Office "has jurisdiction over crimes committed on the territory of a State Party and with respect to the nationals of States Parties." On 20 May 2024, the Prosecutor said that he had "reasonable grounds to believe" that the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the commander-in-chief of Hamas's military wing and the head of Hamas's political bureau bear criminal responsibility for crimes "committed on the territory of Israel and the State of Palestine (in the Gaza strip) from at least 7 October 2023".

Who referred the Situation in the State of Palestine to the ICC Prosecutor?

On 22 May 2018, the State of Palestine referred the Situation since 13 June 2014 to the Prosecutor, with no end date. On 17 November 2023, the Prosecutor received a further referral of the Situation from South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti, and on 18 January 2024 Chile and Mexico submitted a referral.

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Did the ICC decide whether Palestine is a state?

The International Criminal Court said on 5 February 2021 that Pre-Trial Chamber I "recalled that the ICC is not constitutionally competent to determine matters of statehood that would bind the international community" and that its ruling "is for the sole purpose of defining the Court's territorial jurisdiction." The ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said on 3 March 2021 that the Chamber "stressed that it was not determining whether Palestine fulfilled the requirements of statehood under public international law".

What did the ICC say about the Oslo Accords and its jurisdiction?

The International Criminal Court said on 5 February 2021 that Pre-Trial Chamber I had held, by majority, that the arguments regarding the Oslo Agreements "are not pertinent to the resolution of the issue of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in Palestine." The Court said that "such matters and other further questions on jurisdiction may be examined when and if the Prosecutor submits an application for the issuance of a warrant of arrest or summons to appear."

Does a challenge to the ICC's jurisdiction suspend its arrest warrants?

On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court "dismissed, as moot, Israel's request for suspensive effect of two arrest warrants issued after the Impugned Decision", according to the Court. Under article 19 of the Rome Statute, the making of a challenge does not affect the validity of any warrant issued by the Court before the challenge was made.

What is the status of Israel's challenge to the ICC's jurisdiction?

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On 24 April 2025, the Appeals Chamber reversed the decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I on Israel's challenge and remanded the matter to Pre-Trial Chamber I for a new ruling on the substance of Israel's challenge.

The Court's list of filings in the Situation shows Israel's consolidated reply to observations on its challenge, dated 1 August 2025.

When did the ICC Prosecutor open the investigation in Palestine?

The ICC Prosecutor, Karim A.A. Khan KC, said on 17 November 2023 that the investigation "encompasses conduct that may amount to Rome Statute crimes committed since 13 June 2014 in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem." The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021.

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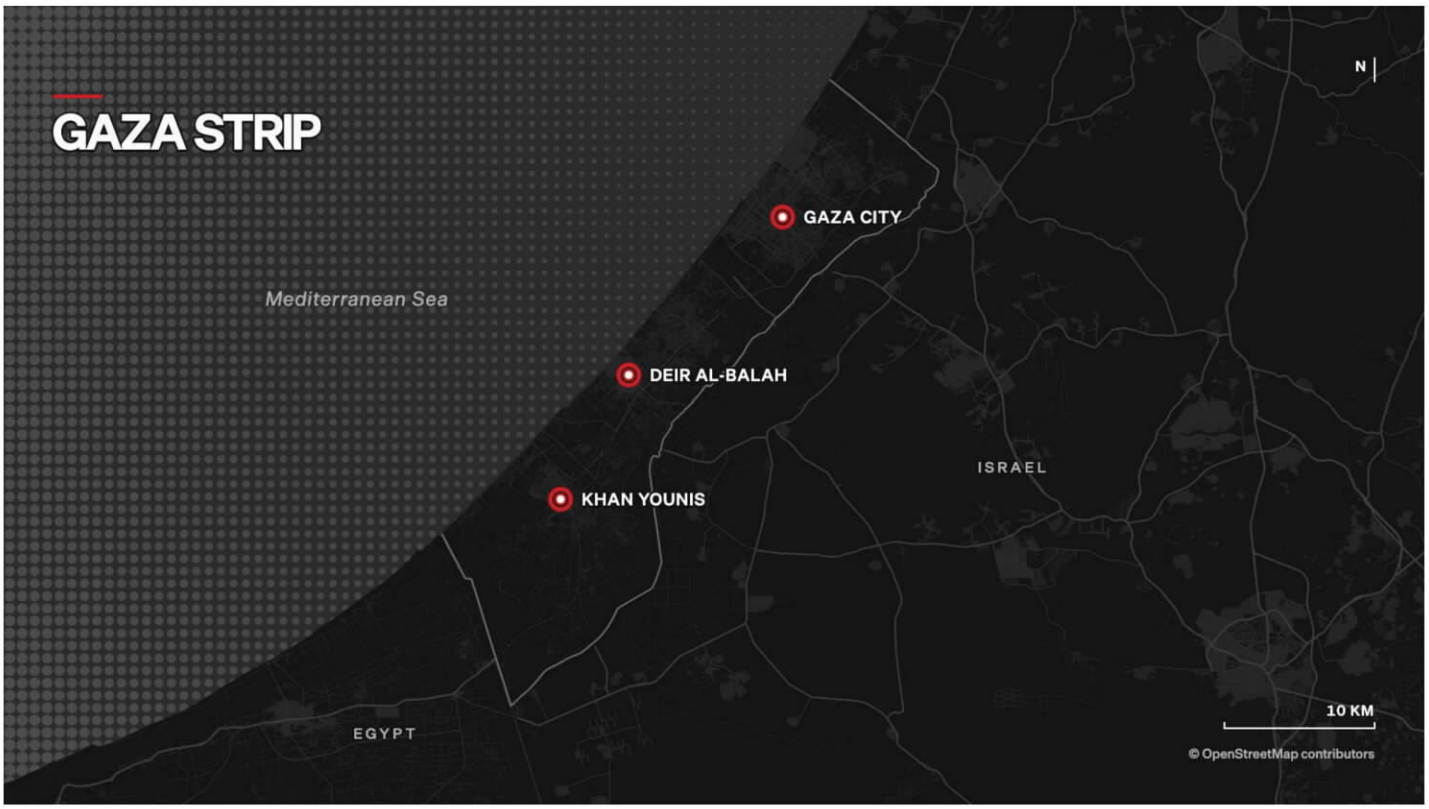
Casualties

