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IsraelFact

RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Was Sexual Violence Committed During the October 7 Attacks?

A 2026 Knesset law names sexual crimes among the acts of 7 October 2023. The Foreign Ministry's statements, dated, and the count no Israeli body publishes.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY October 7 Sexual Violence Knesset Foreign Ministry State Comptroller



In a law passed on 11 May 2026, the Knesset named "sexual crimes" among 5 acts of the 7 October 2023 attack and classified those acts as "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes" (unofficial translation). The Foreign Ministry listed "rape and other acts of sexual violence" among the attack's violations in a legal paper

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updated to 2 November 2023, which is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position. No Israeli body in this record publishes a count of victims or cases. The State Comptroller recorded 0 indictments for the attack's grave crimes as at February 2026.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
5	Acts named in the law's purpose clause: hostilities, murder, sexual crimes, abduction and looting	Knesset	Law passed 11 May 2026
7 to 10 October 2023	Window of offences the law covers, plus later offences against people abducted to Gaza	Knesset	Law passed 11 May 2026
"over 1,400"	Killed in the attack. This is the Foreign Ministry's own early floor and has since been superseded	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As at 2 November 2023
"at least 247"	Taken hostage. This is the Foreign Ministry's own early floor and has since been superseded	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As at 2 November 2023
0	Indictments filed against those suspected of grave crimes in the attack. The count covers all grave crimes, not sexual offences alone	State Comptroller of Israel	As at February 2026

The 2026 Knesset law names sexual crimes among 7 October acts

The Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law, 5786-2026, names "sexual crimes" in its purpose clause. In the law's words, Section 1 regulates the prosecution of those who carried out the hostilities, murder, sexual crimes, abduction and looting committed by Hamas and its partners from 7 October 2023. The Knesset publishes the statute in Hebrew, and the English here is an unofficial translation.

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> "פעולות האיבה, הרצח, פשעי המין, החטיפה והביזה שביצעו ארגון הטרור חמאס ושותפיו ... שהחלו בכ"ב בתשרי התשפ"ד (7 באוקטובר 2023), מעשים שהם פשעים כלפי העם היהודי, פשעים כלפי האנושות ופשעי מלחמה."

- Section 1 classifies the acts as "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes".
- Section 3(a) covers offences committed in the attack from 7 to 10 October 2023. It also covers later offences against people abducted to Gaza on those days, "including the dead".
- Section 3(b) lets the court try offences under any law, including the Crime of Genocide (Prevention and Punishment) Law, 1950. Genocide appears in the law as an offence the court may try. The law does not use it to classify the acts.
- The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee stated in its explanatory notes of 5 January 2026 that the wider jurisdiction lets the prosecution indict for the gravest offences "according to the circumstances of each case and the evidence gathered".

The law was published in Sefer HaChukim 3527 on 13 May 2026. It sets up a military-court track in Jerusalem, and the record here contains no judgment under it.

The Foreign Ministry listed rape among 7 October violations in 2023

Israel's Foreign Ministry published Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Key Legal Aspects, updated to 2 November 2023, and its list of violations includes "Rape and other acts of sexual violence". The paper is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position. Its summary states that the attacks "unquestionably constitute serious violations of international law, often amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity".

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Passage	The paper's wording	Kind of figure
Summary	"widespread acts of torture and maiming, burning alive, beheading, rape and sexual violence, mutilation of corpses"	Statement, no count
List of violations	"Rape and other acts of sexual violence;"	Statement, no count
List of violations	"Mutilating and sexually abusing corpses, and booby-trapping corpses;"	Statement, no count
Killed	"over 1,400"	Early floor, since superseded
Taken hostage	"at least 247"	Early floor, since superseded

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paper updated to 2 November 2023. Every row is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position.

The two counts are floors as at 2 November 2023. They are printed here as the paper printed them and are not final tolls.

Police Unit 105 briefed the UN envoy on 6 February 2024

The Foreign Ministry stated that on 6 February 2024 the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict toured the headquarters of Unit 105 of Lahav 433 of the Israel Police. Both statements below are the Ministry's own account of a visit made at its invitation. They describe what the Ministry says the Israel Police showed her.

Date	The Foreign Ministry's wording	Channel
29 January 2024	She "will meet with survivors, witnesses, treatment professionals, and representatives of the police and other security forces in order to collect evidence of the sexual violence that Hamas committed against women and men during the 7 October attack."	Press release
6 February 2024	She was briefed "about the activities of the national investigation against Hamas terrorists and the collection of evidence regarding the sexual assaults, abductions and massacres committed by the terrorists by the heads of the unit."	Post on X
6 February 2024	She was invited "so that she could witness the extent of the atrocities for herself and bring Hamas' crimes to the attention of the international	Post on X

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Date	The Foreign Ministry's wording	Channel
	authorities."	

On the Ministry's own account, a national Israel Police investigation was collecting evidence on sexual assaults. Neither statement publishes police findings, case counts or charges.

The Foreign Ministry said the UN report recognised sexual crimes

The Foreign Ministry stated on 4 March 2024 that Israel "welcomes the definitive recognition that Hamas committed sexual crimes by an official UN representative". That wording is the Ministry's own reading of the Special Representative's report, issued the day the report was published. It is not the report's wording. In the same statement the Ministry rejected two of the report's recommendations.

Stance	The Foreign Ministry's wording
Welcomed	"For the first time, a UN official has specifically acknowledged the sexual crimes committed by Hamas and other terrorist organizations on 7 October."
Welcomed	"The UN also recognizes that the crimes were committed simultaneously in different locations and point to a pattern of rape, sexual torture and sexual abuse."
Welcomed	"The report also acknowledges the existence of ongoing sexual crimes against the Israeli women and men being held hostage by Hamas"
Rejected	Israel "rejects the report's call to investigate Palestinian claims regarding 'sexual violence by Israeli elements'"
Rejected	Israel rejects "the recommendation to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council (COI)"

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 March 2024. This is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position. The statement gives no case count, no number of victims and no locations.

No Israeli body here publishes a count of victims or cases

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The record gives no number of victims, cases or survivors of sexual violence. That covers the 2026 law, the committee's notes, the Foreign Ministry's 2023 paper and the Ministry's two 2024 statements, and the last three are the Ministry's own statements of Israel's position. The State Comptroller recorded 0 indictments filed as at February 2026 against those suspected of grave crimes in the 7 October attack. That count covers all grave crimes, not sexual offences alone.

The Comptroller's report on security prisoners gives the reason for the zero as a joint decision of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice not to advance prosecutions while hostages were held. It records that several hundred indictments are expected. A Knesset subcommittee published only portions of that report, on state-security grounds.

What Israeli bodies published, 2023 to 2026

PUBLICATION DATES, AND THE OFFENCE WINDOW THE 2026 LAW COVERS. NONE OF THESE DOCUMENTS GIVES A COUNT OF VICTIMS OR CASES.



Source: Knesset; Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry's own statements; State Comptroller of Israel, report 10565, with prosecution checks to February 2026.

Which of these figures may not be read as final?

- The Foreign Ministry's "over 1,400" killed and "at least 247" taken hostage are the Ministry's own floors as at 2 November

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2023. Both have since been superseded and may not be restated as final tolls.

- The State Comptroller's 0 counts indictments for all grave crimes of the attack as at February 2026. It is not a count of sexual-offence charges or of cases.
- The Foreign Ministry's 2024 statements are the Ministry's own account of the visit and its own reading of the UN report. They are not the UN's wording.
- English renderings of the Knesset law and the committee's notes are unofficial translations.

Questions readers ask

Does Israeli law say sexual crimes were committed on 7 October?

Yes. In Section 1 of the law passed on 11 May 2026, the Israeli Knesset stated that the acts of 7 October 2023 included "sexual crimes". The other acts it lists are hostilities, murder, abduction and looting (unofficial translation).

Which dates does the 2026 law cover?

The Israeli Knesset stated in Section 3(a) that the law covers offences committed in the attack from 7 to 10 October 2023. It also covers later offences against people abducted to Gaza on those days.

Does the law call the 7 October attack genocide?

No. The Israeli Knesset stated that the acts are "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes". Genocide appears in Section 3(b) only as an offence the court may try. The Justice Committee stated that charges would follow "the circumstances of each case and the evidence gathered".

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Has anyone been convicted under the 2026 law?

The record here contains no judgment under the law. The State Comptroller recorded 0 indictments for the attack's grave crimes as at February 2026, before the law was passed.

When did an Israeli body first state that rape was committed on 7 October?

The earliest statement in this record is the Foreign Ministry's legal paper, updated to 2 November 2023. The Foreign Ministry published a list of violations there that includes "Rape and other acts of sexual violence". The paper is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position.

How many people did that 2023 paper say were killed?

The Foreign Ministry stated "over 1,400" killed and "at least 247" taken hostage, both as at 2 November 2023. Both are the Ministry's own early floors and have since been superseded.

Which Israeli police unit investigated sexual violence on 7 October?

Unit 105 of Lahav 433 of the Israel Police. The Foreign Ministry stated on 6 February 2024 that the unit briefed the UN Special Representative on "the collection of evidence regarding the sexual assaults", which is the Ministry's own account of the visit.

Did Israel invite the UN envoy on sexual violence?

Yes, on the Ministry's own account. The Foreign Ministry stated on 6 February 2024 that she was invited "so that she could witness the extent of the atrocities for herself". The visit was announced on 29 January 2024.

What did Israel say about the UN Special Representative's report?

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The Foreign Ministry stated on 4 March 2024 that Israel "welcomes the definitive recognition that Hamas committed sexual crimes by an official UN representative". That wording is the Ministry's own reading of the report.

Did Israel reject any part of that report?

Yes. The Foreign Ministry stated that Israel "rejects the report's call to investigate Palestinian claims regarding 'sexual violence by Israeli elements'". In the same statement it rejected cooperation with the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry.

Did Israel say hostages were subjected to sexual crimes?

The Foreign Ministry stated on 4 March 2024 that the report "acknowledges the existence of ongoing sexual crimes against the Israeli women and men being held hostage by Hamas". This is the Ministry's own characterisation of the report.

How many victims of sexual violence does Israel count?

No Israeli body in this record publishes a count of victims, cases or survivors. Neither the Knesset law nor the Foreign Ministry's published statements of 2023 and 2024 give one.

Why had no 7 October indictments been filed by February 2026?

The State Comptroller recorded that a joint decision of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice held back prosecutions while hostages were held. The count covers all grave crimes, not sexual offences alone.

How many 7 October indictments are expected?

The State Comptroller reported that several hundred indictments are expected. It recorded 0 filed as at February 2026.

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SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY View all



RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

Why Did Israel Fail to See the October 7 Attack Coming?



RECORD EXPLAINER September 10, 2026

What Did Israel Say Its War Aims Were After October 7?

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KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

How Many Palestinians Are Held in Israeli Prisons? 6,762 West Bank Residents in October 2025

Every figure on this page names the body that published it and the period it covers. Where a figure is a party's own count of its own activity, the page says so and states the standard that produced it. See Sources and method.

LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

Continue →

MORE FROM THE RECORD

Does Hamas's Use of Human Shields Change the IDF's Proportionality Test?

What Is the Jewish National Fund's Role in Israel's Land? It Owns About 12%

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Was Sexual Violence Committed During the October 7 Attacks?

What Does Israel Say About Iran's Role in October 7?

Were the October 7 Attacks War Crimes? Israel's 2026 Law Names Three Categories

Does Israel Trust the Gaza Health Ministry's Casualty Figures?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Is Israel Obliged to Let Palestinian Refugees Return?

Israel's Foreign Ministry stated in 2007 that no claim of return exists in international law. A 2001 law requires a Knesset majority for any return.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY Right of Return Palestinian Refugees Israeli Citizenship Knesset Oslo II



In November 2007 the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, as Israel's own legal position, that on a Palestinian "claim of

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return" "no such claim exists under general international law, the relevant UN resolutions or the agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors." Since 2001, Israeli statute has barred the return of refugees to Israel's territory without the approval of a majority of the Members of the Knesset. The same statute allows refugee residence permits for humanitarian reasons only. Oslo II, signed by Israel and the PLO in 1995, lists refugees among the issues for permanent status negotiations and preserves each side's position.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Section 2	Return of refugees to Israel's territory requires approval of a majority of the Members of the Knesset [unofficial translation]	Knesset, statute	Passed 1 January 2001
1948 and 1967	Displacements named in the statute's definition of a refugee, which also covers "a member of his family"	Knesset, statute	Passed 1 January 2001
Section 3	Refugee residence permits "for humanitarian reasons only", under rules set by the Minister of the Interior	Knesset, statute	Passed 1 January 2001
4 May 1996	Latest start date the text set for permanent status talks, whose agenda lists refugees	Israel and the PLO, Oslo II, text published by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Signed 28 September 1995
About 95%	Share of the population then living in Israel, about 1.5 million people, who acquired citizenship automatically, on the Ministry's own account from 1952 press reports	Ministry of Justice of Israel	14 July 1952
1 March 1952	Deadline for registration as a resident, 1 of 3 conditions for automatic citizenship	Ministry of Justice of Israel	1948 to 1952

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The Foreign Ministry states no right of return exists in international law

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in November 2007 that no Palestinian claim of return exists in international law. The text is Israel's own stated legal position, published in a question-and-answer paper the Ministry keeps online for historical reference. It takes Resolution 194 and the human rights treaties in turn.

