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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Is the Gaza Blockade a War Crime? Israel's Turkel Commission Found the Naval Blockade Lawful

Israel's Turkel Commission found Gaza's naval blockade lawful in 2011 and not collective punishment, and Israel states it has no starvation policy.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS Gaza Naval Blockade Turkel Commission International Humanitarian Law Supreme Court



Israel's naval blockade of Gaza was imposed lawfully and is not "collective punishment", the Turkel Commission found in 3 conclusions at paragraph 112 of its report released in January 2011, as a public commission appointed by Israel's government. The finding covers the naval blockade, not the land crossings. The report does not rule on "war crime" as such. Its one direct treatment of the term is a footnote stating that collective

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punishment is not enumerated as a war crime in Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
3	Conclusions on the naval blockade at paragraph 112: its purpose, its lawfulness, and that it is not collective punishment	Turkel Commission, a public commission appointed by Israel's government	Report released January 2011
Footnote 374	The report's one direct treatment of "war crime", on Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention	Turkel Commission	Report released January 2011
3	Sources the Court names for Israel's obligations to Gaza's residents: the armed conflict, control of the crossings, and dependence on Israeli electricity	Supreme Court sitting as the High Court of Justice	Judgment of 30 January 2008
101,000	Trucks of aid entering Gaza "facilitated by Israel", COGAT's own count as relayed by the Prime Minister's Office	COGAT, in a Prime Minister's Office statement	7 October 2023 to 22 August 2025
2 million	Tons of aid entering Gaza, the same COGAT count in the same statement	COGAT, in a Prime Minister's Office statement	7 October 2023 to 22 August 2025
Over 100,000	Trucks of aid entering Gaza since the start of the war, a floor, in the Ministry's own statement	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As at 22 August 2025

The Turkel Commission found the naval blockade lawful in 2011

The Turkel Commission found the naval blockade lawful and its purpose "primarily a military-security one". It is Israel's own commission, appointed by the government to examine the maritime incident of 31 May 2010. Israel's missions have stated the same position since.

Statement, verbatim	Published by	Date
"The purpose of the naval blockade imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip was primarily a military-security one."	Turkel Commission, conclusions, paragraph 112, page 110	January 2011
"The naval blockade was imposed on the Gaza Strip lawfully, with Israel complying with the conditions for imposing it."	Turkel Commission, same list	January 2011
"The imposition and enforcement of the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip does not constitute 'collective punishment' of the population of the Gaza Strip."	Turkel Commission, same list	January 2011
"The maritime blockade is legal under international law and its enforcement in international waters is also legal."	Embassy of Israel in Norway, Israel's stated position	30 July 2018

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Statement, verbatim	Published by	Date
"The Gaza Strip is not under siege."	Embassy of Israel in Norway, Israel's stated position	30 July 2018

The first three rows are the Commission's findings. The last two are Israel's stated position as its embassy in Oslo published it.

Turkel footnote 374 notes collective punishment is absent from Article 147

The Turkel Commission recorded, in footnote 374 on page 103: "Collective punishment is not enumerated as a war crime in Article 147 of Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War." The footnote then states that it is "unclear" whether an accusation that the naval blockade breaches international law "also implies that this constitutes a war crime." Those are the footnote's own words, and the Commission, Israel's own, goes no further on the term.

Legal term	Where the 2011 report treats it	What the report states
Lawfulness	Conclusions, paragraph 112	Imposed lawfully, with Israel complying with the conditions for imposing it
Collective punishment	Conclusions, paragraph 112	Imposition and enforcement do not constitute it
War crime	Footnote 374, page 103	Collective punishment is not enumerated in Article 147; whether a breach accusation implies a war crime is "unclear"

The Prime Minister's Office states Israel has no starvation policy

"Israel does not have a policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation," the Prime Minister's Office stated on 22 August 2025, the day of the IPC famine determination for Gaza City. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated the same day: "There is no famine in Gaza." Both are Israel's stated position, and the aid figures in them are COGAT's own count of aid it facilitated, relayed rather than published by COGAT in these releases.

Statement or figure	Whose it is	Date
"Israel does not have a policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation."	Prime Minister's Office, Israel's stated position	22 August 2025

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Statement or figure	Whose it is	Date
"101,000 trucks, 2 million tons of aid have entered Gaza facilitated by Israel since October 7 [COGAT, Ministry of Defense]."	COGAT's own count, relayed by the Prime Minister's Office	22 August 2025
"There is no famine in Gaza. Over 100,000 trucks of aid have entered Gaza since the start of the war"	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's stated position; "over 100,000" is a floor	22 August 2025

The Prime Minister's Office statement describes shortages as "temporary". Neither statement carries a count of hunger-related deaths. Israel's stated reasons for the halt on aid in March 2025 have their own record, as does what COGAT counts entering Gaza.

HCJ 9132/07 ties Israel's Gaza duties to the armed conflict

The Supreme Court held on 30 January 2008 that Israel's main obligations toward Gaza's residents "derive from the state of armed conflict that exists between it and the Hamas organization that controls the Gaza Strip". The petition challenged the decision to reduce fuel and electricity supply to Gaza. The holding is the Court's own, not a statement by the government, which was the respondent.

Paragraph 12 names the sources of those obligations, verbatim:

- "the state of armed conflict that exists between it and the Hamas organization that controls the Gaza Strip"
- "the degree of control exercised by the State of Israel over the border crossings between it and the Gaza Strip"
- "the relationship that was created between Israel and the territory of the Gaza Strip after the years of Israeli military rule in the territory, as a result of which the Gaza Strip is currently almost completely dependent upon the supply of electricity from Israel"

The same paragraph states that "the State of Israel does not have a general duty to ensure the welfare of the residents of the Gaza Strip or to maintain public order in the Gaza Strip according to the laws of belligerent occupation in international law." The Court's reasoning on whether Gaza is still occupied has its own record. The disposition, with Justices Hayut and Elon concurring with President Beinisch: "the petition is denied."

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No Israeli body here applies war-crimes law to land crossings

The Turkel Commission's conclusions at paragraph 112 address the naval blockade only. None of the Israeli publications on this page assesses the land crossings under war-crimes law. The Commission, Israel's own, recorded in footnote 61 of its Second Report, February 2013: "Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute."

Publication	What it covers	Land crossings under war-crimes law
Turkel Commission, Part One, January 2011	The naval blockade and its enforcement	Not assessed
Supreme Court, HCJ 9132/07, 30 January 2008	Reduced fuel and electricity supply, and the sources of Israel's obligations	Not assessed
Prime Minister's Office, 22 August 2025	Israel's stated position on starvation, with COGAT's own aid count	Not assessed
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 22 August 2025	Israel's stated position on famine, with its own truck floor	Not assessed
Turkel Commission, Second Report, February 2013	Israel's investigation mechanisms and treaty status	Not assessed; records Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute

The 101,000 and the over 100,000 are separate statements

- The 101,000 trucks and 2 million tons are COGAT's own count of aid "facilitated by Israel" since 7 October 2023, relayed by the Prime Minister's Office on 22 August 2025.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "over 100,000" trucks is a floor in a separate statement of the same date; it is not restated as 100,000 and is not added to or subtracted from COGAT's count.
- The Turkel conclusions are those of a commission Israel's government appointed, and cover the naval blockade only. The report's cover carries January 2010; it was released in January 2011.
- HCJ 9132/07 is dated 30 January 2008, the date of judgment; the 27 January 2008 in its caption is the hearing.
- The Embassy, Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs quotations are Israel's stated positions.

Questions readers ask

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Did the Turkel Commission call the Gaza blockade a war crime?

The Turkel Commission found the naval blockade lawful in January 2011 and did not rule on "war crime" as such. Its footnote 374 states that collective punishment "is not enumerated as a war crime in Article 147" of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Who set up the Turkel Commission?

Israel's government appointed it as a public commission to examine the maritime incident of 31 May 2010. The Turkel Commission published Part One of its report in January 2011 and its Second Report in February 2013.

Does the Turkel finding cover the land crossings into Gaza?

The Turkel Commission published its conclusions at paragraph 112 on the naval blockade only. The land crossings are outside that finding.

Is Israel a party to the Rome Statute?

The Turkel Commission recorded in its 2013 Second Report, footnote 61, that "Israel is not a Party to the Rome Statute."

Has Israel ratified the Fourth Geneva Convention?

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

Does Israel say the Geneva Conventions apply in Gaza?

The Turkel Commission recorded Israel's official position since 1967 that the Conventions "do not apply to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because these were not territories of a 'High Contracting Party'". The same footnote records that in 1971 the Attorney-General declared Israel would comply with the Fourth Convention's "humanitarian provisions", and that the Supreme Court has applied the Fourth Convention as part of its framework.

Is Israel bound by the 1977 Additional Protocols?

The Turkel Commission stated in 2013 that "Israel is not a Party to the Additional Protocols but recognizes their customary

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provisions." It recorded that Israel does not consider the Second Protocol to reflect customary international law.

What does Israel say the naval blockade is for?

The Turkel Commission found in 2011 that its purpose was "primarily a military-security one". The Embassy of Israel in Norway stated on 30 July 2018, as Israel's position, that "The blockade prevents the smuggling of weapons into Gaza".

Does Israel say Gaza is under siege?

The Embassy of Israel in Norway stated on 30 July 2018: "The Gaza Strip is not under siege." That is Israel's stated position.

How much aid does Israel say entered Gaza?

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 22 August 2025 that 101,000 trucks and 2 million tons of aid had entered Gaza "facilitated by Israel" since 7 October 2023. The figures are COGAT's own count, relayed in that statement.

Does Israel publish a count of hunger deaths in Gaza?

The Prime Minister's Office statement of 22 August 2025 carries no count of starvation deaths and describes shortages as "temporary". COGAT's response document of the same date, its own statement, says reliance on UN data "makes independent verification of claims, such as thousands of malnourished children and recent hunger-related deaths, impossible."

What did the Foreign Ministry say about the famine finding?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 22 August 2025: "There is no famine in Gaza." It stated, as its own allegation, that "the IPC changed its own global standard, cutting the 30% threshold to 15% for this report only".

What did the Supreme Court decide on fuel and electricity cuts to Gaza?

The Supreme Court ruled on 30 January 2008, in HCJ 9132/07, that "the petition is denied". Justices Hayut and Elon concurred with President Beinisch.

Does Israel have a general duty for the welfare of Gaza's residents?

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The Supreme Court held in 2008 that Israel "does not have a general duty to ensure the welfare of the residents of the Gaza Strip" under the laws of belligerent occupation. It held that Israel's main obligations derive from the armed conflict, its control of the crossings, and Gaza's dependence on Israeli electricity.

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 29, 2026

Is Gaza Still Occupied After the 2005 Disengagement?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

Why Did Israel Stop Aid Into Gaza in March 2025?



KEY FIGURES August 20, 2026

How Much Aid Has Entered Gaza, and Who Counted It?

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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.

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Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Are There Segregated Roads or Towns in Israel and the West Bank?

Israel's Supreme Court found Route 443 closed to Palestinian vehicles from 2002 and struck the ban in 2009.

LAW AND COURTS Route 443 Supreme Court West Bank Katzir Area A



From 2002 Route 443 in the West Bank was closed to Palestinian vehicles, the Supreme Court of Israel recorded in its judgment of 29 December 2009, which set that absolute ban aside. In Ka'adan, the Supreme Court held on 8 March 2000 that the State could not allocate land to establish the community of Katzir on a basis of discrimination between Jews and non-Jews. The Knesset Research and Information Centre reported on 4 June 2023 that Palestinians need a COGAT permit to enter Israeli localities in the West Bank, under COGAT's own permit classification. Israelis are barred from

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Area A by a 2000 military closure declaration, which the IDF's own Order 2230 of 20 April 2025 enforces.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
2002	Year the ban on Palestinian vehicles on Route 443 "became absolute"	Supreme Court of Israel, HCJ 2150/07	2002 to the judgment of 29 December 2009
About 40,000	Vehicles a day on Route 443, on the security establishment's own data as the Court records it	Supreme Court of Israel, HCJ 2150/07	As at 29 December 2009
5 months	Delay before the ruling setting aside the absolute ban took effect	Supreme Court of Israel, HCJ 2150/07	From 29 December 2009
Majority	Making the order absolute in Ka'adan; Kedmi J alone would have given a declaration only	Supreme Court of Israel, HCJ 6698/95	8 March 2000
8	Areas in COGAT's own classification of permits for entering Israel or Israeli localities in the Area	COGAT document, as reported by the Knesset Research and Information Centre	Updated 13 January 2022; reported 4 June 2023
No total	Permits issued, which COGAT did not supply to the Centre despite repeated requests	Knesset Research and Information Centre	Paper of 4 June 2023
60 to 90 days	Ban on using a vehicle that two or more people used to enter Area A, under the IDF's own Order 2230	Israel Defense Forces	20 April 2025 to 31 December 2027

HCJ 2150/07 found Route 443 closed to Palestinian vehicles since 2002

The High Court of Justice found that from 2002 "the prohibition against travel by Palestinian vehicles on the Road became absolute." It recorded that "as a general rule, only Israeli vehicles travel along the Road." The respondents held that the restrictions were a permitted distinction and not prohibited discrimination.