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF GAZA'S DEATH TOLL?

What UN agencies, the White House, Human Rights Watch, Israel's government and the Gaza Health Ministry have said about Gaza's casualty figures.

POSITIONS 16 November 2026

Gaza Health Ministry | UN OCHA | World Health Organization | Gaza Strip



UN OCHA said of the Gaza Health Ministry's figures, in a statement to Reuters on 27 October 2023: "We continue to include their data in our reporting and it is

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clearly sourced." Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for the United Nations, said on 13 May 2024 of the ministry's figures that "in past times their figures have proven to be generally accurate". Margaret Harris, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, said on 13 May 2024 that the ministry's "previous reporting has been considered credible". The Gaza Health Ministry said in a statement on 26 October 2023 that behind every figure it announced was "the story of a person whose name and identity are known".

What have UN bodies said about the reliability of Gaza's death toll?

In 1998, as part of the UN Secretary-General's programme of reform, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs became the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency for health, founded in 1948.

UN OCHA said of the Gaza Health Ministry's figures, in a statement to Reuters on 27 October 2023: "We continue to include their data in our reporting and it is clearly sourced." It also said: "It is nearly impossible at the moment to provide any UN verification on a day-to-day basis."

UN OCHA published a page headed "Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 220", dated 13 May 2024, with a disclaimer at its head.

UN OCHA said in that disclaimer, on 13 May 2024: "Figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source." UN OCHA said in the same disclaimer of 13 May 2024: "Previous data breakdowns provided in this snapshot of women and children killed were attributed to the GMO based on reported fatalities." UN OCHA also said that "the fatality breakdowns currently cited are those that the MoH in Gaza has recently fully identified out of the higher number of casualties they report."

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Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for the United Nations, said on 13 May 2024 that UN teams in Gaza were not able to independently verify the Gaza Health Ministry's figures. Haq also said of the ministry that "in past times their figures have proven to be generally accurate".

Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for the United Nations, said on 13 May 2024 that the Gaza Health Ministry's figures now reflected a breakdown of "people who have been fully identified". Haq said that the ministry's "documentation process of fully identifying details" was ongoing.

Margaret Harris, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, said on 13 May 2024 that the organisation "has a long-standing cooperation with the MoH in Gaza and we can attest that MoH has good capacity in data collection/analysis and its previous reporting has been considered credible". She also said: "Real numbers could be even higher."

At the UN press briefing in Geneva on 14 May 2024, Elizabeth Throssell spoke for the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), Jens Laerke for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Christian Lindmeier for the World Health Organization (WHO), in answer to questions from the media on Gaza.

Elizabeth Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said at the briefing on 14 May 2024 that the office had consistently taken figures from the Gaza Health Ministry, and that "we have consistently made it quite clear these are their figures". She said that UN teams on the ground in Gaza had been trying, where conditions permitted, their own independent verification of the figures. Throssell also said that figures come out in the immediate aftermath of an event, and that "these do get revised and they do get analysed".