Subject	The Ministry's text, November 2007
International law generally	"no such claim exists under general international law, the relevant UN resolutions or the agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors."
General Assembly resolutions	"the General Assembly is not a law-making body and General Assembly resolutions on political matters do not create legally binding obligations."
Resolution 194, paragraph 11	"That paragraph does not contain a single reference to any rights, but rather merely recommends that refugees should be permitted to return."
Human rights treaties	The principle of return "only deals with individuals (not an entire people) and as a rule, governments have limited the right to reenter a state to nationals of that state."
Who is counted a refugee	Under UNRWA's definition, in the Ministry's words, "all the generations of descendants of the original Palestinian refugees are also considered refugees."

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel, the Conflict and Peace: Answers to frequently asked questions, November 2007. Israel's own stated position.

The Ministry's heading uses the phrase "claim of return", not "right of return", and its terms are kept inside quotation marks here.

Section 2 of the 2001 law requires a Knesset majority for return

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Section 2 of the Entrenchment of the Rejection of the Right of Return Law, 5761-2001, bars the return of refugees to the territory of the State of Israel except with the approval of a majority of the Members of the Knesset. The Knesset passed it on 1 January 2001 and published it in Sefer HaChukim 1772 on 10 January 2001. It is Israel's own statutory rule, and an ordinary law rather than a Basic Law, despite "entrenchment" in its title.

Section	Provision, unofficial translation from the Hebrew
1	A refugee is a person who left the borders of the State of Israel because of war and is not an Israeli citizen, "including the 1967 displaced and the 1948 refugees, or a member of his family"
2	Refugees shall not be returned to the territory of the State of Israel except with the approval of a majority of the Members of the Knesset
4	The Government of Israel shall not undertake or enter into an agreement contradicting this law
5	The law does not apply to anyone covered by the Law of Return, 5710-1950

Source: Knesset, Entrenchment of the Rejection of the Right of Return Law, 5761-2001, Sefer HaChukim 1772, p. 116.

The Entrenchment Law states no number or quota for return. Its definition reaches both 1948 and 1967 and extends to family members.

Oslo II Article XXXI leaves refugees to permanent status negotiations

The Oslo II Agreement states in Article XXXI(5) that permanent status negotiations "shall cover remaining issues, including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders". Israel and the PLO signed it in Washington on 28 September 1995. The text set 4 May 1996 as the latest date for those negotiations to begin. The instrument does not record what followed.

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Article	Text
XXXI(5)	Negotiations "shall commence as soon as possible, but not later than May 4, 1996" and cover issues including "refugees"
XXXI(6)	"Neither Party shall be deemed, by virtue of having entered into this Agreement, to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions."
XVII(1)	The Council's jurisdiction excludes "Jerusalem, settlements, specified military locations, Palestinian refugees, borders, foreign relations and Israelis."

Source: Israel and the PLO, The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II), 1995, English text as published by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a party to it.

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in November 2007, as Israel's own position, that the two sides had agreed the question of refugees "could be considered as part of a permanent settlement between the sides. Israel stands by this commitment."

Section 3 permits refugee residence on humanitarian grounds only

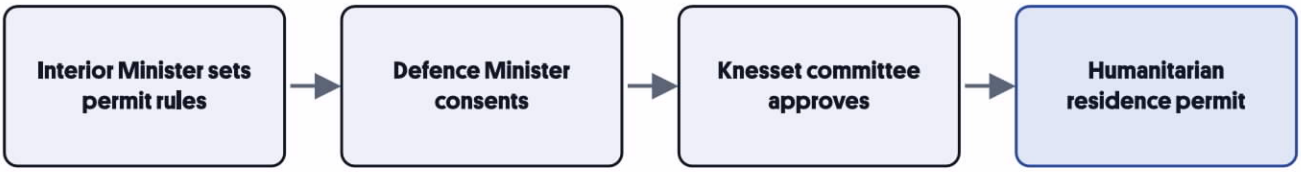
The Entrenchment Law states in section 3 that the Minister of the Interior may set rules for residence permits for refugees "for humanitarian reasons only" (unofficial translation from the Hebrew). The rules require the Defence Minister's consent and the approval of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. This is Israel's own statutory route, and it provides residence, while citizenship sits under a separate statute, the Citizenship Law, 5712-1952.

How a section 3 residence permit is authorised

ENTRENCHMENT OF THE REJECTION OF THE RIGHT OF RETURN LAW, 2001, SECTION 3. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FROM THE HEBREW.

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For humanitarian reasons only. The section provides a residence permit.

Source: Knesset, Entrenchment of the Rejection of the Right of Return Law, 5761-2001, Sefer HaChukim 1772. Israel's own statute.

The Ministry of Justice of Israel records, in its own 2019 account of the Citizenship Law, that automatic citizenship on 14 July 1952 required 3 conditions together:

- Registration as a resident under the Residents Registry Ordinance by 1 March 1952
- Being an Israeli resident
- Having been in Israel, or having entered it lawfully, between the establishment of the State and 14 July 1952

The Ministry records that the third condition was contested during enactment as preventing part of the Arab population from acquiring citizenship. The argument turned on people who left during or before the 1948 war and returned unlawfully. The Supreme Court construed the condition in HCJ 112/52 Khalaf v Minister of the Interior and HCJ 112/53 Nakara v Minister of the Interior, both in 1953. On the Ministry's account, the government stated it did not intend to strip citizenship from a large group among the Arab population. The law's 4 routes to citizenship are set out separately.

No Israeli body publishes a count of section 3 refugee permits

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No Israeli body publishes a count of rules set or residence permits issued under section 3 of the 2001 law. The statute creates the permit, and no ministry or committee publishes its own count of the permit's use.

- Ministry of the Interior, whose minister sets the rules: no published count of rules set or permits issued
- Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, which approves the rules: no published count of approvals
- Population and Immigration Authority: no published count of section 3 permits

Every translation here from the Hebrew is unofficial

- The 2001 law and the Ministry of Justice's 2019 account are Hebrew texts, and every English rendering of them here is unofficial.
- The Foreign Ministry text is Israel's own stated legal position, dated November 2007. The Ministry notes a December 2009 edition and keeps the 2007 text online for historical reference.
- Oslo II is a bilateral instrument of Israel and the PLO, quoted in the English text published by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The 95% and the 1.5 million are the Ministry of Justice's own figures, drawn from 1952 press reports, and are not a Central Bureau of Statistics series.

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- The 4 May 1996 date is what the text set, not a record of what followed.

Questions readers ask

Is UN General Assembly Resolution 194 binding on Israel?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in November 2007, as Israel's own position, that General Assembly resolutions on political matters "do not create legally binding obligations." It described paragraph 11 as one that "merely recommends" return.

How does Israel read the right to return in human rights treaties?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in 2007 that the principle of return in human rights treaties "only deals with individuals (not an entire people)". In Israel's own stated reading, governments have, as a rule, limited re-entry "to nationals of that state."

Does the 2001 law cover descendants of refugees?

The Entrenchment Law states in section 1 that a refugee includes "a member of his family" (unofficial translation). Israel's own statute applies the definition to anyone who left Israel's borders because of war and is not an Israeli citizen.

Does the 2001 law cover people displaced in 1967?

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The Entrenchment Law states that its definition includes "the 1967 displaced and the 1948 refugees" (unofficial translation). Both displacements fall under the section 2 rule.

How many Knesset votes would a return need?

The Entrenchment Law states that return requires the approval of "a majority of the Members of the Knesset" (unofficial translation). The text sets no number of refugees and no quota.

Can an Israeli government agree to return in a peace agreement?

The Entrenchment Law states in section 4 that the Government of Israel shall not undertake or enter into an agreement contradicting the law (unofficial translation). This is Israel's own statutory bar on the executive.

Is the 2001 law a Basic Law?

The Knesset published it in Sefer HaChukim 1772 as an ordinary law. Its text carries no entrenched-majority clause for its own amendment.

Does the 2001 law affect Jewish immigration?

The Entrenchment Law states in section 5 that it does not apply to anyone covered by the Law of Return, 5710-1950. Immigration under that law falls outside it.

Did Oslo II settle the refugee question?

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The Oslo II Agreement states in Article XXXI(5) that refugees are among the issues for permanent status negotiations. Article XXXI(6) provides that neither party waived "any of its existing rights, claims or positions."

Who handled refugee matters under Oslo II?

The Oslo II Agreement states in Article XVII(1) that "Palestinian refugees" are excluded from the Palestinian Council's jurisdiction. The same list excludes Jerusalem, settlements and borders.

How many people became Israeli citizens automatically in 1952?

The Ministry of Justice records that about 95% of the population then living in Israel, about 1.5 million people, acquired citizenship automatically on 14 July 1952. The figures are the Ministry's own, drawn from 1952 press reports.

When did Israel first define who its citizens are?

The Ministry of Justice records that the Citizenship Law entered into force on 14 July 1952 and applied retroactively to the day the State was established. From 1948 to 1952, Israel had no legal determination of its citizens.

How many humanitarian residence permits has Israel issued to refugees?

The Ministry of the Interior publishes no count of permits issued under section 3 of the 2001 law. No Israeli body publishes its own count of rules set or permits granted under that section.

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

Who Can Get Israeli Citizenship?



PRIMARY DOCUMENT September 10, 2026

Does the Palestinian Authority Run Its Own Areas?

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LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

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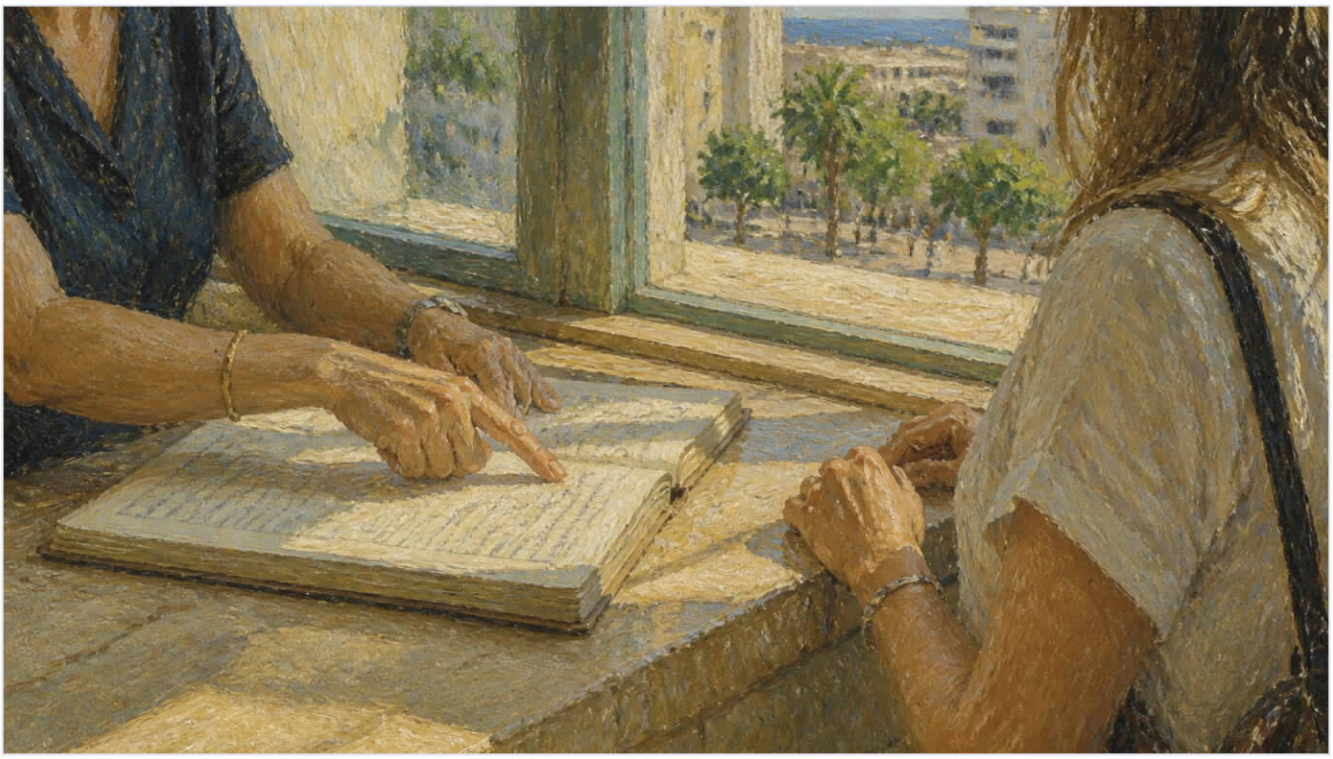
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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 16, 2026

Has Netanyahu Rejected a Palestinian State?