Point	Wording in the judgment	Where
Start of the absolute ban	"Beginning in 2002 ... the prohibition against travel by Palestinian vehicles on the Road became absolute"	Paragraph 4
Who used the road	"as a general rule, only Israeli vehicles travel along the Road"	Paragraph 4
Daily traffic	"approximately 40,000 vehicles travel each day on Road 443", on the security establishment's own data	Paragraph 4
The respondents' position	"they do not constitute prohibited discrimination; rather, they represent a permitted distinction"	As the judgment records it

Source: Supreme Court of Israel sitting as the High Court of Justice, HCJ 2150/07 Abu Safiyeh v. Minister of Defense, judgment of 29 December 2009, English translation by the Cardozo Israeli Supreme Court Project.

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The Court struck the 443 ban for lack of authority and disproportionality

The Supreme Court ruled by majority on 29 December 2009 that the restrictions "cannot stand in their present format, due to both lack of authority and disproportionality." It set the judgment to take effect 5 months later. The President's opinion addressed the petitioners' comparison with apartheid directly, in the words below.

Point	Wording in the judgment	Where
The holding	The restrictions, "which amount to an absolute ban on travel on the Road by protected persons, cannot stand in their present format"	Paragraph 39
When it took effect	"our judgment will enter into force five months from today"	Paragraph 39
The apartheid comparison	"The comparison drawn by the petitioners between the use of separate roads for security reasons and the apartheid policy ... is not a worthy one."	Paragraph 6, the President
The bench	A majority ruling; one justice would not have issued an absolute order	The judgment

The judgment records nothing about the road's use after the 5 months ran.

Ka'adan barred allocating Katzir land on a Jews-only basis

The Supreme Court held on 8 March 2000 that the State "was not permitted, by law, to allocate state land to the Jewish Agency, for the purpose of establishing the communal settlement of Katzir on the basis of discrimination between Jews and non-Jews." Katzir's cooperative society granted membership only to Jews, and the petitioners were an Arab couple who asked to build a home there. The wider doctrine is set out in what Israeli law says on equality.

- Paragraph 34: "What the State cannot do directly, it cannot do indirectly." The State cannot escape its equality obligation through a third party that discriminates.
- Paragraph 38: "Discrimination does not lose its discriminatory character, even if it is being carried out through the Jewish Agency, and therefore is not permitted to the State."
- Paragraph 31: the Court did "not accept the approach that the values of the State of Israel, as a Jewish state, would justify, on

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the level of a general purpose, discrimination by the State between its citizens, on the basis of religion or nationality."

- Paragraph 40B: "It is incumbent upon the State to consider the petitioners' request ... on the basis of the principle of equality", and to decide "whether it can enable the petitioners, within the framework of the law, to build a house for themselves within the bounds of the Katzir communal settlement."
- The bench: the order was made absolute by majority. Justice Y. Kedmi concurred on equality and would have given a declaration only, holding the judgment "forward-looking".

The remedy was that the State consider the request. The judgment did not order the couple admitted, and paragraph 40B leaves open whether the State can enable it.

Palestinians need a COGAT permit to enter Israeli localities in the Area

The Knesset Research and Information Centre reported on 4 June 2023 that entry into Israel or into Israeli localities in the West Bank, for any purpose, requires a COGAT permit. The permit classes are COGAT's own, set out in its "status of authorizations" document updated 13 January 2022. The Centre recorded that COGAT gave it no total of permits issued; the permit record carries that paper.

COGAT's own 8 permit areas:

- Health
- Legal
- Studies
- Employment
- Economy
- Religious worship
- Senior Palestinian officials
- Population movement for various needs

The rule for Israelis runs the other way. They are barred from Area A by the Declaration regarding Closure of an Area (Prohibition of Entry and Stay) (Israelis) (Area A), 5761-2000, which is military legislation and not a Knesset statute. The IDF's own Order 2230, signed by the commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria, enforces it on the order's stated ground of security and public order; why Israelis cannot enter Area A covers the closure.

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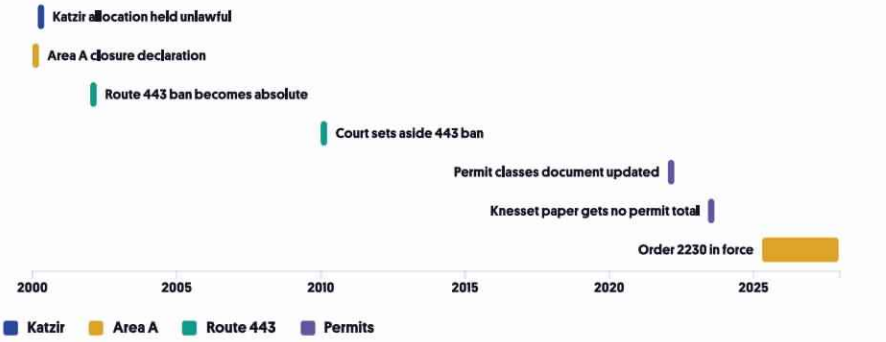
Rule	Who it binds	Instrument	In force
Entry to Israel or Israeli localities in the Area needs a permit	Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza	COGAT's own permit regime, as the Knesset Research and Information Centre reports it	As at 4 June 2023
No entry to or stay in Area A	Israelis	2000 closure declaration, military legislation	Since 2000
Vehicle barred from use for 60 to 90 days where two or more people breached the closure	Vehicle owners	Order 2230, the IDF's own published order	20 April 2025 to 31 December 2027

Israeli instruments on access to roads and towns

DATES AS EACH INSTRUMENT PRINTS THEM; THE AREA A CLOSURE DECLARATION IS DATED BY YEAR ONLY.



Source: Supreme Court of Israel, HCJ 6698/95 (2000) and HCJ 2150/07 (2009); Knesset Research and Information Centre, 4 June 2023, reporting COGAT's own permit classification; Order 2230, the IDF's own published military legislation.

No Israeli body here publishes a count of roads closed to Palestinians

No Israeli body in this record publishes a length or a number of West Bank roads closed to Palestinians. The Route 443 judgment addresses one road and gives no network total. A permit total would have been COGAT's own count of its own permits, and the Knesset Research and Information Centre recorded that COGAT supplied none.

Record	What it covers	Road-length or road-count figure
HCJ 2150/07, Supreme Court of Israel, 2009	Route 443 only	None
Knesset Research and Information Centre, 4 June 2023	Entry permits and arrests, 2018 to 2022	None, and no permit total from COGAT
Order 2230, the IDF's own published order, 2025	Vehicles entering Area A	None

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The 40,000 vehicles a day is the security establishment's own figure

- The 40,000 vehicles a day is the security establishment's own data, as the Supreme Court recorded it in 2009, and it is the only traffic figure on this page.
- Both judgments are quoted from the Cardozo Israeli Supreme Court Project's English translations; the Hebrew texts are authoritative.
- Order 2230 enforces the 2000 Area A closure and does not create it. Both are military legislation issued by the commander in the area, and Order 2230 is the IDF's own published text. It sanctions vehicles and sets no penalty on a person.
- The 8 permit areas are COGAT's own classification, as the Knesset Research and Information Centre reported it on 4 June 2023, before 7 October 2023. Nothing here describes permit policy after that date.
- Each ruling concerns one road or one community, and neither gives a figure for any other.

Questions readers ask

Are there roads in the West Bank that only Israelis use?

The Supreme Court of Israel recorded that on Route 443, from 2002, "as a general rule, only Israeli vehicles travel along the Road." The same judgment, of 29 December 2009, held that the absolute ban on Palestinian vehicles could not stand in its present format.

Is Route 443 still closed to Palestinian vehicles?

The Supreme Court ruled on 29 December 2009 that its judgment would enter into force 5 months later. The judgment does not record what happened on the road afterwards.

What reason did the State give for closing Route 443?

The Supreme Court recorded the respondents' position that the restrictions "are based on relevant considerations" and so "do not constitute prohibited discrimination; rather, they represent a permitted distinction." The President's opinion refers to "the use of separate roads for security reasons."

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Did Israel's Supreme Court compare Route 443 to apartheid?

The Supreme Court's President stated, in paragraph 6, that the petitioners' comparison "between the use of separate roads for security reasons and the apartheid policy ... is not a worthy one."

Was the Route 443 ruling unanimous?

No. The Supreme Court ruled by majority, and one justice would not have issued an absolute order.

Can a community in Israel admit only Jews?

The Supreme Court held on 8 March 2000 that the State was not permitted to allocate state land to the Jewish Agency to establish Katzir "on the basis of discrimination between Jews and non-Jews." Paragraph 34 holds that what the State cannot do directly, it cannot do through a third party.

Did the Ka'adan couple get a home in Katzir?

The Supreme Court held that the State was to consider their request on the principle of equality and decide "whether it can enable" them to build there "within the framework of the law." The judgment did not order them admitted.

Does Israel's status as a Jewish state permit discrimination in land allocation?

The Supreme Court held in paragraph 31 of Ka'adan that it did "not accept the approach that the values of the State of Israel, as a Jewish state, would justify" discrimination by the State between its citizens "on the basis of religion or nationality."

Who dissented in the Katzir case?

Justice Y. Kedmi, alone, and only on remedy: he concurred with the President's approach to equality and would have given a declaration only. The Supreme Court recorded the result as a majority decision against his dissent.

Can Palestinians enter Israeli settlements in the West Bank?

The Knesset Research and Information Centre reported on 4 June 2023 that entry into Israeli localities in the Area, for any purpose, requires a COGAT permit. The permit classes are COGAT's own, in 8 areas from health to religious worship.

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How many entry permits has COGAT issued?

The Knesset Research and Information Centre recorded that, despite repeated requests, it received no answer from COGAT or the National Security Council on the total. COGAT's own count of permits issued does not appear in that paper.

Can Israelis enter Area A?

The Israel Defense Forces issued Order 2230 on 20 April 2025 to enforce the 2000 closure declaration barring Israelis from Area A. The order is the IDF's own published military legislation and gives security and public order as its ground.

What happens to a car used to enter Area A?

The Israel Defense Forces published Order 2230 as its own order: a police officer of inspector rank or above may bar the vehicle's use for 60 days, or 90 days for a repeat within 3 years, where two or more people used it to breach the closure. The licence is taken and the vehicle held at the owner's expense.

Can a vehicle owner challenge an Area A seizure?

The Israel Defense Forces published, in sections 5 and 6 of its own Order 2230, a right to object in writing to an appointed police officer, who has 7 days to answer. The owner or driver may then appeal to the appeals committee under Order 1651.

When does the Area A vehicle order expire?

The Israel Defense Forces issued Order 2230 as a temporary provision in force from 20 April 2025 to 31 December 2027, on the IDF's own stated term.

Does Israel publish how many kilometres of West Bank roads are closed to Palestinians?

No Israeli body in this record publishes one. The Supreme Court ruled on one road, Route 443, and the Knesset Research and Information Centre reported no road figure.