Jens Laerke, a spokesperson for UN OCHA, said at the briefing on 14 May 2024 that the Gaza Health Ministry had provided more detailed information about a subsection of the overall tally. Laerke said: "That does not change the overall tally." He also said: "That does not mean that OCHA has to correct anything."

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Christian Lindmeier, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, said at the briefing in Geneva on 14 May 2024 that as the Gaza Health Ministry identified every body and gave names to people, "that's when these figures get updated and the data get updated". Lindmeier also said that there was "nothing wrong with the data", and that the growing number of people the ministry had identified was "a step forward" and "a typical and very normal process in any conflict".

UN OCHA said in its Gaza Reported Impact Snapshot of 28 October 2026: "Figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source." According to UN OCHA's snapshot of 28 October 2026, "Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities." UN OCHA said in the same snapshot, of 28 October 2026, that "the fatality breakdowns currently cited are those that the MoH in Gaza has fully identified as of 7 October 2026 out of the higher number of casualties they report."

What has the US government said about Gaza's casualty figures?

US President Joe Biden said at a press conference at the White House on 25 October 2023, asked about the figures from Gaza: "What they say to me is I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed."

Biden said in the same answer on 25 October 2023: "But I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using."

In October 2023, John Kirby was the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, and he took questions at the White House press briefing of 26 October 2023.

John Kirby, the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications, said at the White House press briefing on 26 October 2023: "But what we're saying is that we shouldn't rely on numbers put forth by Hamas and the Ministry of Health."

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Asked at the same briefing whether those who cite the Gaza Health Ministry's figures, the United Nations among them, were wrong to do so, Kirby said: "They can make their own decisions about what numbers they want to cite. We're not going to cite them."

Kirby also said at the briefing on 26 October 2023: "But the numbers are not reliable. They're just not reliable."

What has Human Rights Watch said about Gaza's casualty figures?

Human Rights Watch says that the figures from Gaza have generally been reliable, and that it has not found big discrepancies in its verification of past strikes on Gaza.

Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine Director at Human Rights Watch, said on 27 October 2023: "It's worth noting that the numbers that are coming out since October 7th are generally consistent or within logic for the scale of killings one would expect, given the intensity of bombardment in such a densely populated area."

Shakir also said: "Those numbers are in line with what one might expect, given what we're seeing on the ground through testimony, through satellite imagery and otherwise."

What have the Gaza Health Ministry and Israel said about the figures?

The Gaza Health Ministry's spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, said in a statement on 26 October 2023 that it was addressed to those who had found "no way but to cast doubt on the accuracy of the figures". The ministry said in the same statement that it invited all organisations to look into its system of work, "so that

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the world knows that behind every announced figure is the story of a person whose name and identity are known".

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a paper of frequently asked questions dated 8 December 2023 that "there is good cause to be doubtful about the casualty figures coming out of Gaza". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in the same paper, dated 8 December 2023, that the statistics come from "Hamas's Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities which cannot be seen as a reliable reference and which do not disclose information about militant deaths". The ministry said in the same paper that reports from Hamas authorities "cited, for example, by UN OCHA, raise additional questions of distortion and misrepresentation".

The Gaza Health Ministry said in a circular to the public on 7 January 2024, published with a list of the names it had registered, that its list did not count the missing. The ministry said in the circular: "The unidentified who reached the hospitals have not been counted." It also said: "Those who were buried by their families without passing through the hospitals have not been counted."

The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same circular of 7 January 2024: "The victims in Gaza and North Gaza after the date the information system stopped in November have not been counted." The ministry asked families to check the list and to register relatives who had not been registered.

Oren Marmorstein, a spokesperson for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 13 May 2024 of the Gaza Health Ministry's figures: "They are not accurate and they do not reflect the reality on the ground." Marmorstein also said in a social media post on 13 May 2024: "The parroting of Hamas' propaganda messages without the use of any verification process has proven time and again to be methodologically flawed and unprofessional."

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 31 July 2024 that it had resumed the work of a judicial committee charged with considering requests from families who had reported through its "electronic link". The ministry said that families should

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bring identity papers “if there are any”, and “two witnesses who know the circumstances”.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, the IDF’s international spokesperson, said in a post on X on 30 January 2026, about reports that the IDF had adopted the Gaza Health Ministry’s figures, that “the details published do not reflect official IDF data.” Shoshani said in the same post: “Any publication or report on this matter will be released through official and orderly channels.”