On 21 September 2025 the Prime Minister's Office stated there will be no Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. Both official statements, quoted.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Palestinian State Prime Minister's Office Recognition Israeli Government Statements



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On 21 September 2025, the Prime Minister's Office stated: "There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River." This is the office's own statement of its position. It is quoted here from the Foreign Ministry's English translation of the Hebrew original. On 17 February 2024, the Prime Minister's Office stated a different position: Israel would "strongly oppose unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state", and an arrangement would be achieved "only by direct negotiations between the parties, without pre-conditions."

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
"There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River"	The Prime Minister's stated position, in the office's own statement	Prime Minister's Office, in the Foreign Ministry's English translation	21 September 2025
"It's not going to happen"	The statement's reply to governments recognising a Palestinian state	Prime Minister's Office, in the Foreign Ministry's English translation	21 September 2025
"For years"	The span over which the statement says a Palestinian state was prevented, with no start year given	Prime Minister's Office, in the Foreign Ministry's English translation	Up to 21 September 2025
"Strongly oppose unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state"	The stated position on unilateral recognition, in the office's own statement	Prime Minister's Office	17 February 2024
"Only by direct negotiations between the parties, without pre-conditions"	The route to an arrangement named in the statement	Prime Minister's Office	17 February 2024
2	Office statements on a Palestinian state quoted on this page	Prime Minister's Office	17 February 2024 to 21

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
			September 2025

The Prime Minister's Office stated no Palestinian state west of the Jordan

Yes. On 21 September 2025, the Prime Minister's Office stated: "It's not going to happen. There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River." It is the office's own statement of its position. The statement was addressed to "those leaders who are recognizing a Palestinian state after the horrendous October 7 massacre".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the English text on the website of the Embassy of Israel in Kathmandu. The text was translated from Hebrew, and the page carries an update stamp of 26 September 2025. The statement opens with two messages, in this order:

Order	Verbatim text, Foreign Ministry translation	Addressed to
First message	"I have a clear message to those leaders who are recognizing a Palestinian state after the horrendous October 7 massacre: You are rewarding terror with an enormous prize."	Leaders recognising a Palestinian state
Second message	"And I have another message for you: It's not going to happen. There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River."	The same leaders

The words "rewarding terror" are the Prime Minister's, and they appear here only as a quotation.

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In February 2024 the Prime Minister opposed unilateral recognition

On 17 February 2024, the Prime Minister's Office stated that "Israel will continue to strongly oppose unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state." The same statement named direct negotiations as the route to an arrangement. It is the office's own statement of its position, made in a televised address whose closing section dealt with a Palestinian state.

The Prime Minister's Office published these lines from that statement:

- "Neither will we surrender to international diktat regarding a future arrangement with the Palestinians."
- "I made it clear to the Cabinet and I reiterate it to the world this evening: An arrangement will be achieved only by direct negotiations between the parties, without pre-conditions. Under my leadership, Israel will continue to strongly oppose unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state."
- "And when do they want to give such unilateral recognition? After the terrible massacre of October 7. There can be no greater and unprecedented prize to terrorism, which will also prevent any future peace agreement."

The two statements set out different positions on different dates. In date order:

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Date	Stated position	Wording
17 February 2024	Opposition to unilateral recognition, with an arrangement through direct negotiations	"Only by direct negotiations between the parties, without pre-conditions"
21 September 2025	No Palestinian state west of the Jordan River	"There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River"

Both rows are the Prime Minister's Office's own statements of its position.

The 2025 statement credits years of preventing a Palestinian state

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 21 September 2025 that the Prime Minister had prevented a Palestinian state "for years". It is the office's own statement of its position. The statement attaches no start year to "for years".

The Prime Minister's Office published these two lines in the same statement:

- "For years I have prevented the creation of that terror state, against tremendous pressure, both domestic and from abroad."
- "Moreover, we have doubled the Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria, and we will continue on this path."

"Doubled" is the office's own wording in a statement of position. It carries no base year and no count, so it is not a settlement figure. Israel's settlement policy is covered in its own record.

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Phrase	What the statement attaches to it
“For years”	No start year
“Against tremendous pressure, both domestic and from abroad”	No named government or body
“Doubled the Jewish settlement”	No base year and no count
“We will continue on this path”	No period

No Prime Minister’s Office statement read here postdates September 2025

The latest Prime Minister’s Office statement quoted on this page is dated 21 September 2025. It is the office’s own statement of its position. No later office statement, government decision or Knesset vote on a Palestinian state is quoted here.

- 17 February 2024. The Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement opposing unilateral recognition. It is quoted on this page.
- 21 September 2025. The Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement of no Palestinian state west of the Jordan River. It is quoted on this page.
- After 21 September 2025. No Prime Minister’s Office text, government decision or Knesset vote on a Palestinian state is quoted on this page.

Remarks after 21 September 2025 do not appear on this page. They are not paraphrased here.

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Every quotation here is the Prime Minister's Office's own statement

- Each quotation is the Prime Minister's Office's own statement of its position. None is a finding or a count.
- The 2025 text is the Foreign Ministry's English translation of a Hebrew statement. The statement is dated 21 September 2025, and the translation page is dated 26 September 2025.
- "For years" and "doubled" carry no period, base year or count. Neither may be restated as a figure or set beside a settlement series.
- The February 2024 and September 2025 statements are two positions on two dates. They are not one combined position.

Questions readers ask

What did the Prime Minister's Office say about a Palestinian state in September 2025?

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 21 September 2025: "There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River." It is the office's own statement of its position.

Who was the September 2025 statement addressed to?

The Prime Minister's Office stated that it was addressed to "those leaders who are recognizing a Palestinian state after the horrendous October 7 massacre".

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What did the Prime Minister's Office say about recognition in February 2024?

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 17 February 2024 that "Israel will continue to strongly oppose unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state." It is the office's own statement of its position.

What route to an arrangement did the February 2024 statement name?

The Prime Minister's Office stated that an arrangement "will be achieved only by direct negotiations between the parties, without pre-conditions."

Why did the February 2024 statement oppose recognition after October 7?

The Prime Minister's Office stated that recognition after October 7 would be a "prize to terrorism, which will also prevent any future peace agreement." Those are the Prime Minister's words, quoted.

What did the Prime Minister say about international pressure?

The Prime Minister's Office stated in February 2024: "Neither will we surrender to international diktat regarding a future arrangement with the Palestinians." In September 2025 it referred to "tremendous pressure, both domestic and from abroad."

How long does the Prime Minister's Office say a Palestinian state has been prevented?

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The Prime Minister's Office stated on 21 September 2025 that it had been prevented "for years". The statement gives no start year.

Did the 2025 statement say Jewish settlement had doubled?

The Prime Minister's Office stated: "we have doubled the Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria, and we will continue on this path." The statement attaches no base year or count, so the word is a position and not a settlement figure.

Which language was the September 2025 statement made in?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the English text as a translation from Hebrew. The Hebrew original is not quoted on this page.

Where was the September 2025 statement published in English?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published it on the website of the Embassy of Israel in Kathmandu, under the title "No Palestinian State, Says Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu". The page was last updated on 26 September 2025.

Is there a later Prime Minister's Office statement on this page?

No. The latest statement quoted here is dated 21 September 2025. No later Prime Minister's Office text, government decision or Knesset vote on a Palestinian state appears on this page.

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Are these statements Israel's official position?

The Prime Minister's Office published both as statements by the Prime Minister. Each is the office's own statement of its position, dated 17 February 2024 and 21 September 2025.

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- Prime Minister's Office of Israel, 2025. No Palestinian State, Says Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Statement of 21 September 2025, translated from Hebrew and published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy of Israel in Kathmandu, last updated 26 September 2025. https://embassies.gov.il/nepal/en/news/no-palestinian-state-says-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-21092025. Official or primary record, a party's own statement of its position.

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 10, 2026

What Did Israel Say Its War Aims Were After October 7?



PRIMARY DOCUMENT September 10, 2026

Why Does Israel Say It Stays in the West Bank?



RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

What Is Israel's Settlement Policy in the West Bank?

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LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

What Does Israel Say About Iran's Role in October 7?

The IDF stated in February 2024 that more than $150 million went from Iran to Hamas from 2014 to 2020. Israel's 7 October inquiries name no Iranian role.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Iran Hamas October 7 Israel Defense Forces Israel Security Agency



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More than $150 million was transferred from Iran to Hamas between 2014 and 2020, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 6 February 2024. The figure is its own reading of official Hamas documents that its forces found in Gaza. That funding account is Israel's published record of Iran's involvement. The Israel Security Agency's investigation into its own conduct and the IDF's review of its own investigations, both published in 2025, name no Iranian role in planning the attack.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
More than $150 million	Money transferred from Iran to Hamas, on the IDF's own reading of Hamas documents it states it seized	Israel Defense Forces, briefing of 6 February 2024	2014 to 2020
2020	Date of the Hamas documents the IDF states its forces found in Gaza	Israel Defense Forces, same briefing	Documents dated 2020
2018 and 2022	Years Hamas invasion plans were detected, on the agency's own investigation into its own conduct	Israel Security Agency	Before 7 October 2023
6	Central explanatory factors for the failure, in the IDF's own review of its own investigations	Israel Defense Forces	Review published 10 November 2025
25	IDF investigations the review team examined in depth	Israel Defense Forces	Investigations held from 7 March 2024
About 80	Office-holders the review team interviewed	Israel Defense Forces	Review published 10 November 2025

The IDF published Hamas documents showing over $150 million from Iran

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The Israel Defense Forces published the figure at a Spokesperson's press briefing on 6 February 2024. It is the IDF's own account of documents it states it captured. The figure is a floor, written in words in the briefing: "More than one hundred and fifty million dollars were transferred from Iran to Hamas." The IDF stated that the material indicates "a direct 'connection' from Iran to Hamas".

Element	As the IDF briefing states it
Amount	More than $150 million, a floor
Direction	From Iran to Hamas
Basis	Official Hamas documents, on the IDF's own reading
Period covered	2014 to 2020
Published	6 February 2024

Source: Israel Defense Forces, Press Briefing by the IDF Spokesperson, 6 February 2024.

The documents date from 2020 and cover 2014 to 2020

The IDF describes the material as "official Hamas documents from 2020 detailing the funds transferred by Iran between the years 2014 and 2020". The IDF states that its forces found them in Gaza, calling them "intelligence information found there by our forces". The account is the IDF's own. The briefing's figure covers 2014 to 2020 and gives no amount for 2021 to 2023.

The period the IDF's funding figure covers

MORE THAN $150 MILLION, 2014 TO 2020. THE BRIEFING GIVES NO AMOUNT FOR 2021 TO 2023.

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Source: Israel Defense Forces, press briefing, 6 February 2024. The IDF's own account of Hamas documents it states its forces found in Gaza.

The IDF says it passes the intelligence to partners for verification

The briefing states: "The intelligence information we find, we pass on to our partners around the world for verification." The figure is therefore the IDF's own published reading of seized material, and the IDF states that it shares that material abroad. In the same briefing:

- The IDF names no partner that received the material.
- The IDF reports no result of any verification.
- The IDF publishes no partner's confirmation of the $150 million.

No Israeli body publishes a finding that Iran planned October 7

Neither the IDF briefing nor the Israel Security Agency's findings states that Iran ordered, planned or timed the attack. The IDF's 6 February 2024 briefing is its own account of funding, and it

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concerns funding only. The Israel Security Agency's investigation into its own conduct, published in 2025 and relayed by Ynetnews and The Times of Israel, attributes the invasion plans to Hamas. It names no Iranian role. The agency states that the plans were detected in 2018 and, in greater detail, in 2022, and that "these plans were never fully processed as an imminent threat, which led to a lack of preparation."

Publication	Who published it	What it covers	Iranian role stated
Spokesperson's briefing, 6 February 2024	Israel Defense Forces, its own account	Funding of Hamas, 2014 to 2020	Funding only
Findings of its 7 October investigation, 2025	Israel Security Agency, its own inquiry into its own conduct	Hamas plans detected in 2018 and 2022	None named
Summary of the expert review, 10 November 2025	Israel Defense Forces, its own review of its own investigations	6 factors behind the failure	None named

The agency also states that the attack could have been prevented had it acted differently. Israel's legal classification of the attack is set out in the 2026 law naming three categories.