Sources

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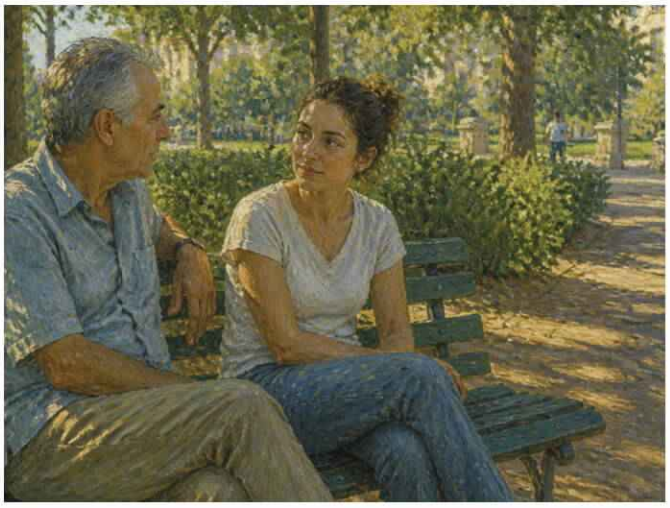
RECORD EXPLAINER August 26, 2026

Does Israeli Law Privilege Jews Over Non-Jews?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

Why Can't Israelis Enter Area A?

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KEY FIGURES September 29, 2026

How Many Palestinians Have Israeli Entry Permits? COGAT Gave the Knesset No Total

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.

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Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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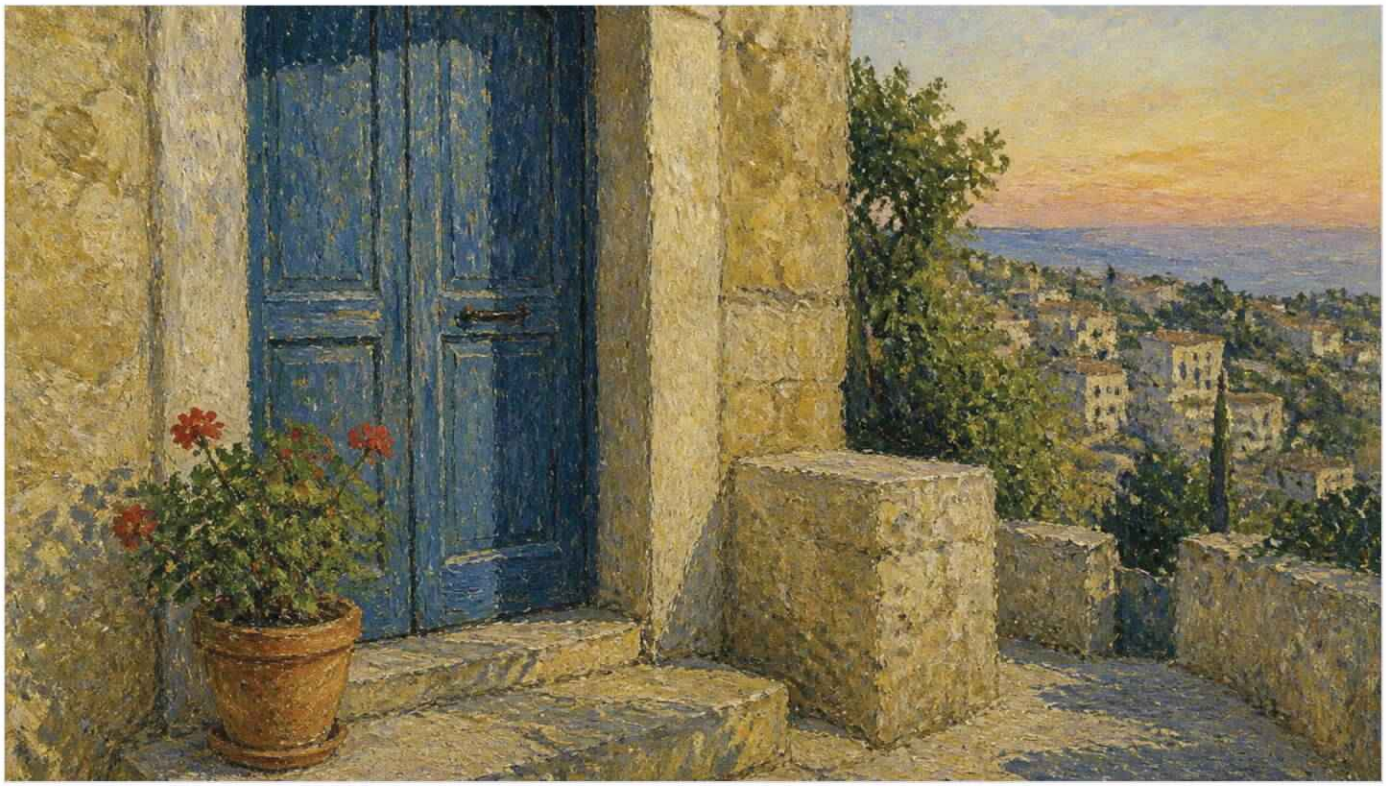
PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

Can Israeli Forces Search Palestinian Homes Without a Warrant?

Section 67 of Order 1651 lets an officer enter and search any place at any time on reason to suspect it is used to harm public peace or security.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY West Bank Military Orders Search and Arrest Basic Law Minors



Section 67 of Order 1651, which the Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area issued in 2009, lets an officer, or a soldier an officer has authorised, enter any place at any time and search it and anyone in it. The power applies where there may be reason to suspect the place is or was used for a purpose harming public peace, the security of the army's forces or public order. The order's text sets out no search-warrant procedure. The only warrants it names are arrest warrants. Where Israel's own law applies, Basic Law: Human Dignity and

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Liberty bars entry into private premises without permission, subject to its limitation clause.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Section 67	Entry "at any time" into any place, vehicle, vessel or aircraft, and search of it and anyone in it, on reason to suspect use for a purpose harming public peace, the forces' security or public order	Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order 1651	2009, text as amended to March 2022
Section 31(a)	Arrest by a soldier "without an arrest warrant", in an older English gloss of the order	Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order 1651	2009, as amended
8 hours	Longest delay of a parent's notice when a minor is arrested for a First Schedule offence	Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order 1651	Text as amended to March 2022
40 days	Ceiling on a minor's continuous detention for one incident	Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order 1651	Text as amended to March 2022
Section 7(b)	Bar on entering a person's private premises without permission, subject to the section 8 limitation clause	Knesset, Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty, unofficial English translation	1992, amendments through 1 May 2022
27 June 1967	Adoption of section 11B, applying the State's law, jurisdiction and administration in areas set by government order	Knesset, Law and Administration Ordinance amendment	1967

Order 1651 section 67 permits entry and search at any time

In Judea and Samaria, the search of a home rests on section 67 of Order 1651. The Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area issued the consolidated order in 2009, and the Hebrew text quoted here is current to amendment 73 of March 2022. The section breaks down into four parts:

- Who acts: an officer, or a soldier an officer has authorised "באופן כללי או באופן מיוחד", generally or specifically.
- When and where: "להיכנס בכל זמן, לכל מקום", to enter at any time any place, and any vehicle, vessel or aircraft.
- On what suspicion: that there may be reason to suspect the place is or was used "לכל מטרה, הפוגעת בשלום הציבור, בבטחון כוחות צה"ל, בקיום הסדר הציבורי", for any purpose harming public peace, the security of the army's forces or public order.
- What follows: a search of the place and of any person in it.

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The English renderings are unofficial, and the Hebrew governs. The order's text sets out no search-warrant procedure. The Hebrew term for a search warrant, צו חיפוש, does not appear in it.

Order 1651 section 31(a) permits arrest without an arrest warrant

Order 1651 uses the words "without an arrest warrant" for arrest, in section 31(a), and not for search. An older English text of the order, which is not the official text, glosses the section this way: "A soldier is authorized to arrest, without an arrest warrant, any person violating the provisions of this order or if there is cause to suspect that he committed an offense under this order."

Where the person arrested is a minor, section 37(b) of the Hebrew text sets the detention periods. Total continuous detention for one incident "לא יעלה על 40 ימים", shall not exceed 40 days.

How long a minor may be held for one incident

ORDER 1651, SECTION 37(B), HEBREW TEXT AS AMENDED TO MARCH 2022.



The ceiling covers continuous detention for one incident.

Source: Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order regarding Security Provisions [Order 1651], section 37(b).

Order 1651 lets a parent's notice of arrest wait 8 hours

When a home entry ends in the arrest of a minor, sections 136 to 136D of Order 1651 set what follows. A parent is told as soon as possible. For a First Schedule offence, notice may wait where it could harm the security of the Area, and it is due once 8 hours pass or the reason lapses, whichever is earlier.

Section	What it provides	Hebrew wording
136	A minor is a person not yet 18	"מי שטרם מלאו לו שמונה עשרה שנים"
136A(a)(1)	A parent is notified of a minor's arrest as soon as possible	"בהקדם האפשרי"
136B	For a First Schedule offence, notice may be delayed where it could harm the Area's security, until 8 hours pass or the reason lapses, whichever is earlier	"לפגוע בביטחון האזור"

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Section	What it provides	Hebrew wording
136C(a)	Before interrogation, the minor is told of the right to consult a lawyer in private	"זכותו להיוועץ בעורך דין ביחידות"
136D(j)	Subsections (b) to (h), on interrogation at a station and audio-visual recording, do not apply to a minor suspected of a security offence	"לא יחולו על חקירת קטין החשוד בביצוע עבירת ביטחון"

Source: Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, Order 1651, Hebrew text as amended to March 2022, including the minors amendments of 2011, 2013 and 2021.

The older English text defines a minor as under 16, so the minors provisions above are quoted from the Hebrew.

Basic Law section 7 bars searching private premises without permission

Where Israel's own law applies, the rule on a home is section 7 of Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. The Knesset labels its English translation of that law unofficial. Section 7(b) reads: "There shall be no entry into the private premises of a person, without his permission." Section 7(c) reads: "No search shall be held on the private premises of a person, upon his body, in his body, or among his private effects."

Both are subject to section 8, the limitation clause. In the Knesset's translation, it permits a violation only "by means of a law that corresponds to the values of the State of Israel, which serves an appropriate purpose, and to an extent that does not exceed what is required". Section 9 makes separate provision for the security forces, by statute or regulation.

In Judea and Samaria the position differs. The State Comptroller of Israel stated in 2016 that Israel holds the Area "by way of belligerent occupation", and that one legal meaning of this is that Israeli law does not apply there. The State Comptroller records that the law in force on 7 June 1967 remains in force subject to the commander's orders, and that powers of government and legislation pass to the commander. That arrangement is the area's military government.

Where the home is	What governs entry and search	Published by
Judea and Samaria	Order 1651, section 67; Israeli law does not apply, on the Comptroller's account [Annual Report 66b, printed p. 74]	Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area; State Comptroller of Israel
Israel	Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty, section 7, subject to sections 8 and 9	Knesset
Area within Jerusalem's limits under the 28 June	Section 11B of the Law and Administration Ordinance, adopted 27 June 1967; Basic	Knesset

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Where the home is	What governs entry and search	Published by
1967 declaration	Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel, section 5	

Section 5 of Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel includes within the city's limits "the whole area described in the addendum to the declaration of the expansion of the limits of the Jerusalem municipality" of 28 June 1967. The Knesset labels that translation unofficial as well.

No Israeli body here publishes a count of home searches

Order 1651 sets the power of entry and search. None of the publications drawn on here counts how often that power is used. The State Comptroller of Israel reports 12,865 cases opened in 2020 in the police district covering Judea and Samaria. That is the district's own count of cases opened for public order, security and property offences, and the audit gives no count of home entries.

Publication	What it counts	Home searches counted
Order 1651, Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area, 2009 as amended	The powers of entry, search and arrest	No count published
State Comptroller of Israel, 2022 follow-up audit of the Samaria and Judea District of the Israel Police	12,865 cases opened in 2020, the district's own count, for public order, security and property offences	No count published
Military Advocate General's Corps, 2024, on alleged misconduct in the Gaza war	74 criminal investigations opened as at 3 August 2024, the Corps' own count under its reasonable-suspicion standard	No count published

Which wording governs, the Hebrew or the English?

The Hebrew governs for both instruments, and the English renderings are aids.

- Order 1651 is quoted from the Hebrew as reproduced by the legal publisher Nevo, current to amendment 73 of March 2022. The English of section 31(a) is an older gloss, and its definition of a minor differs from the Hebrew section 136.
- The Knesset labels its English translation of Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty unofficial. Israeli state bodies render

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section 8 in different English wordings, and the wording quoted here is the Knesset's.

- The 12,865 cases are case openings in one police district in 2020, the district's own count as the State Comptroller reports it. The Comptroller published the report with sections kept confidential. The figure is not a count of home entries or searches.
- The Military Advocate General's Corps' 74 are investigations opened, on its own count, and not findings, indictments or convictions. The Corps states that civilian death or injury in armed conflict "in most cases do not by themselves indicate a reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct".