In figures UN OCHA published on 28 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there were 74,564 reported fatalities. In the same figures, published by UN OCHA on 28 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that there were 74,237 identified fatalities as of 7 October 2026.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
74,564	Gaza Health Ministry, relayed by UN OCHA	28 October 2026	reported fatalities
74,237	Gaza Health Ministry, relayed by UN OCHA	28 October 2026	identified fatalities as of 7 October 2026

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
UN OCHA	27 October 2023	“We continue to include their data in our reporting and it is clearly sourced.”
UN OCHA	13 May 2024	“Figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source.”
United Nations, spokesperson Farhan Haq	13 May 2024	“in past times their figures have proven to be

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
		generally accurate"
World Health Organization, spokesperson Margaret Harris	13 May 2024	"its previous reporting has been considered credible"
UN Human Rights Office, spokesperson Elizabeth Throssell	14 May 2024	"we have consistently made it quite clear these are their figures"
UN OCHA, spokesperson Jens Laerke	14 May 2024	"That does not mean that OCHA has to correct anything."
World Health Organization, spokesperson Christian Lindmeier	14 May 2024	"nothing wrong with the data"
UN OCHA	28 October 2026	"Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities."
US President Joe Biden	25 October 2023	"I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using."
White House, John Kirby	26 October 2023	"But the numbers are not reliable."
Human Rights Watch, Omar Shakir	27 October	"generally consistent or

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
	2023	within logic"
Gaza Health Ministry	26 October 2023	"the story of a person whose name and identity are known"
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 December 2023	"there is good cause to be doubtful about the casualty figures coming out of Gaza"
Gaza Health Ministry	7 January 2024	"The unidentified who reached the hospitals have not been counted."
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spokesperson Oren Marmorstein	13 May 2024	"They are not accurate and they do not reflect the reality on the ground."
Gaza Health Ministry	31 July 2024	"two witnesses who know the circumstances"
IDF, spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani	30 January 2026	"the details published do not reflect official IDF data"

Frequently asked questions

Does the UN verify the Gaza Health Ministry's figures?

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Farhan Haq, a spokesperson for the United Nations, said on 13 May 2024 that UN teams in Gaza were not able to independently verify the Gaza Health Ministry's figures. UN OCHA said in its Gaza Reported Impact Snapshot of 28 October 2026: "Figures that are yet-to-be verified by the UN are attributed to their source."

Who provides the casualty numbers that UN OCHA publishes for Gaza?

According to UN OCHA's Gaza Reported Impact Snapshot of 28 October 2026, "Casualty numbers have been provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Israeli authorities."

What did UN OCHA say about the change in its Gaza breakdown in May 2024?

UN OCHA said on 13 May 2024 that its previous breakdowns of women and children killed "were attributed to the GMO based on reported fatalities". Jens Laerke, a spokesperson for UN OCHA, said in Geneva on 14 May 2024: "That does not mean that OCHA has to correct anything."

What has the UN Human Rights Office said about the Gaza Health Ministry's figures?

Elizabeth Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said in Geneva on 14 May 2024 that the office had consistently taken figures from the Gaza Health Ministry, and that "we have consistently made it quite clear these are their figures".

What has the World Health Organization said about the Gaza Health Ministry's data?

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Margaret Harris, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, said on 13 May 2024 that the Gaza Health Ministry "has good capacity in data collection/analysis". Christian Lindmeier, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization, said at a press briefing in Geneva on 14 May 2024 that there was "nothing wrong with the data".

What did Joe Biden say about the Palestinian figures from Gaza?

US President Joe Biden said at a press conference on 25 October 2023: "But I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using."

What did the White House say about citing the Gaza Health Ministry's numbers?

John Kirby, the NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House, said on 26 October 2023, of those who cite the Gaza Health Ministry's figures: "They can make their own decisions about what numbers they want to cite. We're not going to cite them."

How did the Gaza Health Ministry respond to doubts about its figures?

The Gaza Health Ministry's spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, said in a statement on 26 October 2023 that the ministry invited all organisations to look into its system of work, so that the world would know that behind every announced figure was "the story of a person whose name and identity are known".

What is the Gaza Health Ministry's judicial committee?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 31 July 2024 that it had resumed the work of a judicial committee charged with considering requests from families who had

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reported through its “electronic link”. The ministry said that families should bring “two witnesses who know the circumstances”.

What does the Gaza Health Ministry say its list of names leaves out?

The Gaza Health Ministry said in a circular on 7 January 2024 that its list did not count the missing, and that “the unidentified who reached the hospitals have not been counted”.

What has Israel’s government said about the Gaza Health Ministry’s figures?

Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a paper dated 8 December 2023 that the statistics from Gaza come from “Hamas’s Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities which cannot be seen as a reliable reference and which do not disclose information about militant deaths”. Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, the IDF’s international spokesperson, said in a post on X on 30 January 2026 that “the details published do not reflect official IDF data.”

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