The IDF's 7 October review names 6 factors, none involving Iran

The IDF published the Chief of Staff's summary of its expert review on 10 November 2025. The review is the IDF's own assessment of its own investigations into its own failure. The team examined 25 investigations in depth and named 6 central

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explanatory factors, which it did not rank. None of the six concerns Iran. As published, the factors are:

- a conceptual failure about Gaza and Hamas
- an intelligence failure in understanding the threat and in not giving the warning
- the absence of engagement with the 'Jericho Wall' plan
- an organisational and operational culture of deficient norms entrenched over years
- a substantial continuing gap, at every command level, between the reference threat and the operational response
- deficient decision-making and force employment on the night itself

The team examined only IDF investigations. Its remit expressly excluded the space between the political and military echelons and the interfaces with other security bodies. The Chief of Staff stated that a broader systemic investigation of those interfaces is still needed. The wider record on the failure to anticipate the attack has its own page.

Which figures here may not be added together?

None of them may be added together.

- The more than $150 million is the IDF's own reading of documents covering 2014 to 2020. It is a floor and may not be restated as an exact sum.

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- The 25 investigations and the about 80 interviewees in the IDF's own review count different things. Neither is a total of IDF investigations.
- The 2018 and 2022 detections come from the Israel Security Agency's own inquiry into its own conduct. Ynetnews and The Times of Israel relayed those findings.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel say Iran funded Hamas?

Yes. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 6 February 2024 that more than $150 million was transferred from Iran to Hamas. The figure is the IDF's own reading of Hamas documents it states it seized.

What years does the $150 million cover?

The Israel Defense Forces stated that the documents record transfers between 2014 and 2020. The briefing gives no amount for 2021 to 2023.

When were the Hamas documents written?

The Israel Defense Forces stated that they are "official Hamas documents from 2020". That date comes from the IDF's own account of the material.

Where does Israel say the documents were found?

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The Israel Defense Forces stated that its forces found them in Gaza, as “intelligence information found there by our forces”.

Does Israel say Iran planned the October 7 attack?

The Israel Defense Forces briefing of 6 February 2024 states nothing on planning; it concerns funding. The Israel Security Agency’s own investigation into its own conduct attributes the invasion plans to Hamas and names no Iranian role.

Does Israel say Iran knew the date of the attack?

The Israel Defense Forces briefing of 6 February 2024 states nothing on whether Iran knew the date. The 2025 inquiries by the IDF and the Israel Security Agency name no Iranian role.

Who did the IDF share the documents with?

The Israel Defense Forces stated that it passes such intelligence “to our partners around the world for verification”. The briefing names no partner.

Is $150 million the whole amount Iran gave Hamas?

The Israel Defense Forces published the figure as a floor, “more than one hundred and fifty million dollars”, for 2014 to 2020 only. The briefing gives no total beyond that.

When did Israeli intelligence detect Hamas’s invasion plans?

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The Israel Security Agency stated in its own 2025 investigation that the plans were detected in 2018 and again, in greater detail, in 2022.

Does the Shin Bet say the attack could have been prevented?

Yes. The Israel Security Agency stated, in its investigation into its own conduct, that the attack could have been prevented had it acted differently.

How were the Shin Bet findings published?

The Israel Security Agency's findings reached the public through reporting by Ynetnews and The Times of Israel in 2025. Those outlets relayed the agency's own account.

What does the IDF's review say caused the failure?

The Israel Defense Forces published 6 unranked factors on 10 November 2025, in its own review of its own investigations. They run from a conceptual failure about Gaza and Hamas to deficient decision-making on the night.

How many investigations did the IDF review examine?

The Israel Defense Forces stated that its expert team examined 25 investigations in depth and interviewed about 80 office-holders. Those two figures count different things.

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Did the IDF review examine the government's decisions?

No. The Israel Defense Forces published a review that expressly excluded the space between the political and military echelons. The Chief of Staff stated that a broader systemic investigation is still needed.

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

Why Did Israel Fail to See the October 7 Attack Coming?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Were the October 7 Attacks War Crimes? Israel's 2026 Law Names Three Categories

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IsraelFact

RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Does Hamas's Use of Human Shields Change the IDF's Proportionality Test?

Israel's Foreign Ministry says the IDF stays bound to mitigate civilian harm, and places primary responsibility on Hamas's use of human shields.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Human Shields Proportionality Law of Armed Conflict Gaza War IDF Targeting



In December 2023, after describing 16 years of Hamas "systematically embedding" military assets across Gaza, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the IDF "is bound to mitigate civilian harm in accordance with the law of armed

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conflict" and that "it is first and foremost Hamas that bears the responsibility" for civilian suffering. The same statement applies proportionality "to each and every attack independently" and calls the test "conduct-oriented, not result-oriented." Both halves are the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position, published by a party to the war.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
16 years	The period over which Hamas embedded military assets across Gaza, on the Ministry's own statement	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Stated December 2023
Over 15 million	Text messages warning Gaza residents, a floor; the Ministry's own count of IDF activity	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cumulative to 8 December 2023
Over 12 million	Pre-recorded phone calls, a floor; the same count	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cumulative to 8 December 2023
Over 4.5 million	Leaflets airdropped, a floor; the same count	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cumulative to 8 December 2023
Over 45,000	Individual phone calls urging people to leave areas of hostilities and individual targets, a floor; the same count	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cumulative to 8 December 2023
630	Sectors in the IDF's civilian-presence map of Gaza, on the IDF's own description; not a count of people or strikes	Israel Defense Forces, presentation	The war since October 2023, presentation dated 2026
None	Counts of strikes in which shielding was weighed, in the Israeli publications read	Foreign Ministry, IDF, Military Advocate General's Corps	Publications of 2015 to 2026

The Foreign Ministry places responsibility "first and foremost" on Hamas

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in December 2023 that the IDF "is bound to mitigate civilian harm in accordance with the law of armed conflict." In the same sentence it stated that "it is

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first and foremost Hamas that bears the responsibility for the widespread suffering it has caused by instigating the hostilities on October 7 and using civilians as human shields." Both halves are the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position. The Ministry sets out the test it says applies in these terms:

- Each attack is assessed on its own: the principle applies "to each and every attack independently, and it does not relate to the overall use of military force."
- "An overall casualty figure does not on its own indicate unlawfulness."
- The test is based on "the military commander's judgement at the time of the attack, not on hindsight."
- "Proportionality under international law is not tit for tat."
- The Ministry's Key Legal Aspects paper of 2 November 2023 states that the assessment "is based on the facts as they were understood in real-time, and on the military commander's judgment at that time, not on hindsight."

The first four lines are from the Ministry's December 2023 statement and the fifth from its November 2023 paper, each the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position. How Israel publishes on proportionality assessments for Gaza strikes is a separate record.

The Ministry says Hamas spent 16 years embedding military assets

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in December 2023 that "Hamas has spent the last 16 years systematically embedding and dispersing its military operations and assets throughout the entirety of Gaza, viewing Palestinian civilians as expendable human shields." This is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position, and its words about Hamas stay inside the quotation

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marks. Its legal paper of 2 November 2023 sets out the same claim and the legal position Israel draws from it.

Statement, verbatim	Document	Date
Tunnel access points are "located in homes, mosques, schools and even hospitals"	The War Against Hamas	December 2023
"Hamas's military infrastructure, command, militants, communications, and weapons are deliberately located within residential, commercial, and other civilian buildings"	Key Legal Aspects, page 9	2 November 2023
"many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets"	Key Legal Aspects, page 2	2 November 2023
Civilian casualties "do not of themselves allow for a conclusion in regard to proportionality without an informed assessment of both the expected civilian harm and the military advantage anticipated at the time of the attack"	Key Legal Aspects, page 3	2 November 2023

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry's own statements of Israel's position. The paper says civilian objects "may become" targets and states the rule in general terms. It identifies no individual building that met it.

The IDF states Hamas told residents to ignore evacuation warnings

The Israel Defense Forces stated, in its "Hamas use of human shields" materials on a page dated 14 July 2014, that Hamas broadcast messages telling residents to ignore IDF evacuation warnings. The same materials state that Hamas sites military infrastructure, headquarters, launchers and weapons storage in residential buildings, hospitals, mosques and schools. Both are the IDF's own statements, published during the 2014 conflict.

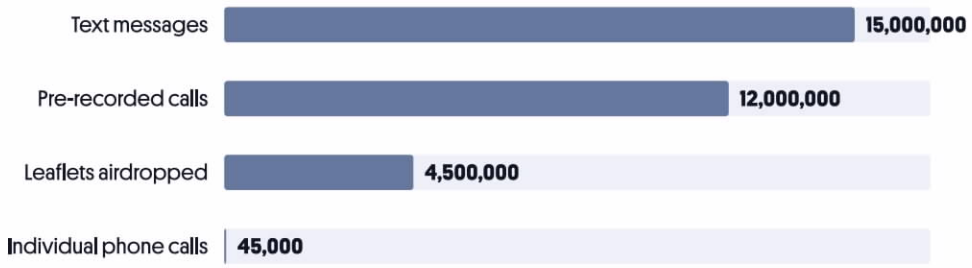
For the war after October 2023, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs recorded the volume of IDF evacuation warnings cumulative to 8 December 2023. These are the Ministry's own counts of IDF activity, counting messages sent through each channel:

IDF warnings to Gaza residents by channel

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CUMULATIVE TO 8 DECEMBER 2023. EACH FIGURE IS A FLOOR ("OVER").



Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Frequently Asked Questions, updated to 8 December 2023. The Ministry's own count of IDF activity; the channels overlap and may not be summed.

One person can receive a text, a call and a leaflet, so the four counts are not a number of people warned.

A warning never on its own affected proportionality, the Ministry states

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in its May 2015 report on the 2014 conflict that "the provision of a warning never, on its own, affected a proportionality assessment." The report is Israel's own account of IDF conduct from 7 July to 26 August 2014. The Ministry's 2023 papers carry a matching statement for the current war, also its own account of IDF conduct.

Statement, verbatim	Document	Period it describes
After a warning "the IDF did not assume that a relevant site or area had been evacuated"	The 2014 Gaza Conflict, paragraph 306	7 July to 26 August 2014
"the provision of a warning never, on its own, affected a proportionality assessment"	The 2014 Gaza Conflict, paragraph 306	7 July to 26 August 2014
"the IDF does not assume that there are no civilians in areas or sites where advance warnings had been given"	Key Legal Aspects	The war, to 2 November 2023
"Israeli strikes that do not meet this threshold have been, and will continue to be, aborted"	The War Against Hamas	The war, to December 2023

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Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; each statement is Israel's own account of IDF conduct. The Ministry's record on strikes called off when civilians appear is published separately.

No Israeli publication here quantifies human shields in any strike assessment

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs papers of 2015 and 2023, the Military Advocate General's Corps publication updated 3 August 2024 and an IDF presentation dated 2026 publish no count of strikes in which shielding was weighed. None publishes a count of civilians assessed as shields, or a proportionality assessment of any individual strike. Each is a party's own account of its own conduct or processes.

The IDF presentation, its own description of its own procedure, sets out the decision flow for an intelligence-based target at slide 18:

Decision flow for an intelligence-based target

SLIDE 18, READ LEFT TO RIGHT IN TWO ROWS. THE SLIDE SHOWS BOXES AND ARROWS ONLY.



Source: Israel Defense Forces, "Process of target attack", slide 18. The IDF's own description of its procedure; not an official IDF publication.

The flow asks whether civilians are in the target and carries no shielding category. The slide does not state what follows a "No" at any step.

Every figure here is Israel's own count or statement

- The warning counts are the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own count of IDF activity, cumulative to 8 December 2023, and each is a floor.

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- They count messages sent per channel, not people warned, and may not be added together.
- The 16 years is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position.
- The 630 counts sectors in the IDF's own civilian-presence map, not people, strikes or evacuations.
- The 2015 report is Israel's own account of IDF conduct in 2014, not of the war after October 2023.
- Statements about Hamas's conduct are the Ministry's and the IDF's own, quoted as such.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel say human shields remove the duty of proportionality?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in December 2023 that the IDF "is bound to mitigate civilian harm in accordance with the law of armed conflict," while placing primary responsibility for civilian suffering on Hamas. That is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position. The statement does not say that human shields remove the obligation.

Does a high death toll show a strike was disproportionate, on Israel's account?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in December 2023 that "An overall casualty figure does not on its own indicate unlawfulness." On the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position, each attack is assessed separately.

Who judges whether a strike is proportionate?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 2 November 2023 that the assessment rests on "the military commander's judgment at that time, not on hindsight." That is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position.