Questions readers ask

Who can search a Palestinian home in the West Bank?

The Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area issued Order 1651 in 2009. Under its section 67, the power belongs to an officer, or to a soldier an officer has authorised generally or specifically.

Does section 67 limit searches to certain hours?

Section 67 permits entry "בכל זמן", at any time. The section itself states no hours.

Does Order 1651 mention search warrants?

The order sets out no search-warrant procedure. The Hebrew term צו חיפוש does not appear in the text that the Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area issued, and the only warrants the order names are arrest warrants.

Can a soldier arrest someone in the West Bank without a warrant?

Section 31(a) of Order 1651, in an older English gloss, states that "A soldier is authorized to arrest, without an arrest warrant, any person violating the provisions of this order or if there is cause to suspect that he committed an offense under this order." The Hebrew text governs.

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What suspicion does a search under section 67 require?

The Military Commander of the Judea and Samaria Area issued section 67 with this test: there may be reason to suspect the place is or was used for a purpose harming public peace, the security of the army's forces or public order.

At what age does the military order treat someone as a minor?

Section 136 of the Hebrew text defines a minor as a person not yet 18. An older English text of Order 1651 gives under 16.

How long can a minor be held after an arrest in the West Bank?

Section 37(b) of Order 1651 allows up to 15 days on an initial order, with extensions of up to 10 days at a time. Continuous detention for one incident may not exceed 40 days.

When must parents be told that a child has been arrested?

Section 136A(a)(1) of Order 1651 requires notice as soon as possible. Section 136B allows a delay for a First Schedule offence where notice could harm the Area's security, until 8 hours pass or the reason lapses, whichever is earlier.

Is a minor told about a right to a lawyer?

Section 136C(a) of Order 1651 requires that, before interrogation, the minor is told of the right to consult a lawyer in private.

Are interrogations of minors recorded?

Section 136D(j) of Order 1651 states that subsections (b) to (h), on interrogation at a station and audio-visual recording, do not apply to a minor suspected of a security offence.

Does Israeli law apply in the West Bank?

The State Comptroller of Israel stated in 2016 that Israeli law does not apply in Judea and Samaria. The Comptroller added that powers of government and legislation pass to the military commander.

Which rule covers a home search in East Jerusalem?

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Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty states in section 7(b) that there shall be no entry into private premises without permission, subject to section 8. The Knesset adopted section 11B on 27 June 1967, applying the State's law in areas set by government order. Section 5 of Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel includes the area of the 28 June 1967 municipal declaration within the city's limits.

How many West Bank homes have been searched?

None of the publications drawn on here counts searches carried out under section 67. The State Comptroller of Israel reports 12,865 cases opened in 2020 in the police district covering Judea and Samaria, which is the district's own count, and gives no count of home entries.

Does the Military Advocate General count home searches?

The Military Advocate General's Corps opened 74 criminal investigations over the Gaza war as at 3 August 2024. That is its own count, made under a reasonable-suspicion standard, and the publication names no category for home searches.

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- State Comptroller of Israel, 2022. Samaria and Judea District of the Israel Police, Follow-up Audit. State Comptroller Report, May 2022, Chapter Four, p. 321, English abstract. https://library.mevaker.gov.il/sites/DigitalLibrary/Documents/2022/2022.5/EN/2022.5-402-Police-Taktzir-EN.pdf. Official or primary record; the case count is the district's own.

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RECORD EXPLAINER August 26, 2026

Which Law Applies in the West Bank, and to Whom?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

What Are the Border Issues Between Israel and Palestine?

Israel and the PLO left borders to permanent status talks in 1993. The armistice lines, the treaties and Israel's stated positions, quoted from the record.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Borders Oslo Accords Green Line Jerusalem Peace Treaties



On 13 September 1993, Israel and the PLO listed borders among the issues left to permanent status negotiations, in the Declaration of Principles as published by Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Oslo II, signed on 28 September 1995, repeated the list beside Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and security arrangements, and set those talks to open by 4 May 1996. The Camp David statement of 25 July 2000 records that the parties "were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement." None of the instruments below draws a final border between Israel and a Palestinian state.

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
3 April 1949	Israel-Jordan armistice, whose demarcation lines are agreed "without prejudice" to future boundary lines	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own text of an agreement it signed	1949
26 March 1979	Egypt treaty boundary, set "without prejudice to the issue of the status of the Gaza Strip"	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own text	1979
13 September 1993	Declaration of Principles listing borders among permanent status issues	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own text	1993
26 October 1994	Jordan treaty boundary, set without prejudice to territories under Israeli military government from 1967	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own text	1994
4 May 1996	Latest date Oslo II set for opening permanent status talks, as written in 1995	Israel and the PLO, text published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Set in 1995
18 months	Oslo II schedule for three further redeployments after the Council's inauguration, as written	Israel and the PLO, text published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Set in 1995
80 Members	Knesset majority needed to change section 6 of the Basic Law on Jerusalem	Knesset, its own unofficial English translation	Amendment of 2000
25 July 2000	Camp David statement that the parties did not reach an agreement	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own published text	July 2000

The 1993 Declaration of Principles left borders to permanent status talks

The Declaration of Principles states in Article V that permanent status negotiations "shall cover remaining issues, including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbors, and other issues of common interest." The same article provides that their outcome "should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period." The text quoted is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own published copy of an agreement Israel signed.

Oslo II, the 1995 interim agreement between Israel and the PLO, carries the same list into its final clauses.

Oslo II clause	What it provides
Article XXXI(5)	Permanent status talks to begin "as soon as possible, but not later than May 4, 1996," covering Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements and borders

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Oslo II clause	What it provides
Article XXXI(6)	Neither party is deemed to have "renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions"
Article XXXI(7)	"Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations."
Article XXXI(8)	The two sides "view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit"
Article XVII(1)	"Jerusalem, settlements, specified military locations, Palestinian refugees, borders, foreign relations and Israelis" sit outside the Council's jurisdiction

Source: Israel and the PLO, Oslo II, 28 September 1995, in the English text the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes as Israel's own copy, as a party to the agreement.

Israel's instruments touching the border question

1949 TO 2011, BY DATE OF SIGNATURE, ADOPTION OR ISSUE



Source: Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its own published texts; the Knesset, Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel, unofficial translation; Prime Minister's Office statement of 19 May 2011.

The 1949 Armistice Agreement fixed lines without prejudice to borders

The Armistice Agreement states in Article VI(9) that its demarcation lines "are agreed upon by the Parties without prejudice to future territorial settlements or boundary lines or to claims of either Party relating thereto." Article II(2) adds that its provisions were "dictated exclusively by military considerations." These are the lines later called the Green Line, a name the agreement itself does not use.

Article	What it provides
Articles V and VI	Define the Armistice Demarcation Lines between Israel and Jordan
Article VI(9)	The lines are agreed "without prejudice to future territorial settlements or boundary lines"
Article II(2)	No provision prejudices "the rights, claims and positions of either Party hereto in the ultimate peaceful settlement of the Palestine question"

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Source: Israel-Jordan General Armistice Agreement, 3 April 1949, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own published text of an agreement Israel signed, Israel's Foreign Relations, Selected Documents.

Israel's 1979 and 1994 treaties set borders without prejudice to territories

Israel's treaty with Egypt of 26 March 1979 fixes a permanent boundary "without prejudice to the issue of the status of the Gaza Strip." Its treaty with Jordan of 26 October 1994 fixes a permanent boundary "without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967." Both texts are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own published copies of agreements Israel signed.

Treaty	Boundary it sets	What it leaves aside
Egypt, Article II, 1979	"The permanent boundary between Egypt and Israel in [sic] the recognized international boundary between Egypt and the former mandated territory of Palestine"; "The Parties recognize this boundary as inviolable."	"the issue of the status of the Gaza Strip"
Jordan, Article 3, 1994	"the permanent, secure and recognised international boundary between Israel and Jordan"	"the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967"

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel's own published texts of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty and the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty.

In 2011 the Prime Minister called the 1967 lines indefensible

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 19 May 2011 that the 1967 lines "are both indefensible and which would leave major Israeli population centers in Judea and Samaria beyond those lines," and that "the defense of Israel requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River." Both are Israel's own stated position, quoted as the government published it. On Jerusalem, the Knesset's Basic Law, in the Knesset's own unofficial English translation, sets the city's limits by reference to the 1967 municipal expansion and entrenches them.

Position	Words of the text	Published by	Date
The 1967 lines	"both indefensible and which would leave major Israeli population centers in Judea and Samaria beyond those lines"	Prime Minister's Office, Israel's own stated position	19 May 2011
The Jordan River	"the defense of Israel requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River"	Prime Minister's Office, Israel's own stated position	19 May 2011

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Position	Words of the text	Published by	Date
Jerusalem's limits, section 5	Include "the whole area described in the addendum to the declaration of the expansion of the limits of the Jerusalem municipality of 20 Sivan 5727 (June 28, 1967)"	Knesset, unofficial translation	Amended 2000
Transfer of powers, section 6	"No powers concerning the limits of the Jerusalem Municipality area [...] shall be transferred to a foreign political or governing power"	Knesset, unofficial translation	Amended 2000
Changing section 6, section 7	Only "by a Basic law adopted by a majority of eighty Members of the Knesset"	Knesset, unofficial translation	Amended 2000

Changing section 7 itself requires a majority of the Knesset's Members. The Basic Law does not use the words "East Jerusalem"; what Israeli statute says about that area is set out in Israeli law on East Jerusalem. Israel's stated reasons for remaining in the territory are in why Israel says it stays in the West Bank.

No Israeli instrument here defines a final border with a Palestinian state

The Camp David statement records that the parties "were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement." Point 5 of Israel's own account of the summit, published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 July 2000, states that "in the absence of an agreement, these negotiating positions are no longer valid and are rendered null and void." That account publishes no map and does not set out the content of Israel's proposals.

Oslo II divides the West Bank into Areas A, B and C, administrative zones rather than borders. Article XI(3) defines two of them by colours on a map, and the third as the remainder.

Area	Defined in Article XI(3) as	Security under Articles XIII and XVII
Area A	"the populated areas delineated by a red line and shaded in brown on attached map No. 1"	The Council assumes "internal security and public order"
Area B	Populated areas "delineated by a red line and shaded in yellow," plus the hamlets in Appendix 6 to Annex I	Council responsible for public order for Palestinians; Israel holds "the overriding responsibility for security for the purpose of protecting Israelis and confronting the threat of terrorism"
Area C	"areas of the West Bank outside Areas A and B"	Israel, "through its military government," holds authority over areas outside the Council's territorial jurisdiction

Source: Israel and the PLO, Oslo II, 28 September 1995, in the text the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes as Israel's own copy. Oslo II prints no area share for any of the three; the words "per cent" and "percent" appear once in the main Agreement, in Article IX on appointments. Article XII(5) defines "the Settlements" in the West Bank as "the settlements in Area C."

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Every text here is Israel's own published version

- The armistice, the two treaties, the Declaration of Principles, Oslo II and the Camp David texts are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own English texts, published as a party to each; Oslo II and the Declaration bind Israel and the PLO jointly.
- The 2011 statement and Camp David point 5 are Israel's own stated positions, quoted as published.
- The Basic Law is quoted from the Knesset's translation, which the Knesset labels unofficial.
- The 18-month schedule and the 4 May 1996 date are what the 1995 text set; the text cannot be cited for what followed.
- No area share for Area A, B or C can be drawn from Oslo II.

Questions readers ask

Is the Green Line an international border?

The Armistice Agreement states in Article VI(9) that its lines were agreed "without prejudice to future territorial settlements or boundary lines." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published that text as Israel's own copy of the 3 April 1949 agreement, which does not use the name "Green Line".

What does Israel say about returning to the 1967 lines?

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 19 May 2011 that the 1967 lines "are both indefensible and which would leave major Israeli population centers in Judea and Samaria beyond those lines." That is Israel's own stated position.

Who controls Area C of the West Bank?

Oslo II states in Article XVII(4)(a) that Israel, "through its military government," holds authority over areas outside the Council's territorial jurisdiction, which excludes Area C. Article XI(3) says Area C, except for permanent status issues, "will be gradually transferred to Palestinian jurisdiction."

How much of the West Bank is Area C?