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How many warnings did the IDF send to Gaza residents?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs recorded over 15 million text messages, over 12 million pre-recorded calls, over 4.5 million leaflets and over 45,000 individual calls, cumulative to 8 December 2023. These are the Ministry's own counts of IDF activity, each a floor, and the channels may not be summed.

Are civilians who stay after a warning still counted in the assessment?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in 2015 that, in 2014, "the provision of a warning never, on its own, affected a proportionality assessment." Its 2 November 2023 paper states that "the IDF does not assume that there are no civilians in areas or sites where advance warnings had been given." Both are the Ministry's own account of IDF conduct.

Can the IDF strike without a warning?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 2 November 2023 that "Where circumstances do not permit providing effective advance warning before an attack," such as when a militant "may exploit the warning to escape," there is "no legal requirement to do so." That is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position.

Does Israel say a civilian building can become a military target?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 2 November 2023 that "many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets." The Ministry's own paper states the rule in general terms and names no building that met it.

Does Israel apply Additional Protocol I?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 2 November 2023 that Israel "abides by all applicable rules of customary

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international law, including those embodied in conventions to which it is not a party (such as the 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions).” That is the Ministry’s own statement of Israel’s position.

How does the IDF track where civilians are in Gaza?

The Israel Defense Forces stated in a 2026 presentation that a Southern Command team led by a brigadier general divided Gaza into 630 sectors and continuously assessed the population present in each. That is the IDF’s own description of its procedure, and 630 counts sectors, not people.

Does the IDF call off strikes when civilians are present?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in December 2023 that “countless attacks have been aborted or avoided completely in order to prevent harm to civilians.” That is the Ministry’s own account of IDF conduct, and “countless” is its word, not a number.

Is roof knocking required by international law, on Israel’s account?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in 2015 that in 2014 the IDF used it “as a progressive precaution that went beyond the requirements of international law.” That is the Ministry’s own account of IDF conduct in the 2014 conflict.

How many criminal investigations has the IDF opened over Gaza?

The Military Advocate General’s Corps opened 74 criminal investigations as at 3 August 2024, on its own count of its own processes. The Corps states that civilian death or injury “in most cases do not by themselves indicate a reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct.” The 74 are investigations opened, not findings, indictments or convictions.

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Does Israel publish how many civilians it treats as human shields?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs publications of 2015 and 2023, the Military Advocate General's Corps publication of 2024 and the IDF's 2026 presentation publish no such count. Each is a party's own account of its own conduct or processes.

Sources

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- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023. The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions. Republished by the IDF on 15 December 2023. https://m.www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/israel-at-war/all-articles/the-war-against-hamas-answering-your-most-pressing-questions. Official or primary record, a party's own statement of its legal and factual position.

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RECORD EXPLAINER Updated September 23, 2026

Does Israel Publish a Proportionality Assessment for Gaza Strikes?

KEY FIGURES September 23, 2026

How Does the IDF Warn Civilians Before Strikes in Gaza?



RECORD EXPLAINER September 23, 2026

Does the IDF Call Off Strikes When Civilians Appear?

Every figure on this page names the body that published it and the period it covers. Where a figure is a party's own count of its own activity, the page says so and states the standard that produced it. See Sources and method.

LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

Continue →

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Does Hamas's Use of Human Shields Change the IDF's Proportionality Test?

What Is the Jewish National Fund's Role in Israel's Land? It Owns About 12%

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

What Is the Jewish National Fund's Role in Israel's Land? It Owns About 12%

The JNF was founded in 1901 to acquire land and owns about 12% of Israel's area, about 2.5 million dunams, on the State Comptroller's 2017 audit.

LAND AND PLANNING Jewish National Fund Land Ownership Israel Land Authority State Comptroller Basic Laws



About 2.5 million dunams, roughly 12% of the State of Israel's area, belong to the Jewish National Fund, the State Comptroller of Israel recorded in a March 2017 audit report. The Comptroller records that the Fund was founded in 1901, by decision of the Zionist Congress, to acquire land in the Land of

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Israel with donations from the Jewish people. A 1953 law incorporated it in Israel, and the 1960 Basic Law: Israel Lands bars the transfer of its land's ownership, subject to exceptions prescribed by law. The Israel Land Authority manages that land in trust.

Figure	What it counts	Period
1901	Year the Fund was founded, by decision of the Zionist Congress, to acquire land with donations	Founding
About 12%	Share of the State of Israel's area owned by the Jewish National Fund	As stated in the March 2017 report
About 2.5 million dunams	The same holding expressed as area; land held, not a total of land bought	As stated in the March 2017 report
About one third	JNF-owned share of all land the Israel Land Authority manages in the centre of the country	As stated in the March 2017 report
About NIS 9.6 billion	JNF gross income from its land managed by the Authority, five years combined	2011 to 2015
September 2014	Registration of the JNF as a public-benefit company by the Registrar of Endowments, despite its objection	2014

Source: State Comptroller of Israel, Jewish National Fund: Activities for the Development of Israel Lands, special audit report, March 2017.

The Comptroller records the JNF was founded in 1901 to acquire land

The State Comptroller of Israel recorded that the Jewish National Fund was founded in 1901 to acquire land in the Land of Israel with donations from the Jewish people. The same report puts the Fund's holdings at about 12% of the state's area, about 2.5 million dunams. That holding sits inside the roughly 93% of Israel's area classed as Israel Lands, whose three owners are set out on the page on how much of Israel's land the state owns.

Element	As the Comptroller states it
Founded	1901
By	Decision of the Zionist Congress
Purpose	To acquire land in the Land of Israel
Funded by	Donations from the Jewish people

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Source: State Comptroller of Israel, March 2017 audit report, companion chapter on the Fund's development activity, in Hebrew.

The 1953 law lets the JNF acquire land as a local authority

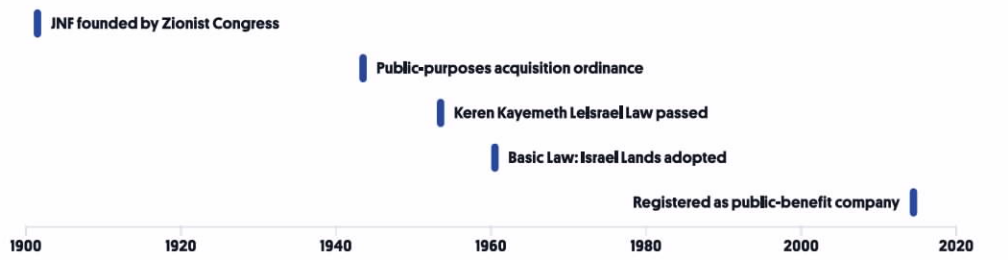
The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law, passed by the Knesset on 23 November 1953, provides for a body incorporated in Israel to continue the work of the existing company, founded and incorporated abroad. Section 2 lets the Minister of Justice approve that body's memorandum and articles. Section 6 places the new company inside a 1943 acquisition statute. Rendered in English from the Hebrew text the Knesset published, it reads:

"For section 22 of the Land (Acquisition for Public Purposes) Ordinance, 1943, the new company is treated as a local authority."

The Law states the power. It records no acquisition made under it.

The Jewish National Fund in Israeli records

FOUNDING, STATUTES AND LEGAL STATUS, 1901 TO 2014



Source: State Comptroller of Israel, March 2017 audit report; Knesset, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law, 5714-1953, and Basic Law: Israel Lands.

The 1960 Basic Law bars transferring ownership of JNF land

Once land belongs to the Jewish National Fund, its ownership may not be transferred by sale or in any other manner, the Basic Law: Israel Lands states. Its second section excepts categories of real estate and transactions prescribed by law, so the two clauses are read together. The State Comptroller recorded in 2017 that the Israel Land Authority manages Israel Lands in trust, planning, developing and marketing them for their owners, the Fund among them.

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Provision	What it states	Published by
Basic Law: Israel Lands, section 1	"The ownership of Israel's Lands, which is the real estate belonging to the State, the Development Authority, or the Jewish National Fund, shall not be transferred, whether by means of sale, or in any other manner."	Knesset, unofficial English translation
Basic Law: Israel Lands, section 2	"Article 1 shall not apply to categories of real estate and categories of transactions prescribed on this matter by law."	Knesset, unofficial English translation
Management of Israel Lands	The Israel Land Authority manages them in trust and plans, develops and markets them for their owners	State Comptroller of Israel, March 2017

The JNF earned about NIS 9.6 billion from Authority-managed land

The State Comptroller recorded that the Jewish National Fund's gross income from its land managed by the Israel Land Authority was about NIS 9.6 billion over 2011 to 2015. That is gross income across five years, not an annual figure. About one third of all land the Authority manages in the centre of the country is JNF-owned, on the same report.

The State Comptroller records the Fund's legal status in three steps:

1953. The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law anchored the Fund's legal status as a private company in Israel.

- March 2014. The Deputy Attorney General (economic-fiscal) found the Fund is in essence a public-benefit company.
- September 2014. The Registrar of Endowments registered it as a public-benefit company, despite its objection.

No Israeli body here publishes the JNF's land purchases by period

The State Comptroller published a holding of about 12%, about 2.5 million dunams, in its March 2017 report. The report does not separate land the Fund bought from land it received by transfer, and gives no purchases by year or period.

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- State Comptroller of Israel, 2017. A current holding of about 2.5 million dunams; no split between land bought and land transferred; no purchases by period.
- Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law, 5714-1953. No figures.
- Basic Law: Israel Lands, 1960. No figures.

The 2.5 million dunams is a holding and may not be read as a total of land purchased.

Every figure here is the State Comptroller's, as stated in 2017

- The State Comptroller published the land shares as rounded figures ("about"), with no reference date beyond the report's March 2017 publication.
- The Fund's 12% is its own holding and is not part of the State's ownership figure; the Fund is not a state body.
- The NIS 9.6 billion is gross income for 2011 to 2015 combined and may not be divided into a single year's figure.
- The Basic Law is quoted from the Knesset's English translation, which the Knesset labels unofficial; the Hebrew is binding. The 1953 Law is rendered from its Hebrew text.

Questions readers ask

What is Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael?

It is the Hebrew name of the Jewish National Fund. The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law of 1953 states that the existing company, founded and incorporated abroad, is Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Ltd.

Who founded the Jewish National Fund?

The State Comptroller recorded that the Fund was founded in 1901 by decision of the Zionist Congress, to acquire land with donations from the Jewish people.

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Who manages land the JNF owns?

The State Comptroller recorded in 2017 that the Israel Land Authority manages Israel Lands, including JNF land, in trust, and plans, develops and markets them for their owners.

Can JNF land in Israel be sold?

The Basic Law: Israel Lands states that ownership of land belonging to the Jewish National Fund shall not be transferred by sale or in any other manner. Its section 2 excepts categories of real estate and transactions prescribed by law.

What are Israel Lands?

The State Comptroller defined Israel Lands in its 2017 report as the land owned by the State, the Jewish National Fund and the Development Authority together, about 93% of the state's area.

Does the State own the JNF's land?

No. The State Comptroller recorded three separate owners of Israel Lands: the State with about 70% of the state's area, the Development Authority with about 11% and the Jewish National Fund with about 12%.

Is the Jewish National Fund a private company?

The State Comptroller recorded that the 1953 Law anchored its status as a private company in Israel. In September 2014 the Registrar of Endowments registered it as a public-benefit company.

Who decided the JNF is a public-benefit company?

The Deputy Attorney General found in March 2014 that the Fund is in essence a public-benefit company, the State Comptroller recorded.

Did the JNF agree to that registration?

No. The State Comptroller recorded that the Registrar of Endowments registered the Fund as a public-benefit company in

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September 2014 despite its objection.

Is the NIS 9.6 billion a yearly income?

No. The State Comptroller recorded about NIS 9.6 billion as the Fund's gross income from Authority-managed land across 2011 to 2015 combined.

Which ordinance does the 1953 law refer to?

The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Law states, in section 6, that the new company is treated as a local authority for section 22 of the Land (Acquisition for Public Purposes) Ordinance, 1943.

How much land did the JNF buy before 1948?

The State Comptroller published a holding of about 2.5 million dunams in 2017 and no figure for land bought before or after 1948. The 1953 Law and the Basic Law carry no figures.

Is the English text of the Basic Law official?

No. The Knesset labels its English translation of the Basic Law: Israel Lands unofficial, and the Hebrew text is binding.

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LAND AND PLANNING View all



KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

How Much of Israel's Land Does the State Own? About 70%



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

Can a Foreigner Buy a Home in Israel?

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LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

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What Does Israel Say About Iran's Role in October 7?

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What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

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LAW AND COURTS Resolution 3379 United Nations Zionism General Assembly Foreign Ministry



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By 72 votes to 35, with 32 abstentions, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 on 10 November 1975, on the vote the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs records. Its operative paragraph, as the Ministry prints it, reads: "Determines that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination." That one sentence is the determination Israel rejected, on the Assembly floor the same day and in the Knesset the next. The Foreign Ministry stated on the resolution's 51st anniversary in 2026 that it "was eventually repealed."

Figure	What it counts	Period
72	Votes for Resolution 3379 in the General Assembly	10 November 1975
35	Votes against	10 November 1975
32	Abstentions, recorded separately from votes against	10 November 1975
3375 and 3379	Resolutions the Prime Minister's statements address together	10 and 11 November 1975
51	Years since the vote, as the Ministry's anniversary post counts them	10 November 2026

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's Foreign Relations: Selected Documents, 1974 to 1977 volume, items 128 to 130; Israel Foreign Ministry post on X, 10 November 2026. Every row is the Ministry's own record.

Resolution 3379 passed 72 to 35, with 32 abstentions

The Foreign Ministry records the vote of 10 November 1975 in one line: "The resolution was adopted by 72 for, 35 against, 32 abstentions." The count is the Ministry's own record of the General Assembly vote, published in its Selected Documents

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series. The resolution is numbered 3379 (XXX), and its operative paragraph is a single sentence.

How the General Assembly voted on Resolution 3379

10 NOVEMBER 1975. VOTES FOR, VOTES AGAINST AND ABSTENTIONS, ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RECORD.



For Against Abstentions

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Selected Documents, 1974 to 1977 volume. The Ministry's own record of the vote; the 32 abstentions are not votes against.

What the Ministry's record carries on the resolution itself:

- The instrument: General Assembly Resolution 3379 (XXX).
- The date of adoption: 10 November 1975.
- The operative paragraph: "Determines that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."
- The vote: 72 for, 35 against, 32 abstentions.

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Israel's UN ambassador called Zionism the Jewish people's national movement

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations answered in the General Assembly on 10 November 1975, the day of the vote. The Foreign Ministry published the statement as item 129 of its Selected Documents, Israel's stated position in its own words. The Foreign Ministry's headnote records that he "said that Israel was not bound by this resolution and will not abide by it."

The statement, as the Ministry publishes it:

- On Zionism: "Zionism is the name of the national movement of the Jewish people and is the modern expression of the ancient Jewish heritage."
- On the resolution's standing: "For us, the Jewish people, this resolution, based on hatred, falsehood and arrogance, is devoid of any moral or legal value."
- On how Israel would treat it: "For us, the Jewish people, this is no more than a piece of paper, and we shall treat it as such."

The Prime Minister told the Knesset Israel would not cooperate

The Prime Minister rejected the Assembly's resolutions on 10 November 1975 and told the Knesset on 11 November that Israel would not cooperate with any measures arising from them. The Foreign Ministry published both statements, items 128 and 130, in its own record of the government's position. They address

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Resolutions 3375 and 3379 together, not 3379 alone, and the 11 November text is a statement by the Prime Minister in the Knesset, not a resolution of the Knesset.

Date	Setting	Words, as the Ministry publishes them
10 November 1975	Reaction to the vote	"These resolutions are devoid of any moral validity."
10 November 1975	Reaction to the vote	"The people of Israel totally reject the Assembly's resolutions."
11 November 1975	Statement in the Knesset	The initiators "aim at denying the right of existence of Israel"
11 November 1975	Statement in the Knesset	"Israel categorically rejects these resolutions and will not cooperate, at any stage whatsoever, with any measures arising out of them."

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Selected Documents, 1974 to 1977 volume, items 128 and 130. The government's own statements of its position.

The Foreign Ministry marked the resolution's 51st anniversary in 2026

The Foreign Ministry stated on X on 10 November 2026 that the resolution "was eventually repealed," in a post marking 51 years since the vote. The post is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's position today. Its characterisations are the Ministry's words, quoted as written.

The post, in full as banked:

- "On this day in 1975, the UN disgraced itself by declaring Zionism to be racism."

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- “It was one of the lowest points in the UN’s history. The resolution was eventually repealed, but 51 years later, we are hearing the same hateful rhetoric all over again.”

No Israeli record read here dates the repeal or its vote

The Foreign Ministry stated in 2026 that Resolution 3379 “was eventually repealed,” and the post stops there. It gives no date, no resolution number and no vote count for the repeal. The Ministry’s 1975 Selected Documents, its own record of Israel’s response, cover November 1975 only.

Question	1975 Selected Documents	2026 Foreign Ministry post
Is a repeal recorded?	No; the items cover November 1975	Yes: “was eventually repealed”
Date of the repeal	Not recorded	Not recorded
Resolution number of the repeal	Not recorded	Not recorded
Vote on the repeal	Not recorded	Not recorded

Every figure here is the Foreign Ministry’s own

- The 72, 35 and 32 are the Foreign Ministry’s own record of the 10 November 1975 vote, printed in its Selected Documents series.
- The 32 are abstentions, not votes against, and may not be added to the 35.

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- The Prime Minister's statements of 10 and 11 November 1975 address Resolutions 3375 and 3379 together; neither is a statement on 3379 alone.
- The 11 November 1975 text is a Prime Minister's statement in the Knesset, not a Knesset resolution.
- The 2026 quotations are the Foreign Ministry's own statement of Israel's position, and the 51 years are the Ministry's count from 1975.

Questions readers ask

When was Resolution 3379 adopted?

The Foreign Ministry records its adoption by the UN General Assembly on 10 November 1975. That date is the Ministry's own record of the vote.

What exactly did Resolution 3379 say?

The Foreign Ministry published the operative paragraph as "Determines that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination." The resolution's determination is that single sentence.

How many countries voted for Resolution 3379?

The Foreign Ministry records 72 votes for, 35 against and 32 abstentions on 10 November 1975. The three figures are the Ministry's own record of the Assembly vote.

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How did Israel define Zionism at the UN?

The Foreign Ministry published its ambassador's words to the Assembly on 10 November 1975: "Zionism is the name of the national movement of the Jewish people and is the modern expression of the ancient Jewish heritage." It is Israel's stated position, quoted from the Ministry's text.

Did Israel say it was bound by the resolution?

The Foreign Ministry recorded in its headnote that the ambassador "said that Israel was not bound by this resolution and will not abide by it." That is the Ministry's own summary of his 10 November 1975 statement.

Did Israel's ambassador tear up the resolution?

The Foreign Ministry published a text of the 10 November 1975 statement that does not mention tearing up the resolution. It records the words "no more than a piece of paper, and we shall treat it as such."

Did the Knesset pass a resolution against 3379?

The Foreign Ministry published a statement by the Prime Minister in the Knesset on 11 November 1975, not a Knesset resolution. The Ministry's Selected Documents carry no Knesset resolution on 3379.

What did the Prime Minister say Israel would do?

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The Prime Minister stated in the Knesset on 11 November 1975 that Israel "will not cooperate, at any stage whatsoever, with any measures arising out of them." The statement, as the Foreign Ministry published it, covers Resolutions 3375 and 3379 together.

Was Resolution 3379 repealed?

The Foreign Ministry stated on X on 10 November 2026 that the resolution "was eventually repealed." The post is the Ministry's own statement and gives no date or vote for the repeal.

In what year was Resolution 3379 repealed?

The Foreign Ministry stated only that it "was eventually repealed," in its post of 10 November 2026. Neither Israeli record read for this page gives a year.

What does Israel say about the resolution today?

The Foreign Ministry stated on 10 November 2026 that "the UN disgraced itself by declaring Zionism to be racism" and that the resolution was "one of the lowest points in the UN's history." The words are the Ministry's own, quoted as posted.

How long ago was Resolution 3379 adopted?

The Foreign Ministry counted 51 years in its post of 10 November 2026, the anniversary of the 1975 vote.

Where are Israel's 1975 statements published?

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The Foreign Ministry published them in Israel's Foreign Relations: Selected Documents, 1974 to 1977 volume, as items 128, 129 and 130. Each is the office-holder's own statement, dated 10 or 11 November 1975.

Sources

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LAW AND COURTS View all

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KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

Do Palestinians in East Jerusalem Have Israeli Citizenship? About 9% Do



KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

How Many Arab Judges Sit on Israel's Supreme Court? 1 of 15 in 2020



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

What Are the Rules for Women Praying at the Western Wall?



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What Does Israeli Law Say About East Jerusalem?

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 16, 2026

Was the Six-Day War a Preemptive Strike by Israel?

Israel told the Security Council on 6 June 1967 it acted under Article 51. Its documents of 4 to 12 June 1967 never use the word preemptive.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Six-Day War 1967 Article 51 Security Council Foreign Ministry



Article 51 of the United Nations Charter is the ground Israel's Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June 1967.

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He described Israel's action of 5 June as a defensive response after Egyptian forces engaged Israel by air and land that morning. None of the four documents dated 4 to 12 June 1967 in the Foreign Ministry's published selection uses the word "preemptive" or "pre-emptive". The Government's decision of 4 June authorized "steps necessary for the protection of Israel".

Figure	What it counts	Period
Article 51	The UN Charter provision Israel cited for its action, as the Foreign Minister stated it to the Security Council	6 June 1967
80,000	Egyptian troops Israel stated were "poised to move", Israel's own figure	Before 5 June 1967, as stated on 6 June
900	Egyptian tanks in the same statement, Israel's own figure	Before 5 June 1967, as stated on 6 June
27 May 1967	Date Israel stated the Egyptian air force commander issued a secret order to prepare a surprise attack, Israel's own account	As stated to the Knesset on 12 June 1967
Some 600	Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi planes Israel stated were "ready", Israel's own approximate figure	Before the fighting, as stated on 12 June 1967
Some 450	Enemy planes Israel stated its forces destroyed, Israel's own approximate figure	During the fighting, as stated on 12 June 1967
1 sentence	The full text of the Government decision authorizing protective steps	4 June 1967

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's Foreign Relations, Selected Documents, chapter XI, "The Six-Day War". Every row is Israel's own statement, given by the office named in its row.

Israel told the Security Council it responded under Article 51

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The Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June 1967 that Israel acted under its right of self-defence in Article 51, after Egyptian forces engaged Israel on the morning of 5 June. This is Israel's own account of how the fighting began, as its Foreign Minister gave it. The passage, as the Foreign Ministry published it:

> **"on the morning of 5 June, when Egyptian forces engaged us by air and land, bombarding the villages of Kissufim, Nahal-Oz and Ein Hashelosha we knew that our limit of safety had been reached, and perhaps passed. In accordance with its inherent right of self-defence as formulated in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Israel responded defensively in full strength."**

What the statement names, in its own words:

- Who engaged first, on this account: "Egyptian forces", "by air and land"
- When: "the morning of 5 June"
- Where: "the villages of Kissufim, Nahal-Oz and Ein Hashelosha"
- Legal basis: "inherent right of self-defence as formulated in Article 51"
- Israel's action: "responded defensively in full strength"

The 4 June 1967 decision authorized steps for Israel's protection

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The Government of Israel decided on 4 June 1967, the day before the fighting, that "The Government authorizes the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence to take steps necessary for the protection of Israel." This is the Government's own decision text, as the Foreign Ministry published it. It is one sentence long.

What the decision text contains:

- The deciding body: the Government
- Those authorized: the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence
- The purpose: "steps necessary for the protection of Israel"
- An attack, a target or a time: none named in the text

The 5 June broadcast said Egypt forced the campaign

The Prime Minister stated in a broadcast to the nation on 5 June 1967 that "Egypt has forced a military campaign upon us". This is Israel's own characterisation of the war's outbreak, given by its Prime Minister on the first day of the fighting. The broadcast, as the Foreign Ministry published it, carries three statements on how the fighting began and what Israel intended:

- On the fighting that morning: "Since the hours of this morning our forces, on land and in the air, are returning war with a view to vanquishing the armies of the aggressive ruler of Egypt."
- On the cause: "Egypt has forced a military campaign upon us"

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- On other states: “We shall not attack any state as long as it does not wage war against us.”

Israel cited 80,000 Egyptian troops and 900 tanks poised

The Foreign Minister stated on 6 June 1967 that, before 5 June, Egyptian forces facing Israel numbered “80,000 men and 900 tanks” and “were poised to move.” These are Israel’s own figures, given by its Foreign Minister in a statement to the Security Council. On 12 June the Prime Minister stated further figures to the Knesset, also Israel’s own.

Figure	What Israel stated	Statement
80,000	Egyptian men “poised to move”	Foreign Minister, Security Council, 6 June 1967
900	Egyptian tanks, in the same statement	Foreign Minister, Security Council, 6 June 1967
27 May 1967	A “secret operations order” to Egyptian pilots “to prepare for a surprise attack on Israel”	Prime Minister, Knesset, 12 June 1967
Some 600	Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi planes that “were ready”	Prime Minister, Knesset, 12 June 1967
Some 450	“enemy planes” destroyed by Israeli forces during the fighting	Prime Minister, Knesset, 12 June 1967

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel’s Foreign Relations, Selected Documents, chapter XI.