Oslo II, in the text the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published, prints no percentage for any area. It defines Areas A and B by red lines

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and shading on map No. 1, and Area C as the rest of the West Bank.

Does Israeli law claim all of Jerusalem as its capital?

The Basic Law states in section 1: "The complete and united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel." The Knesset labels its English translation of the law unofficial.

When did Israeli law begin to apply in East Jerusalem?

The Knesset adopted section 11B of the Law and Administration Ordinance on 27 June 1967, empowering the Government to apply Israeli law by order. The Basic Law states that Jerusalem's limits include the area of the municipal expansion declared on 28 June 1967.

Can the Knesset hand part of Jerusalem to another authority?

The Basic Law states in section 6 that powers over the municipal limits may not be transferred to "a foreign political or governing power." Section 7 allows section 6 to change only by a Basic Law passed by 80 Members of the Knesset.

What border did Israel agree with Egypt?

The Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty states in Article II that the permanent boundary follows the international boundary with the former mandated territory of Palestine, "without prejudice to the issue of the status of the Gaza Strip." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the 26 March 1979 text.

What border did Israel agree with Jordan?

The Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty states in Article 3 that the boundary in Annex I (a) is "the permanent, secure and recognised international boundary between Israel and Jordan." It is set without prejudice to territories under Israeli military government from 1967.

When were final status talks meant to begin?

Oslo II states in Article XXXI(5) that permanent status negotiations would begin "not later than May 4, 1996." That date is the schedule the 1995 text set.

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Did Israel and the Palestinians agree a border at Camp David?

The Camp David statement records that the parties "were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the trilateral statement on 25 July 2000.

Can Israel's Camp David offers be used in later talks?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published Israel's own account, whose point 5 says its positions "are no longer valid and are rendered null and void." It adds that they "cannot be used as the basis for Palestinian demands, claims and opening positions in future negotiations."

What does Israel say about the Jordan Valley?

The Prime Minister's Office stated on 19 May 2011 that "the defense of Israel requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River." That is Israel's own stated position.

How does Oslo II treat settlements?

Oslo II states in Article XII(5) that "the Settlements" in the West Bank means "the settlements in Area C." Article XVII(1) places settlements, with borders and Jerusalem, outside the Council's jurisdiction.

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT September 10, 2026

Does the Palestinian Authority Run Its Own Areas?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

What Does Israeli Law Say About East Jerusalem?

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Why Does Israel Say It Stays in the West Bank?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

What Is the Civilian to Combatant Ratio in Gaza? Israel States Less Than 2 to 1

Israel's Prime Minister's Office stated a ratio of less than 2 to 1 in September 2025. No Israeli body publishes a civilian death count for Gaza.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Gaza Civilian Casualties Israel Defense Forces Prime Minister's Office Casualty Figures



Less than 2 to 1 is the ratio of non-combatant to combatant casualties in Gaza that the Prime Minister's Office published

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on 26 September 2025, in the Prime Minister's speech to the United Nations General Assembly. It is Israel's stated position, given as a bound, with no numerator, denominator or period attached. The Israel Defense Forces counted over 13,000 people it describes as terrorists killed in Gaza by 29 February 2024, on its own count. No Israeli body publishes a count of civilians killed in Gaza in the war that began on 7 October 2023.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Less than 2 to 1	Ratio of non-combatant to combatant casualties in Gaza, Israel's stated position, with no base given	Prime Minister's Office	Stated 26 September 2025
Over 13,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists eliminated in Gaza, the IDF's own count, a floor	Israel Defense Forces	Start of the war to 29 February 2024
About 14,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists killed or arrested, the IDF's own count, the 2 not separated	Israel Defense Forces	9 months of the ground manoeuvre, to 16 July 2024
None published	Civilians killed in Gaza in the war that began on 7 October 2023	No Israeli body	7 October 2023 onward

Israel's Prime Minister put the ratio at less than 2 to 1

The Prime Minister's Office published the ratio in the text of the Prime Minister's address to the General Assembly on 26 September 2025. It is the Prime Minister's Office's own stated position, and the published wording is a bound rather than a single value:

> **"the ratio of non-combatant to combatant casualties is less than 2 to 1 in Gaza. That's an astoundingly low ratio, lower**

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> **than NATO's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, especially when you consider that Gaza is one of the most densely populated urban areas on earth."**

- Ratio stated: less than 2 to 1, non-combatant to combatant
- Term used: "casualties"
- Place: Gaza
- Date stated: 26 September 2025
- Numerator, denominator and period: none given in the statement

The IDF counted over 13,000 it describes as terrorists killed

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 29 February 2024, the 146th day of the war, that it had eliminated over 13,000 people it describes as terrorists in Gaza. That is the IDF's own count of its own operations, written as a floor, and "terrorists" is the IDF's term. Its 9-month summary of 16 July 2024 gives about 14,000, a figure that combines people killed and people arrested.

Figure	What it counts	Period
Over 13,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists eliminated in Gaza	Start of the war to 29 February 2024
About 14,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists killed and arrested together	Day 263 of fighting in Gaza, 16 July 2024
6, over 20 and about 150	Commanders at brigade, battalion and company level among those eliminated	To 16 July 2024

Source: Israel Defense Forces, press briefing of 29 February 2024 and 9-month summary of 16 July 2024. Every row is the IDF's own count of its own operations.

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The Hebrew text of the July summary reads "14,000-כ חיסלו ועצרו מחבלים", killed and arrested about 14,000, and its headline gives the same figure as "נפגעו", hit. Neither text separates the killed from the arrested. The IDF's counts for later periods are set out in how many Hamas fighters Israel says it has killed.

Gaza figures separate no combatants, the Foreign Ministry states

The Foreign Ministry stated that Gaza casualty figures do not disclose militant deaths, in a question-and-answer paper dated 15 December 2023. That is the Foreign Ministry's own stated position on the totals any ratio would be divided against, and the paper gives no alternative total. Its wording, quoted from the paper:

- On where the figures come from: "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 and which do not disclose information about militant deaths."
- On the cause of death: "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".
- On the figures overall: "there is good cause to be doubtful about the casualty figures coming out of Gaza."

Israel's wider position on those totals is set out in whether Israel trusts the Gaza Health Ministry's casualty figures.

No Israeli body publishes its own civilian death count

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No Israeli body publishes a count of civilians killed in Gaza in the war that began on 7 October 2023. The civilian side of the ratio therefore has no Israeli figure, and no Israeli-published ratio can be rebuilt from Israeli counts. Each body that publishes on the subject publishes something else:

- The Israel Defense Forces publishes counts of people it describes as terrorists killed, on its own count of its own operations.
- The Prime Minister's Office stated a ratio, as its own position, with no civilian count behind it.
- The Foreign Ministry stated its doubts about Gaza totals, as its own position, and published no total of its own.

The one Israeli-published Gaza death total in these records is from an earlier war. The Foreign Ministry published a figure of 2,125 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge in 2014, the Foreign Ministry's own count, which the State Comptroller recorded in a 2018 special report. It covers a different war and is not a ratio.

Which Israeli counts may not be divided into a ratio?

None of them. The Israel Defense Forces published counts that overlap in period and differ in definition, one of them includes arrests, and the Prime Minister's Office stated its ratio with no base.

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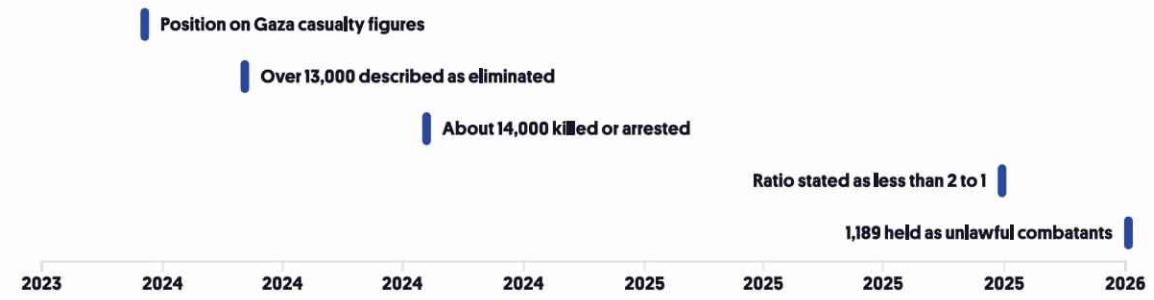
Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Why it cannot be divided
Over 13,000	People the IDF describes as terrorists eliminated, the IDF's own count, to 29 February 2024	Israel Defense Forces	Overlaps the 14,000 in period; may not be summed with it
About 14,000	Killed and arrested together, the IDF's own count, to 16 July 2024	Israel Defense Forces	Not a death count, and not a later reading of the 13,000
Less than 2 to 1	Ratio of non-combatant to combatant casualties, a stated position	Prime Minister's Office	A bound with no numerator, denominator or period
1,189	Gaza residents held as unlawful combatants at the end of December 2025, the Service's own count of its facilities	Israel Prison Service	A detention stock, not a death count

The Israel Prison Service recorded the 1,189 as a month-end stock in its own facilities, under the statutory category of the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law 5762-2002. It counts people held, not people killed, and it covers Prison Service facilities only.

When each Israeli figure was stated

DATE EACH STATEMENT WAS MADE, OR THE DATE A COUNT REFERS TO, 15 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2025.



Source: Foreign Ministry, 15 December 2023; Israel Defense Forces, 29 February and 16 July 2024; Prime Minister's Office, 26 September 2025; Israel Prison Service, end-December 2025 stock. Each is the body's own count or position, and none may be divided by another.

Every figure here is an Israeli body's own count or position

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- The ratio is the Prime Minister's Office's own stated position, a bound with no stated base. No civilian count may be computed from it.
- The 13,000 and the 14,000 are the Israel Defense Forces' own counts of its own operations. "Terrorists" is the IDF's term, the 13,000 is a floor, and the 14,000 includes arrests. They may not be summed.
- The 1,189 is the Israel Prison Service's own month-end count of its facilities, a detention category, not deaths.
- The 2,125 is the Foreign Ministry's own figure for the 2014 operation, relayed by the State Comptroller, and belongs to a different war.

Questions readers ask

Has Israel published a civilian to combatant ratio for Gaza?

Yes. The Prime Minister's Office published a ratio of "less than 2 to 1" non-combatant to combatant casualties in Gaza on 26 September 2025, as Israel's stated position.

Did Israel give the ratio as a single number?

No. The Prime Minister's Office published the wording "less than 2 to 1", a bound, and the speech text states no single value.

Does the ratio refer to deaths or to casualties?

The Prime Minister's Office published the word "casualties". The statement does not define the term further.

What period does the stated ratio cover?

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The Prime Minister's Office stated no period, numerator or denominator for the ratio in the 26 September 2025 speech text.

How many fighters does Israel say it has killed in Gaza?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 29 February 2024 that it had eliminated over 13,000 people it describes as terrorists in Gaza since the start of the war. It is the IDF's own count, and a floor.

Is the IDF's figure of about 14,000 a death count?

No. The Israel Defense Forces published about 14,000 as people it describes as terrorists killed and arrested together, as at 16 July 2024, and the text does not separate the 2 groups.

How many Hamas commanders does the IDF say it has killed?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 16 July 2024, on its own count, that those eliminated included 6 at brigade-commander level, over 20 at battalion-commander level and about 150 at company-commander level.

Does Israel count civilian deaths in Gaza?

No Israeli body publishes a count of civilians killed in Gaza in the war that began on 7 October 2023. The Israel Defense Forces counts people it describes as terrorists killed, on its own count.

Why does Israel not accept Gaza casualty totals?

The Foreign Ministry stated in December 2023 that the figures come from authorities "which do not disclose information about militant deaths", its own stated position.

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

The Foreign Ministry stated, as its own position, 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". It gives no count of such deaths.

Does Israel say a high overall death toll makes its strikes unlawful?

No. The Foreign Ministry stated, as its own position, that "An overall casualty figure does not on its own indicate unlawfulness", and that proportionality "is to be applied to each and every attack independently".

How does Israel compare the ratio with other wars?

The Prime Minister's Office published the comparison as part of its stated position: "lower than NATO's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq". The statement gives no figures for those wars.

How many people from Gaza does Israel hold as unlawful combatants?

The Israel Prison Service recorded 1,189 Gaza residents held as unlawful combatants in its facilities at the end of December 2025, its own count. It is a detention stock, not a death count.

Did Israel publish a death total for the 2014 Gaza war?

Yes. The Foreign Ministry published a figure of 2,125 Palestinians killed during Operation Protective Edge, its own count, which the State Comptroller recorded in its 2018 special report.

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COUNTING COMPARISON September 23, 2026

How Many Hamas Fighters Does Israel Say It Has Killed?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

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



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RECORD EXPLAINER Updated September 23, 2026

Does Israel Publish a Proportionality Assessment for Gaza Strikes?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Did Israel's Peace Offers Resolve Jerusalem, Refugees, Settlements or Security?

Camp David ended on 25 July 2000 without agreement, Israel's Foreign Ministry recorded, and Israel declared its summit positions null and void.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Camp David Peace Process Jerusalem Palestinian Refugees Oslo Accords



4 permanent status issues, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and security arrangements, were left without an agreement when the Camp David summit ended on 25 July 2000, on the trilateral statement published that day by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Israel's own account of the summit, published by the Ministry the same day, names the Palestinian positions on Jerusalem as what "prevented the achievement of an

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agreement." The same account declares Israel's summit positions "null and void." Israel's published record of Camp David sets out no terms on any of the 4 issues.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
13 September 1993	Declaration of Principles signed. Article V defers Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements and borders to permanent status negotiations	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, text of an agreement Israel signed	1993
4 May 1996	Latest start date Oslo II set for permanent status negotiations on the same issues. This is the date the text set, not a record of when talks began	Israel and the PLO, Oslo II Article XXXI[5], in the English text published by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Set on 28 September 1995
25 July 2000	Camp David closes. The trilateral statement Israel joined records the parties "were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement"	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	July 2000 summit
Point 5	Israel's summit positions declared "null and void," in Israel's own account	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	25 July 2000
Point 6	Palestinian positions on Jerusalem named as what "prevented the achievement of an agreement," in Israel's own account	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	25 July 2000
November 2007	Israel's stated position that refugees "could be considered as part of a permanent settlement"	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	November 2007
19 May 2011	Israel's stated position that its defence "requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River"	Prime Minister's Office of Israel	19 May 2011

Camp David ended in July 2000 without bridging the gaps

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the trilateral statement that closed the summit on 25 July 2000. The statement is a joint text that Israel joined, and the Ministry carries it as part of Israel's own record of the outcome. It records that no agreement was reached and names the basis for any future one.

- "While they were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement, their negotiations were unprecedented in both scope and detail."

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- "Both sides agree that negotiations based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the only way to achieve such an agreement."

Neither the trilateral statement nor Israel's own key points, as the Foreign Ministry publishes them, sets out the content of Israel's proposals or any map.

Israel's key points name Jerusalem as what prevented agreement

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published Israel's own account of the summit on 25 July 2000 as a set of key points. Point 6 is Israel's stated position on why the summit ended without agreement. Of the 4 issues, it names Jerusalem.

- Point 2: "Israel came to Camp David with the intention of reaching a Framework Agreement on the Israeli-Palestinian Permanent Status (FAPS) ... Israel is prepared to make painful compromises, yet is unwilling to pay any price demanded of it."
- Point 6: "the positions presented by Palestinian Authority Chairman ... with regard to Jerusalem prevented the achievement of an agreement."

Both points are Israel's position in the Ministry's words, and they are quoted here as that.

Israel declared its 2000 Camp David positions null and void

Point 5 of the key points, Israel's own account published by the Foreign Ministry on 25 July 2000, withdraws the positions Israel presented at the summit. It does not state them.

> **"in the absence of an agreement, these negotiating positions are no longer valid and are rendered null and void. Consequently, the positions presented by Israel during the Summit cannot be used as the basis for Palestinian demands, claims and opening positions in future negotiations."**

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The result, issue by issue, is the table below. The Ministry publishes no map and no territorial figure for its Camp David proposals in these texts.

Issue	What Israel's published Camp David record states
Jerusalem	Israel's own summit position is not published. Point 6 names Palestinian positions on Jerusalem as what "prevented the achievement of an agreement"
Refugees	Israel's summit position is not published. Point 5 declares it void
Settlements	Israel's summit position is not published. Point 5 declares it void
Security arrangements	Israel's summit position is not published. Point 5 declares it void

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "The Conclusion of the Camp David Summit: Key Points," 25 July 2000. This is Israel's own account of the summit.

The 1993 Declaration listed all 4 issues for permanent status

All 4 issues come from the instruments Israel signed. The 1993 Declaration of Principles, in the text the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published, deferred them to permanent status negotiations. The Camp David summit and the rounds after it belonged to those negotiations.

- Declaration of Principles, Article V: permanent status negotiations "shall cover remaining issues, including: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbors, and other issues of common interest."
- Oslo II, Article XXXI(5), signed by Israel and the PLO on 28 September 1995: negotiations "will commence as soon as possible, but not later than May 4, 1996," on the same list.
- Oslo II, Article XVII(1), keeps the same subjects outside the Palestinian Council's jurisdiction: "Jerusalem, settlements, specified military locations, Palestinian refugees, borders, foreign relations and Israelis."
- Oslo II, Article 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."

Israel has stated its own terms on 2 of the 4 issues since then. The Foreign Ministry stated in November 2007, as Israel's own position on refugees, that "the question of refugees, along with other

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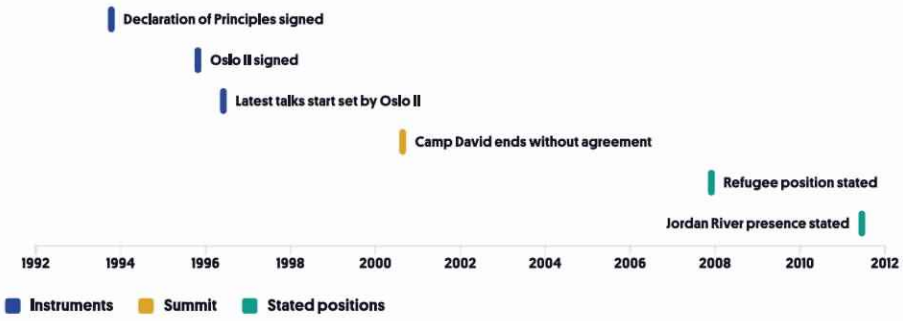
issues, could be considered as part of a permanent settlement between the sides. Israel stands by this commitment." The Ministry's fuller position is set out in the record on a Palestinian right of return. On security, the Prime Minister's Office published Israel's stated position on 19 May 2011 that "the defense of Israel requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River." The same statement called the 1967 lines "indefensible."

Where the 4 issues sit in Israel's record

SIGNED INSTRUMENTS, THE SUMMIT AND STATED POSITIONS, 1993 TO 2011. 4 MAY 1996 IS THE DATE OSLO II SET, NOT A RECORD OF WHEN TALKS BEGAN.



Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs texts of the Declaration of Principles (1993), Oslo II (Israel and the PLO, 1995), the Camp David statement and key points (2000) and its 2007 FAQ; Prime Minister's Office of Israel statement, 19 May 2011.

No Israeli body here publishes the Taba or 2008 offer text

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published Israel's own account of Camp David in July 2000. This record holds no Israeli official text for the rounds that followed it.

- Clinton Parameters, December 2000: no Israeli official text of Israel's response.
- Taba talks, January 2001: no Israeli official text of the positions exchanged.
- Annapolis and the 2007 to 2008 negotiations: no Israeli official text of Israel's proposals.

Point 5 of Israel's own key points concerns "the positions presented by Israel during the Summit." Its wording covers Camp David and does not refer to these later rounds.

Every text here is Israel's own account or one it signed

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The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the Camp David texts. These are the trilateral statement Israel joined and the key points, which are Israel's own account. Point 6 is Israel's characterisation of the other side's positions and is quoted, not adopted. Oslo II is bilateral, between Israel and the PLO, and the text quoted is the English text the Israeli Ministry published. Its 4 May 1996 date is what the text set. The 2007 FAQ states on its own page that a December 2009 version followed, so its wording is dated to November 2007. "Indefensible" is the word used in the Prime Minister's Office statement and stays in quotation marks.

Questions readers ask

When did the Camp David summit end?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the trilateral statement that closed the summit on 25 July 2000. It records that the parties "were not able to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement."

What did Israel offer on Jerusalem at Camp David?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published no text of Israel's Jerusalem proposal. Point 5 of Israel's own key points, dated 25 July 2000, declares the summit positions "null and void."

Why does Israel say Camp David failed?

The Foreign Ministry stated in point 6 of its key points, Israel's own account, that "the positions presented by Palestinian Authority Chairman ... with regard to Jerusalem prevented the achievement of an agreement."

Did Israel publish a map of its Camp David proposal?

The Foreign Ministry published no map with its key points of 25 July 2000. That document is Israel's own account of the summit, and it withdraws Israel's positions without stating them.

Can Israel's Camp David positions be used in later talks?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated Israel's position on this on 25 July 2000. The positions "cannot be used as the basis for

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Palestinian demands, claims and opening positions in future negotiations."

Which agreement listed Jerusalem and refugees for permanent status talks?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the text of the Declaration of Principles, signed on 13 September 1993. Its Article V lists "Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders" among the remaining issues.

When were permanent status talks due to begin?

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the Oslo II text, signed by Israel and the PLO on 28 September 1995. Article XXXI(5) sets the start "not later than May 4, 1996." This is the date the text set, not a record of when the talks began.

Did signing Oslo II mean either side gave up its claims?

The Foreign Ministry published Oslo II Article XXXI(6), which states that neither party "shall be deemed ... to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions." The clause applies to both parties.

What basis for negotiations did the Camp David statement name?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the trilateral statement of 25 July 2000. It names UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as "the only way to achieve such an agreement."

What is Israel's stated position on refugees in a final settlement?

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

What security presence does Israel say it needs?

The Prime Minister's Office published Israel's stated position on 19 May 2011: "the defense of Israel requires an Israeli military

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presence along the Jordan River."

Is there an Israeli official text of the Taba talks?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published Israel's own account of Camp David in July 2000. This record holds no Israeli official text of the January 2001 Taba talks.

What did Israel say in response to the Clinton Parameters?

The Foreign Ministry published Israel's own Camp David key points in July 2000. This record holds no Israeli official text responding to the December 2000 Clinton Parameters.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 16, 2026

Is Israel Obliged to Let Palestinian Refugees Return?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

What Are the Border Issues Between Israel and Palestine?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 9, 2026

What Does Israeli Law Say About East Jerusalem?

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.

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Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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Is Israel Attacking UN Facilities in Gaza? The IDF Records Operations at UNRWA Sites

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Does Israel Have a Right of Self-Defence?

Israel's Foreign Ministry states that since 7 October 2023 Israel faces a continuing armed attack and that its resort to force is necessary and proportionate.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Self-Defence International Law Foreign Ministry Gaza Iran



Since 7 October 2023, Israel has faced "an extensive and grave armed attack, which is continuing", and "Israel's resort to force is necessary ... as well as proportionate", the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in a paper updated to 8 December 2023. The Ministry makes that argument in the alternative. Its primary position is that Israel has been in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas for many years. In August 2025 the Foreign Ministry stated that Israel "would have an inherent right to use armed force to defend itself" against Iran. Each of these is Israel's own stated position.

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
7 October 2023	Date from which the Ministry states Israel faces a continuing armed attack, its own stated position	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Paper updated to 8 December 2023
24 May 2024	Date of a joint statement that Israel acts "based on its right to defend its territory and its citizens"	Israel National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Issued 24 May 2024
28 civilians and 1 off-duty soldier	People killed by Iran's attacks, Israel's own count	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	13 to 24 June 2025
Over 3,300	People wounded by Iran's attacks, Israel's own count, a floor	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	13 to 24 June 2025
30 January 2008	Judgment grounding Israel's Gaza obligations in "the state of armed conflict" with Hamas	Israeli Supreme Court	Judgment date

The Foreign Ministry's 2023 paper calls Israel's resort to force necessary

The Foreign Ministry stated on 8 December 2023 that "should the relevant rules of this body of law be applied to the current hostilities, it is evident that since October 7 Israel is facing an extensive and grave armed attack, which is continuing ... Israel's resort to force is necessary ... as well as proportionate". This is the Foreign Ministry's own stated legal position, published in its Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023 questions paper. The body of law it refers to is the law on resort to force, jus ad bellum.