The 600 and the 450 count different things: planes stated as ready before the fighting, and planes stated as destroyed during it, drawn from more than one air force. Neither is a share of the other, and both stay approximate, as “some”.

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No deliberations accompany the 4 June decision in the published documents

The 4 June 1967 entry in the Foreign Ministry's published selection is the Government's one-sentence decision text and nothing else. The selection carries that decision and Israel's own statements of 5, 6 and 12 June. It carries no cabinet minutes and no record of the discussion that preceded the decision.

Israel's published record, 4 to 12 June 1967

DATES OF THE FOUR DOCUMENTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SELECTION ON HOW THE WAR BEGAN



Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's Foreign Relations, Selected Documents, chapter XI, "The Six-Day War". Each document is the office-holder's own statement or the Government's own decision.

The 6 June and 12 June statements differ on who fired first

- The Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June, in Israel's own account, that Egyptian forces engaged first and Israel "responded".
- The Prime Minister stated to the Knesset on 12 June, in Israel's own account, that Israeli forces "went out to repulse" Egyptian forces moving to the border. That statement does not say Egypt fired first.

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- The two statements are quoted separately here and are not merged into one account.
- The troop, tank and aircraft figures are Israel's own, as its ministers stated them in June 1967. "Some 600" and "some 450" are approximations and stay so.
- The 600 planes ready and the 450 planes destroyed may not be subtracted from each other or read as a share.

Questions readers ask

Which Israeli villages did Israel say were bombarded on 5 June 1967?

The Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June 1967 that Egyptian forces bombarded Kissufim, Nahal-Oz and Ein Hashelosha on the morning of 5 June. This is Israel's own account of that morning.

Who did the 4 June 1967 decision authorize to act?

The Government of Israel decision, as the Foreign Ministry published it, authorized the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence. The authorization was to "take steps necessary for the protection of Israel."

Does the 4 June decision name a target or a time?

The decision text the Foreign Ministry published is a single sentence. It names no attack, target or time.

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What did Israel say Egypt's air force ordered on 27 May 1967?

The Prime Minister stated to the Knesset on 12 June 1967 that the commander of the Egyptian air force issued "a secret operations order to his pilots to prepare for a surprise attack on Israel" on 27 May. This is Israel's own account, given in that statement.

How many aircraft did Israel say it destroyed in the war?

The Prime Minister stated to the Knesset on 12 June 1967 that "our forces destroyed some 450 enemy planes" during the fighting. The figure is Israel's own and approximate.

Which air forces were in Israel's count of 600 planes?

The Prime Minister stated on 12 June 1967 that "Some 600 Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi planes were ready". The figure is Israel's own, approximate, and covers 4 air forces together.

How many Egyptian tanks did Israel say faced it before 5 June?

The Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June 1967 that "80,000 men and 900 tanks were poised to move." Both are Israel's own figures for Egyptian forces facing Israel before 5 June.

Did Israel say it would attack Jordan or Syria on 5 June?

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The Prime Minister stated in his broadcast of 5 June 1967: “We shall not attack any state as long as it does not wage war against us.” The broadcast names Egypt as the state that “forced a military campaign” on Israel.

What legal right did Israel invoke at the United Nations?

The Foreign Minister stated to the Security Council on 6 June 1967 that Israel acted under “its inherent right of self-defence as formulated in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter”. This is Israel’s own stated legal basis.

Did Israel describe its 5 June action as a response?

The Foreign Minister stated on 6 June 1967 that Israel “responded defensively in full strength”, and the Prime Minister stated in his 5 June broadcast that Israeli forces were “returning war”. Both are Israel’s own descriptions of its action.

Where are Israel’s 1967 statements on the war published?

The Foreign Ministry published them in Israel’s Foreign Relations, Selected Documents, chapter XI, “The Six-Day War”, on gov.il. Items 14, 15, 19 and 23 carry the decision and the three statements quoted on this page.

Sources

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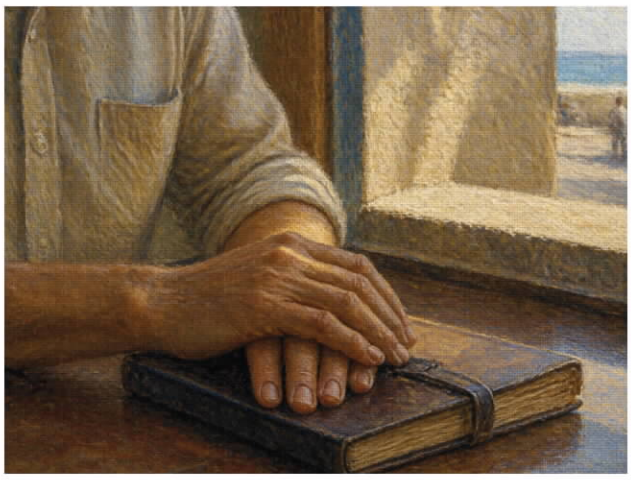
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CHRONOLOGY August 26, 2026

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How Long Has the West Bank Been Under Military Government?

When Did Israel Begin Taking Palestinian Land? 1950 and 1967

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Were the October 7 Attacks War Crimes? Israel's 2026 Law Names Three Categories

Israel's Foreign Ministry named war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2023. A 2026 Knesset law adds crimes against the Jewish people.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY October 7 International Law War Crimes Knesset Geneva Conventions



War crimes and crimes against humanity are the 2 categories of international crime that Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs named for the 7 October 2023 attacks, in a legal paper updated to 2 November 2023. That paper is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position. In May 2026 the Knesset

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enacted a law that classifies the same acts in 3 categories: crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Genocide appears in that law as an offence a court may try, not as a classification of the acts.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
2 categories	War crimes and crimes against humanity, in the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Paper updated to 2 November 2023
Over 1,400	People killed, on the Ministry's own count. This is an early floor that has since been superseded and is not a final figure	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As at 2 November 2023
At least 247	People taken hostage, on the Ministry's own count. This is an early floor that has since been superseded and is not a final figure	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As at 2 November 2023
3 categories	Crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes, in section 1 of the statute	Knesset	Law passed 11 May 2026
7 to 10 October 2023	The window of offences the statute covers, plus later offences against people abducted to Gaza	Knesset	Law passed 11 May 2026
0	Indictments filed against those suspected of grave crimes in the 7 October attack, on the Comptroller's own audit	State Comptroller of Israel	As at February 2026
6 July 1951	Israel's ratification of the four Geneva Conventions. Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute	Turkel Commission	Second Report, February 2013

The Foreign Ministry's 2023 paper names war crimes and crimes against humanity

The Foreign Ministry stated that the attacks "unquestionably constitute serious violations of international law, often amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity." The statement appears in Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Key Legal Aspects, updated

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to 2 November 2023. It is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position.

The summary sentence names the following acts, in the Ministry's words:

- "widespread acts of torture and maiming"
- "burning alive"
- "beheading"
- "rape and sexual violence"
- "mutilation of corpses"

The same paper gives "over 1,400" killed and "at least 247" taken hostage as at 2 November 2023, on the Ministry's own count. Both are early floors that have since been superseded. Neither is a final figure.

The 2026 Knesset law names crimes against the Jewish people

The Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law states in section 1 that the acts are "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes" (unofficial translation). The first of these categories is drawn from Israeli law, and the second and third are categories of international crime. The Knesset passed the law on 11 May 2026. It sets up a special military-court track in Jerusalem to try offences committed in the attack.

Section	What it provides (unofficial translation)
1	Classifies the "hostilities, murder, sexual crimes, abduction and looting" carried out by Hamas and its partners from 7 October 2023 as "crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes"
3(a)	Covers offences committed in the attack between 7 and 10 October 2023, and later offences against people abducted to Gaza, "including the dead"

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Section	What it provides (unofficial translation)
3(b)	Lets the court try offences under any law, including the 1950 genocide law, sections 97 to 99 of the Penal Law and the Counter-Terrorism Law, 2016
11	Treats an unappealed first-instance judgment imposing the death penalty as if an appeal had been filed

Source: Knesset, Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law (Shemini Atzeret Massacre), 5786-2026, Sefer HaChukim 3527, 13 May 2026. The translations from the Hebrew are unofficial.

The classification is the statute's. It is not a court's finding.

Section 3(b) lets prosecutors charge under the 1950 genocide law

Section 3(b) lets the court try offences "including offences under the Crime of Genocide (Prevention and Punishment) Law, 1950" (unofficial translation). The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee stated in its explanatory notes of 5 January 2026 that the wider jurisdiction lets the prosecution indict for the gravest offences, "including the crime of genocide ... according to the circumstances of each case and the evidence gathered" (unofficial). Under the law, genocide is a chargeable offence, decided case by case. It is not a classification of the acts.

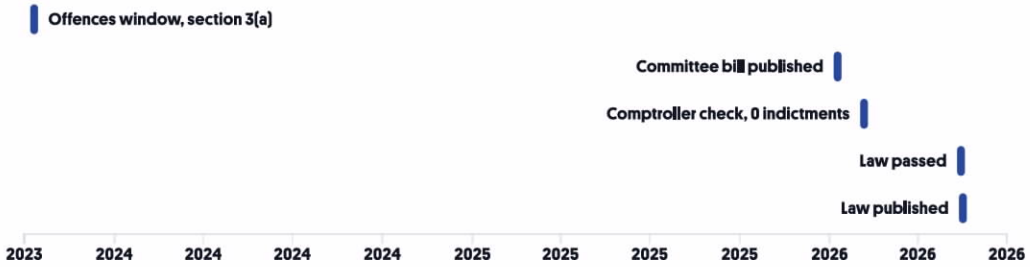
The State Comptroller recorded 0 indictments, as at February 2026, against those suspected of grave crimes in the 7 October attack. That figure comes from the Comptroller's own audit of the State Attorney's Office and other bodies. The report links the 0 to a joint decision of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice not to advance prosecutions while hostages were held. It expects several hundred indictments. The count predates the law.

From the attack window to the 2026 law

THE COMPTROLLER'S CHECK IS DATED FEBRUARY 2026 AND IS PLACED AT THE START OF THAT MONTH.

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Source: Knesset; Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee; State Comptroller of Israel, report 10565. The Comptroller's 0 predates the law.

Israel's Foreign Ministry lists rape among the 7 October violations

The Foreign Ministry's 2023 paper lists "Rape and other acts of sexual violence;" among the 7 October violations. The list is part of the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position. The same list includes "Mutilating and sexually abusing corpses, and booby-trapping corpses;".

On 4 March 2024 the Foreign Ministry issued a response to the report of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The words in that response are the Ministry's own reading of the report, given in its own statement of position:

- Israel "welcomes the definitive recognition that Hamas committed sexual crimes by an official UN representative"
- The crimes "point to a pattern of rape, sexual torture and sexual abuse"
- The report "acknowledges the existence of ongoing sexual crimes against the Israeli women and men being held hostage"
- Israel rejects the report's call to investigate Palestinian claims, and rejects "the recommendation to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council (COI)"

The Ministry's statement gives no case count, no number of victims and no locations.

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Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute, Turkel records

The Turkel Commission recorded in its Second Report of February 2013 that "Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute." The Rome Statute is the treaty that defines war crimes and crimes against humanity for the International Criminal Court. Israel is bound by the Geneva Conventions, which it signed and ratified.

Instrument	Israel's status	Where the report records it
The four 1949 Geneva Conventions	Signed 8 December 1949, ratified 6 July 1951	Printed page 53, footnote 3
The 1977 Additional Protocols	Not a party, but "recognizes their customary provisions"	Printed page 56
The Second Additional Protocol	Not a party, and does not consider it customary international law	Footnote 18
The Rome Statute	Not a party	Footnote 61

Source: Turkel Commission, Second Report, February 2013. The treaty statuses are drawn from Israel's Convention Registry.

The Commission also records that ratification binds Israel internationally without by itself making a treaty's text part of Israel's domestic law.

The 1,400 and the 247 are floors, not final counts

- "Over 1,400" and "at least 247" are the Foreign Ministry's own counts as at 2 November 2023, in its own statement of Israel's legal position. Both are early floors that have since been superseded. They count different things and may not be added together.
- The Knesset law's 3 categories are a statutory classification, not a court finding. Genocide appears in the law only as an offence a court may try.
- The State Comptroller's 0 is dated February 2026. It predates the law of 11 May 2026.

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- Quotations from the law and the bill are unofficial translations from Hebrew.
- The Turkel Commission's treaty statuses date from its February 2013 report.

Questions readers ask

Does Israeli law classify October 7 as genocide?