Element	The Ministry's words	Date
Armed attack	"an extensive and grave armed attack"	Since 7 October 2023
Duration	"which is continuing"	As at 8 December 2023
Necessity	"Israel's resort to force is necessary"	As at 8 December 2023
Proportionality	"as well as proportionate"	As at 8 December 2023

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Frequently Asked Questions, updated to 8 December 2023. The Ministry's own stated position.

The 2023 paper names armed conflict first, self-defence second

The Foreign Ministry stated that suggestions that jus ad bellum applies are "incorrect since, as noted, Israel has been engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas and other armed groups in

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Gaza for many years". Israel's primary position is an ongoing armed conflict, and self-defence is its alternative argument. The paper, the Ministry's own stated position, does not cite Article 51 of the UN Charter by number.

The Israeli Supreme Court held in 2008 that Israel's main obligations toward Gaza's residents "derive from the state of armed conflict that exists between it and the Hamas organization that controls the Gaza Strip". The Court continued that they also derive from Israel's control of the border crossings and from Gaza's dependence on electricity from Israel.

Statement	Who published it	Date	Basis named
Primary position, the Ministry's own	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 December 2023	Ongoing armed conflict "for many years"
Alternative argument, the Ministry's own	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8 December 2023	Necessity and proportionality under jus ad bellum
Court's holding, paragraph 12	Israeli Supreme Court	30 January 2008	"the state of armed conflict" with Hamas

The 2025 Rising Lion paper invokes an inherent right of self-defence

The Foreign Ministry stated in its paper on the Iran-Israel hostilities of 13 to 24 June 2025, published 11 August 2025, that "even if one were to apply the conditions of necessity and proportionality under jus ad bellum to Israel's actions, these conditions would be met, as Israel would have an inherent right to use armed force to defend itself against a threat posed by an imminent armed attack". This is the Ministry's own stated position, and it follows the same order as the Gaza paper: armed conflict first, self-defence in the alternative.

The paper also states: "The Operation was not an act of 'preventive self-defense' and it was not a response solely to an imminent acquisition of nuclear weapon capabilities by a hostile State."

Figure	What it counts	Period
28	Civilians killed by Iran's attacks	13 to 24 June 2025
1	Off-duty soldier killed at home	13 to 24 June 2025
Over 3,300	People wounded, a floor	13 to 24 June 2025

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Operation Rising Lion: Key Factual and Legal Aspects of the Iran-Israel Hostilities, June 13-24, 2025. Every figure is Israel's own count for those twelve days.

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A May 2024 joint statement cites Israel's right to defend citizens

The National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry stated on 24 May 2024 that "Israel is acting based on its right to defend its territory and its citizens, consistent with its moral values and in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law." The statement is Israel's own stated position, issued by the Head of the National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson. It responded to the International Court of Justice order of that day on Rafah, in the genocide case brought by South Africa.

The statement's other commitments, in its own words:

- "Israel has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."
- "Israel will continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for the entry of humanitarian assistance from the Egyptian side of the border, and will prevent terror groups from controlling the passage."

No Israeli court judgment read here rules on Article 51

Israel's self-defence position rests on the Foreign Ministry's and the government's own published statements, not on a domestic judgment or statute. The Supreme Court held in 2008 that Israel's Gaza obligations derive from an armed conflict, and it did not rule on Article 51. No Knesset statute read for this page addresses the right of self-defence. Israel's Article 51 statement to the Security Council in 1967 is set out in the record on the Six-Day War.

Judgment	Date	What it turns on
HCJ 390/79 Dweikat v. Government of Israel, the Elon Moreh case	22 October 1979	Article 52 of the Hague Regulations, on one order of possession
HCJ 9132/07 Al-Bassiouni v. Prime Minister	30 January 2008	"the state of armed conflict" with Hamas

Source: Israeli Supreme Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice; English texts are the Cardozo Israeli Supreme Court Project's unofficial translations.

Court judgments and stated positions
ISRAELI JUDGMENTS AND GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS READ FOR THIS PAGE, 1979 TO 2025

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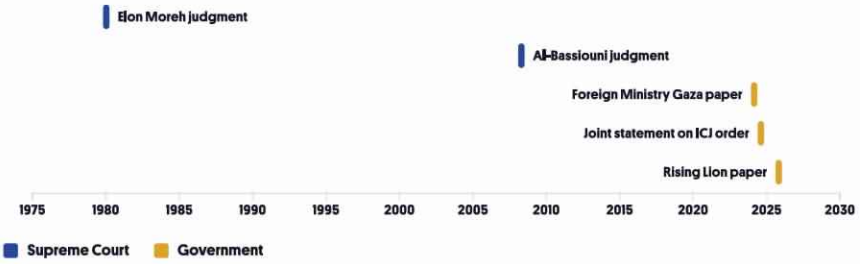

Source: Israeli Supreme Court; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Israel National Security Council. Government entries are Israel's own stated positions.

The only counts here are Israel's own, for June 2025

- The casualty figures are the Foreign Ministry's own count of Iran's attacks, 13 to 24 June 2025.
- "Over 3,300" wounded is a floor and is not restated as an exact number.
- The 2023 and 2025 papers and the May 2024 statement are Israel's own stated legal positions, each dated to its issue.
- The Supreme Court judgments are holdings of the Court, not government statements.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel say it has a right of self-defence?

Yes. The Foreign Ministry stated in August 2025 that Israel "would have an inherent right to use armed force to defend itself" against an imminent armed attack, its own stated position on the Iran hostilities.

Does Israel cite Article 51 of the UN Charter for the Gaza war?

The Foreign Ministry published its December 2023 paper without citing Article 51 by number. Its primary position is an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas.

Which body of law does Israel say governs the Gaza war?

The Foreign Ministry stated that Israel "has been engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza for many years". On the Ministry's own position, that makes the law on resort to force inapplicable.

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Does Israel say its force in Gaza is proportionate?

The Foreign Ministry stated on 8 December 2023 that, if the law on resort to force applied, "Israel's resort to force is necessary ... as well as proportionate". That is its alternative argument.

When does Israel say the armed attack on it began?

The Foreign Ministry states that "since October 7 Israel is facing an extensive and grave armed attack, which is continuing", in its paper updated to 8 December 2023.

Did Israel claim self-defence against Iran in 2025?

The Foreign Ministry stated in its Rising Lion paper, published 11 August 2025, that the necessity and proportionality conditions "would be met". It made that argument in the alternative, as in the Gaza paper.

Does Israel call the Iran operation preventive self-defence?

No. The Foreign Ministry stated that "The Operation was not an act of 'preventive self-defense'", its own stated position.

How many people does Israel say Iran's attacks killed in June 2025?

The Foreign Ministry counts 28 civilians and 1 off-duty soldier killed from 13 to 24 June 2025, Israel's own count for those twelve days.

How many people were wounded in Israel by Iran's attacks?

The Foreign Ministry counts "over 3,300" wounded from 13 to 24 June 2025. The figure is Israel's own and is a floor.

What did Israel say after the ICJ order of 24 May 2024?

The National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry stated that Israel acts "based on its right to defend its territory and its citizens" and "in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law".

Has an Israeli court ruled on Israel's right of self-defence?

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No Israeli Supreme Court judgment read for this page rules on Article 51. The Supreme Court held in 2008 that Israel's Gaza obligations derive from an armed conflict with Hamas.

What did the Supreme Court say about Gaza in 2008?

The Israeli Supreme Court held on 30 January 2008 that Israel's obligations toward Gaza's residents "derive from the state of armed conflict that exists between it and the Hamas organization", and from its control of the crossings and Gaza's dependence on Israeli electricity.

Which law did the Elon Moreh case turn on?

The Israeli Supreme Court ruled on 22 October 1979 under Article 52 of the Hague Regulations, on one order of possession near Nablus. The judgment does not address self-defence.

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https://versa.cardozo.yu.edu/sites/default/files/upload/opinions/Ahmed%20v.%20Prime%20Minister.pd
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TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS View all



PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 16, 2026

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



PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

What Does Israel Argue in the ICJ Genocide Case Over Gaza?



RECORD EXPLAINER August 21, 2026

What Did Israel's Supreme Court Decide in the Elon Moreh Case?

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

What Does Israel Argue in the ICJ Genocide Case Over Gaza?

On 24 May 2024 Israel called South Africa's genocide charges "false, outrageous and morally repugnant". Israel's stated arguments, quoted and dated.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY International Court of Justice Genocide Charge Rafah Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gaza War



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On 24 May 2024, the head of Israel's National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson stated jointly: "The charges of genocide brought by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice in the Hague are false, outrageous and morally repugnant." That is Israel's own stated position in the case, issued the day the Court ordered on Rafah. The same statement grounds Israel's conduct in "its right to defend its territory and its citizens". A December 2023 Foreign Ministry paper states that Israel "is at war with Hamas, not with the people of Gaza."

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
24 May 2024	Date of Israel's joint statement responding to the Court's order of that day in South Africa v. Israel, on Rafah. Israel's own stated position	Head of the National Security Council and spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24 May 2024
27 May 2024	Last update stamp on the page carrying the joint statement	Embassy of Israel in Washington	27 May 2024
4	Sentences from the joint statement quoted on this page: the denial, the self-defence basis, and 2 on Rafah	Head of the National Security Council and spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24 May 2024
10	Questions on the Gaza war answered in the Foreign Ministry's paper, the genocide charge being the 10th. The Ministry's own stated position	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, republished by the IDF	As at mid-December 2023, republished 15 December 2023

Israel's 24 May 2024 statement calls the genocide charges false

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The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the statement on 24 May 2024, in response to the Court's order of that day on Rafah. It is Israel's own stated position, given in the words of 2 of its own bodies. It opens on the denial, and "false, outrageous and morally repugnant" are Israel's words, quoted as issued.

- Issued jointly by the head of the National Security Council and the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Issued on 24 May 2024, the day of the Court's order in South Africa v. Israel on Rafah.
- Opening sentence, verbatim: "The charges of genocide brought by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice in the Hague are false, outrageous and morally repugnant."
- Published in English by the Embassy of Israel in Washington under the title "The decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague", page last updated 27 May 2024.

The 24 May statement cites Israel's right to defend its citizens

The same 24 May 2024 statement, Israel's own stated position, gives the basis on which Israel says it acts. The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated: "Israel is acting based on its right to defend its territory and its citizens, consistent with its moral values and in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law."

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The sentence names a right and the standards Israel states its conduct meets.

Part of the sentence	The statement's wording
The right invoked	"its right to defend its territory and its citizens"
The values invoked	"consistent with its moral values"
The law invoked	"in compliance with international law"
The body of law named	"including international humanitarian law"

Source: joint statement of the head of the National Security Council and the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 24 May 2024. Israel's own stated position, quoted verbatim.

Israel says Rafah operations will not inflict destructive conditions of life

The 24 May 2024 statement gives 2 undertakings on Rafah, one on military action and one on the crossing. Both are Israel's own stated position, set out by the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the same text, and both are quoted in full.

- On military action in Rafah, verbatim: "Israel has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."
- On the Rafah crossing, verbatim: "Israel will continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for the entry of humanitarian

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> assistance from the Egyptian side of the border, and will prevent terror groups from controlling the passage."

Both sentences are Israel's. Neither is the text of the Court's order.

The Foreign Ministry says Israel is at war with Hamas, not Gaza

The Foreign Ministry answers the genocide charge in question 10 of "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions", a December 2023 Foreign Ministry publication that the IDF republished on 15 December 2023. It is the Ministry's own stated legal and factual position, published as a government paper and not filed with the Court. The paper answers 10 questions on the Gaza war, from the war's objectives to the genocide charge.

The Foreign Ministry stated 2 sentences on the charge:

- "The use of the term 'genocide' in relation to Israel's lawful targeting of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations in Gaza empties the term of meaning."
- "Israel is at war with Hamas, not with the people of Gaza."

Both are the Ministry's words, quoted as published.

No Israeli statement read here addresses jurisdiction or admissibility

Neither Israeli text on this page states an objection to the Court's jurisdiction or to the admissibility of South Africa's application.

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Both are Israel's own stated position, published by the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Israel's written submissions to the Court are not among the records on this page.

- Joint statement of the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 24 May 2024: states no objection to jurisdiction or admissibility.
- Foreign Ministry paper, "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions", December 2023: states no objection to jurisdiction or admissibility.
- Israel's written submissions to the Court: not among the records on this page.