No. The Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law states that the acts are crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Genocide appears only in section 3(b), as an offence the court may try.

When can genocide be charged under the 2026 law?

The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee stated that genocide charges would follow "according to the circumstances of each case and the evidence gathered" (unofficial translation).

How many indictments had been filed over October 7 by early 2026?

The State Comptroller recorded 0 indictments as at February 2026 against those suspected of grave crimes in the attack. That figure comes from the Comptroller's own audit and predates the law.

Why were no indictments filed before the law?

The State Comptroller recorded a joint decision of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice not to advance prosecutions while hostages were held.

How many October 7 suspects are expected to be charged?

The State Comptroller reported that several hundred indictments are expected. The report gives no exact number.

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Why does the law use a military court?

The Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee stated its reason as "the war-like character of the massacre events, which were part of an organised invasion by thousands of terrorists from the Gaza Strip" (unofficial translation). The wording is the committee's.

Which dates does the 2026 law cover?

The Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law states in section 3(a) that it covers offences committed between 7 and 10 October 2023. It also covers later offences against people abducted to Gaza, "including the dead".

Can the court impose the death penalty?

The Prosecution of the October 7 Massacre Events Law states in section 11 that an unappealed first-instance death sentence is treated as if an appeal had been filed.

Is Israel a member of the International Criminal Court?

The Turkel Commission recorded in 2013 that "Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute," the court's founding treaty.

When did Israel ratify the Geneva Conventions?

The Turkel Commission recorded that Israel signed the four Conventions on 8 December 1949 and ratified them on 6 July 1951.

Is Israel bound by the Additional Protocols?

The Turkel Commission recorded that Israel is not a party to either 1977 Protocol but recognises their customary provisions. The Foreign Ministry stated the same in 2023, in its own statement of Israel's legal position.

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How many people did Israel count as killed and taken hostage in its 2023 paper?

The Foreign Ministry published "over 1,400" killed and "at least 247" taken hostage as at 2 November 2023, on its own count. Both are early floors that have since been superseded.

What did Israel say about the UN report on sexual violence?

The Foreign Ministry stated on 4 March 2024 that Israel "welcomes the definitive recognition that Hamas committed sexual crimes". That wording is the Ministry's own statement of its position on the report.

Did Israel accept the UN report's recommendations?

Not all of them. The Foreign Ministry stated, in its own statement of position, that Israel rejects the report's call to investigate Palestinian claims. It also rejects the recommendation to cooperate with the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

Has Israel Signed the Geneva Conventions? Signed in 1949, Ratified in 1951



RECORD EXPLAINER September 10, 2026

What Did Israel Say Its War Aims Were After October 7?



RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

Why Did Israel Fail to See the October 7 Attack Coming?

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LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

Continue →

MORE FROM THE RECORD

- Does Hamas's Use of Human Shields Change the IDF's Proportionality Test?
- What Is the Jewish National Fund's Role in Israel's Land? It Owns About 12%
- Was Sexual Violence Committed During the October 7 Attacks?
- What Does Israel Say About Iran's Role in October 7?
- Were the October 7 Attacks War Crimes? Israel's 2026 Law Names Three Categories
- Does Israel Trust the Gaza Health Ministry's Casualty Figures?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Does Israel Trust the Gaza Health Ministry's Casualty Figures?

Israel's Foreign Ministry states there is "good cause to be doubtful" about Gaza's casualty figures. Israel's own 2014 count was 2,125 deaths.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Gaza Casualty Figures Foreign Ministry IDF State Comptroller



One of 10 questions Israel's Foreign Ministry answered on the Gaza war in mid-December 2023 concerned civilian casualties, and its answer states that "there is good cause to be doubtful about the casualty figures coming out of Gaza." That is the

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Foreign Ministry's own stated position. The Ministry states that the figures come from "Hamas's Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities". The last Israeli total of Gaza deaths on this page is 2,125 Palestinians killed in 2014, the Foreign Ministry's own count, which the State Comptroller recorded in 2018.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
2,125	Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge, the Foreign Ministry's own count, relayed by the State Comptroller	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2014
About 11,000	Palestinians wounded in the same operation	Palestinian bodies and international organisations, as attributed by the State Comptroller	2014
Over 13,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists it eliminated in Gaza, the IDF's own count and a floor	Israel Defense Forces	7 October 2023 to 29 February 2024
No figure	A total of Gaza deaths, or a civilian count, for the war that began in October 2023	None of the Israeli bodies cited on this page	October 2023 onward

The Foreign Ministry states Gaza's figures come from Hamas authorities

Israel's Foreign Ministry stated in mid-December 2023 that every Gaza casualty statistic, including those the UN reports, comes from Hamas authorities. This is the Foreign Ministry's own stated position, published in English and republished by the IDF under the line "From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs". The Ministry's full sentence reads: "All these statistics, including those reported by the UN and humanitarian agencies, come from Hamas's Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities which cannot be seen as a reliable reference".

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Element	The Foreign Ministry's wording
Its conclusion	"there is good cause to be doubtful about the casualty figures coming out of Gaza"
Which figures it covers	"All these statistics, including those reported by the UN and humanitarian agencies"
Where it says they originate	"Hamas's Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities"
Its assessment of that origin	"cannot be seen as a reliable reference"

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions", as at mid-December 2023.

The same document states, in its answer on proportionality, that "An overall casualty figure does not on its own indicate unlawfulness."

Gaza's figures do not disclose militant deaths, the Foreign Ministry states

The Foreign Ministry states that the Hamas authorities producing Gaza's figures "do not disclose information about militant deaths." It also states: "Nor does Hamas disclose which casualties are the result of its own actions, or the actions of other armed groups, such as failed rocket launches". Both are the Foreign Ministry's own stated position, as at mid-December 2023, on what the totals leave out.

What the Ministry says is not disclosed	The Foreign Ministry's wording
How many of the dead were militants	"do not disclose information about militant deaths"
Deaths resulting from Hamas's own actions	"which casualties are the result of its own actions"
Deaths resulting from other armed groups	"or the actions of other armed groups, such as failed rocket launches"

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Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions", as at mid-December 2023.

The passage describes what the figures do not disclose. It gives no number of militant deaths and no number of deaths from failed rocket launches.

The Ministry says OCHA-cited reports listed women and children above totals

The Foreign Ministry states that reports cited by UN OCHA appeared on some days to list more women and children killed than total fatalities. In the Ministry's words, those reports "raise additional questions of distortion and misrepresentation, including by seeming to claim on certain days that more women and children have been killed than the total number of fatalities listed". This is the Foreign Ministry's own stated position, published in mid-December 2023.

- The reports referred to: those "cited by UN OCHA", in the Ministry's wording.
- The days concerned: "certain days", with no dates given in the document.
- The figures for those days: none given in the document, either for women and children or for total fatalities.

The Ministry's characterisation of the reports is quoted as published. The document does not identify the days or print the figures it refers to.

Israel's Foreign Ministry counted 2,125 Gaza deaths in the 2014 operation

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Israel has published its own Gaza death total before: 2,125 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge in 2014, on figures published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The State Comptroller recorded that count in a March 2018 special report to the Knesset auditing the IDF's conduct under international law. The 2,125 is the Foreign Ministry's own count; the Comptroller relays it and does not measure it.

Figure	What it counts	Attributed to	Period
2,125	Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip, the Foreign Ministry's own count	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2014 operation
About 11,000	Palestinians wounded	Palestinian bodies and international organisations	2014 operation
About 10,300	Houses destroyed outright	Palestinian bodies and international organisations	2014 operation
About 5,800	Houses damaged beyond habitation	Palestinian bodies and international organisations	2014 operation

Source: State Comptroller of Israel, special report on Operation Protective Edge, March 2018, in Hebrew.

The deaths and the wounded come from different bodies in the Comptroller's report, and the report does not combine them.

No Israeli body here publishes its own Gaza death total since 2023

None of the Israeli publications cited on this page gives a total of Gaza deaths, or a civilian count, for the war that began in October 2023. The IDF Spokesperson stated on 29 February 2024 that the IDF had eliminated "over 13,000" people it describes as terrorists in Gaza since the war began. That is the IDF's own count, a floor, and a count of those the IDF classifies as combatants, not of all deaths; it is covered in full in the IDF's count of Hamas fighters killed.

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What a reader might look for	What the Israeli publications here give	Period
People the IDF describes as terrorists eliminated in Gaza	Over 13,000, the IDF's own count	To 29 February 2024
Total Gaza deaths	No figure	October 2023 onward
Civilian deaths in Gaza	No figure	October 2023 onward

No Israeli body cited here publishes the Gaza Ministry of Health's total as its own figure.

Which figures here may not be added or compared?

- The 2,125 is the Foreign Ministry's own count of deaths in the 2014 operation; the about 11,000 wounded come from Palestinian bodies and international organisations. They may not be combined.
- The over 13,000 is the IDF's own count, a floor, of people it describes as terrorists eliminated in Gaza to 29 February 2024. It is not a total of deaths and may not be compared with the 2014 total, which covers a different operation and a different universe.
- The Foreign Ministry's statements on Gaza's figures are its own stated position as at mid-December 2023, quoted as published.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel say UN casualty figures for Gaza come from a separate source?

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No. The Foreign Ministry stated in mid-December 2023 that "All these statistics, including those reported by the UN and humanitarian agencies, come from Hamas's Ministry of Health or other Hamas authorities". That is the Ministry's own stated position.

Do Gaza's casualty figures separate fighters from civilians?

The Foreign Ministry stated that the Hamas authorities producing the figures "do not disclose information about militant deaths." The Ministry, in its own stated position, gives no count of militant deaths in that document.

Does Israel say some Gaza deaths came from failed rocket launches?

The Foreign Ministry stated that Hamas does not disclose "which casualties are the result of its own actions, or the actions of other armed groups, such as failed rocket launches". The Ministry's own document gives no number for such deaths.

On which days did reports list more women and children than total deaths?

The Foreign Ministry stated that reports cited by UN OCHA seemed to do so "on certain days". Its own document names no dates and gives no figures for those days.

Does Israel say a high death toll shows a strike was unlawful?

The Foreign Ministry stated, as its own position, that "An overall casualty figure does not on its own indicate unlawfulness." It

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states that proportionality is assessed "for every individual attack".

Where was the Foreign Ministry's statement on Gaza casualties published?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published it in "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions", which the IDF republished on 15 December 2023 as "From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs". The Ministry answered 10 questions in it.

How many Palestinians did Israel count as killed in Gaza in 2014?

The State Comptroller recorded 2,125 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge, on figures published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is the Foreign Ministry's own count.

How many Palestinians were wounded in Gaza in 2014?

The State Comptroller recorded about 11,000 Palestinians wounded, attributing the figure to Palestinian bodies and international organisations. It is not combined with the Foreign Ministry's death count.

How many homes were destroyed in Gaza in 2014?

The State Comptroller recorded about 10,300 houses destroyed outright and about 5,800 damaged beyond habitation in the 2014 operation. The report attributes both figures to Palestinian bodies and international organisations.

Which Israeli body audited the 2014 Gaza operation?

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The State Comptroller published a special report in March 2018, in Hebrew, auditing the IDF and the political echelon under international law. It reported to the Knesset and relayed the casualty figures rather than measuring them.

How many people does the IDF say it killed in Gaza by February 2024?

The IDF Spokesperson stated on 29 February 2024 that the IDF had eliminated "over 13,000" people it describes as terrorists in Gaza since the war began. That is the IDF's own count, and a floor.

Does the IDF's 13,000 include civilians?

The Israel Defense Forces stated the figure as a count of people it describes as terrorists eliminated, its own classification. It is not a count of all deaths in Gaza.

Has Israel published a civilian death count for the Gaza war since 2023?

None of the Israeli publications cited here gives one. The Foreign Ministry stated its doubts about Gaza's figures in mid-December 2023, and the IDF Spokesperson stated a combatant count, its own, in February 2024; neither gives a civilian total.

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COUNTING COMPARISON September 23, 2026



RECORD EXPLAINER Updated September 23, 2026

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How Many Hamas Fighters Does Israel Say It Has Killed?

Does Israel Publish a Proportionality Assessment for Gaza Strikes?



CHRONOLOGY August 31, 2026

How Long Did Israel Take to Act on the Turkel Report?

Every figure on this page names the body that published it and the period it covers. Where a figure is a party's own count of its own activity, the page says so and states the standard that produced it. See Sources and method.

LATEST

What Was UN Resolution 3379 on Zionism and Racism? Adopted 72 to 35 in 1975

The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3379 by 72 votes to 35 on 10 November 1975. Israel's record of the text, the vote and its reply.

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Were the October 7 Attacks War Crimes? Israel's 2026 Law Names Three Categories

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What Does Israel Say About Iran's Role in October 7?

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