Every quotation here is Israel's own stated position

- The 24 May 2024 statement is Israel's own stated position, issued by the head of the National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry spokesperson. It is not the Court's order.
- The Rafah sentence on "conditions of life" is Israel's wording. It may not be read as the order's text.
- The Foreign Ministry paper is the Ministry's own stated position as at mid-December 2023. It predates the 24 May 2024 order and is a government publication, not a court filing.
- "False, outrageous and morally repugnant" and "empties the term of meaning" are Israel's words and are quoted as issued.

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- The issue date of 24 May 2024 is the statement's. The Embassy of Israel in Washington page carries an update stamp of 27 May 2024.

Questions readers ask

Who issued Israel's response to the 24 May 2024 order?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued it jointly on 24 May 2024, through the head of the Council and the Ministry's spokesperson. It is Israel's own stated position on the order.

What words did Israel use for the genocide charges?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that the charges "are false, outrageous and morally repugnant." Those are Israel's words, quoted as issued.

Who brought the case, on Israel's own account?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that the charges of genocide were "brought by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice in the Hague".

On what basis does Israel say it is acting in Gaza?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that Israel "is acting based on its right to

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defend its territory and its citizens". That is Israel's own stated position.

Does Israel say it complies with international humanitarian law?

Yes. The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that Israel acts "in compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law."

What did Israel say about military action in Rafah?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that Israel "has not and will not conduct military actions in the Rafah area which may inflict on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

Did Israel say the Rafah crossing would stay open?

The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on 24 May 2024 that Israel "will continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for the entry of humanitarian assistance from the Egyptian side of the border". The same sentence states that Israel "will prevent terror groups from controlling the passage."

Where does the Foreign Ministry address the genocide charge?

The Foreign Ministry published its answer as question 10 of "The War Against Hamas: Answering Your Most Pressing Questions",

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which the IDF republished on 15 December 2023. It is the Ministry's own stated position.

Does Israel say it is at war with the people of Gaza?

The Foreign Ministry stated in December 2023 that "Israel is at war with Hamas, not with the people of Gaza." That is the Ministry's own stated position, quoted as published.

How does the Foreign Ministry describe Israel's targeting in Gaza?

The Foreign Ministry stated in December 2023 that applying the term genocide to "Israel's lawful targeting of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations in Gaza empties the term of meaning." The wording is the Ministry's own.

Did Israel object to the Court's jurisdiction in these statements?

Neither the joint statement that the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued on 24 May 2024 nor the Foreign Ministry's December 2023 paper states an objection to jurisdiction or admissibility. Israel's written submissions to the Court are not among the records on this page.

Where can the 24 May 2024 statement be read?

The Embassy of Israel in Washington published it under the title "The decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague". The page was last updated on 27 May 2024.

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SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY View all



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RECORD EXPLAINER September 10, 2026

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

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

Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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Is Israel Attacking UN Facilities in Gaza? The IDF Records Operations at UNRWA Sites

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

What Is the Jewish Connection to the Land of Israel?

Israel's 1948 Declaration calls Eretz-Israel the Jewish people's birthplace. In 2024, 7.1 million Jews, 45% of world Jewry, lived in Israel.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY Land of Israel Declaration of Independence Nation-State Law Jewish Population Zionism



Eretz-Israel "was the birthplace of the Jewish people", states the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, which the Provisional Government of Israel issued on 14 May 1948 and 37 members of the People's Council signed. In 2018 the Knesset wrote the connection into constitutional text. Clause 1(a) of the Nation-State Basic Law calls the Land of Israel "the historical homeland of the Jewish People". At the

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beginning of 2024, 7.1 million Jews lived in Israel, 45% of a world Jewish population of 15.7 million, on the Central Bureau of Statistics' count.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
37	Members of the People's Council who signed the Declaration calling Eretz-Israel "the birthplace of the Jewish people"	Provisional Government of Israel	14 May 1948
2018	Year of enactment of clause 1[a], naming the Land of Israel "the historical homeland of the Jewish People"	Knesset	Enacted 2018, unofficial English translation read 23 November 2026
2,000 years	Span of lost Jewish independence that the Ministry's own historical account says was renewed in 1948	Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	File dated November 2010
7.1 million	Jews living in Israel, 45% of a world Jewish population of 15.7 million	Central Bureau of Statistics	Beginning of 2024
5.7 million	Of the 7.1 million, Jews born in Israel; 1.4 million were born abroad	Central Bureau of Statistics	Beginning of 2024
650,000	Jews living in Israel, 6% of a world Jewish population of 11.5 million	Central Bureau of Statistics	Eve of statehood, 1948
449,000	Jews living in Israel, 3% of a world Jewish population of 16.6 million	Central Bureau of Statistics	Eve of World War II, 1939

The 1948 Declaration calls Eretz-Israel the Jewish people's birthplace

The Declaration states the connection in three recitals and one operative clause, as its own assertions. The Provisional Government of Israel published it in Official Gazette Number 1, Tel Aviv, on 14 May 1948. The Hebrew is the original. The English below is the Foreign Ministry's own published translation, read 23 November 2026, and it was not compared word for word with the Knesset's English text.

Passage	Text, Foreign Ministry English translation
Opening recital	"ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books."

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Passage	Text, Foreign Ministry English translation
Exile recital	"After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom."
Right recital	"This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State."
Operative clause	"BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY"

The same recitals carry the chain leading to 14 May 1948: the First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in 1897, the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917, the League of Nations Mandate, and the UN General Assembly resolution of 29 November 1947, whose recognition the Declaration calls "irrevocable".

Clause 1(a) of the 2018 Basic Law names the historical homeland

Clause 1(a) of Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People states: "The Land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish People, in which the State of Israel was established." The Knesset enacted the law in 2018, 70 years after the Declaration. The text below is the Knesset's English translation, which the Knesset labels unofficial, read 23 November 2026.

Clause	Text, Knesset unofficial English translation
1(a)	"The Land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish People, in which the State of Israel was established."
1(b)	"The State of Israel is the nation state of the Jewish People in which it realizes its natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination."
5	The State "shall be open to Jewish immigration, and the ingathering of the exiles."

Clause 1(b) names four strands of the right in one phrase: natural, cultural, religious and historical.

The Foreign Ministry says independence lost 2,000 years earlier was renewed

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The Foreign Ministry states, in its own historical account, Facts About Israel: History, dated 2010, that "The birthplace of the Jewish people is the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael)." The same publication dates the renewal of Jewish independence to 1948 and gives the span of its loss as 2,000 years. The Ministry uses a 2,000-year span twice, for two different things: the history "recorded in the Bible", and the independence "lost 2,000 years earlier".

The Ministry's own wording, quoted from its 2010 account:

- "The birthplace of the Jewish people is the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael). There, a significant part of the nation's long history was enacted, of which the two thousand years are recorded in the Bible; there, its cultural, religious, and national identity was formed; and there, its physical presence has been maintained through the centuries, even after the majority was forced into exile."
- "During the many years of dispersion, the Jewish people never severed nor forgot its bond with the Land. With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jewish independence, lost 2,000 years earlier, was renewed."
- Zionism "is rooted in the continuous longing for and deep attachment to the Land of Israel, which have been an inherent part of Jewish existence in the Diaspora through the centuries."

Israel held 3% of world Jewry in 1939, 45% in 2024

Jews living in Israel numbered 7.1 million at the beginning of 2024, 45% of a world Jewish population of 15.7 million, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported in its Holocaust Day 2025 release. The share was 3% in 1939 and 6% on the eve of statehood in 1948. Each share is a share of that year's world total, and the three totals differ.

Point	World Jewish population	Jews in Israel	Share of that year's world total
Eve of World War II, 1939	16.6 million	449,000	3%
Eve of statehood, 1948	11.5 million	650,000	6%

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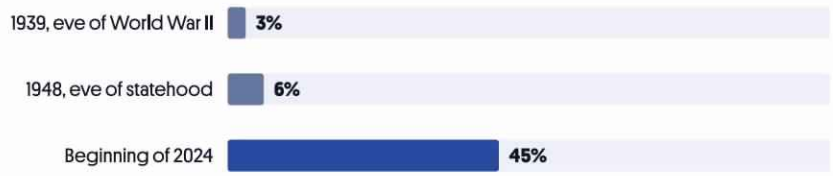
Point	World Jewish population	Jews in Israel	Share of that year's world total
Beginning of 2024	15.7 million	7.1 million	45%

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, On the Occasion of Holocaust Day, 2025.

Share of the world's Jews living in Israel

EACH SHARE IS OF THAT YEAR'S WORLD TOTAL: 16.6 MILLION IN 1939, 11.5 MILLION IN 1948, 15.7 MILLION AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024.



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, On the Occasion of Holocaust Day, 2025. The three shares rest on different world totals and may not be added.

Of the 7.1 million at the beginning of 2024, 1.4 million were born abroad: 1.0 million in Europe or America and 275,000 in Africa. The United States held the next largest Jewish population, 6.3 million, or 40% of the same 15.7 million.

No Israeli official text here dates the connection archaeologically

The three Israeli texts quoted on this page give no archaeological date for ancient Israelite settlement and cite no excavation. They state the connection as founding assertion, enacted text and the Foreign Ministry's own historical account. This page quotes no Israel Antiquities Authority publication.

Text	Date	Form	Archaeological date given
Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel	14 May 1948	Founding text's own recitals	None
Nation-State Basic Law, clause 1[a]	2018	Enacted constitutional text	None
Facts About Israel: History	2010	The Ministry's own historical account	None

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Which figures may not be added together?

The Central Bureau of Statistics published three shares that may not be added or averaged: 3% is of 16.6 million in 1939, 6% of 11.5 million in 1948 and 45% of 15.7 million at the beginning of 2024. For every country except Israel, the release uses a "core" Jewish population definition taken from the American Jewish Year Book 2023. The Declaration's recitals, clause 1(a) and the Foreign Ministry's own 2010 account are statements of the connection, not counts. Both English texts quoted are translations of Hebrew originals, and the Knesset labels its translation unofficial.

Questions readers ask

What does Israel's Declaration of Independence say about the land?

The Provisional Government of Israel issued the Declaration on 14 May 1948, and its opening recital states that Eretz-Israel "was the birthplace of the Jewish people". It adds that there "their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped".

What right does the 1948 Declaration invoke?

The Provisional Government of Israel issued the Declaration "BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY", in the Foreign Ministry's English text.

What does the Declaration say about exile?

The Provisional Government of Israel stated that the people, "After being forcibly exiled from their land", "never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it". That is the founding text's own recital, quoted from the Foreign Ministry's translation.

Does the Declaration mention the Balfour Declaration?

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Yes. The Provisional Government of Israel issued a text whose recitals name the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917, alongside the First Zionist Congress of 1897 and the UN General Assembly resolution of 29 November 1947.

What does the nation-state law say about the Land of Israel?

Clause 1(a), enacted by the Knesset in 2018, states that "The Land of Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish People, in which the State of Israel was established." The Knesset labels its English translation unofficial.

Which kinds of right does the nation-state law name?

Clause 1(b), in the Knesset's unofficial translation, names a "natural, cultural, religious and historical right to self-determination". The Knesset enacted it in 2018 with clause 1(a).

Where does the figure of 2,000 years come from?

The Foreign Ministry states, in its own 2010 account Facts About Israel: History, that "Jewish independence, lost 2,000 years earlier, was renewed" with the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

What does the Foreign Ministry say about the Bible and the land?

The Foreign Ministry states, in its own 2010 historical account, that in the Land of Israel "a significant part of the nation's long history was enacted, of which the two thousand years are recorded in the Bible".

How does the Foreign Ministry describe Zionism?

The Foreign Ministry states that Zionism "is rooted in the continuous longing for and deep attachment to the Land of Israel", in its own account dated 2010.

How many Jews live in Israel?

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The Central Bureau of Statistics counted 7.1 million Jews living in Israel at the beginning of 2024, 45% of a world Jewish population of 15.7 million.

How many Jews lived in Israel when the state was founded?

The Central Bureau of Statistics counted 650,000 Jews in Israel on the eve of statehood in 1948, 6% of a world Jewish population of 11.5 million.

How many Jews in Israel were born there?

The Central Bureau of Statistics counted 5.7 million Israeli-born Jews and 1.4 million born abroad at the beginning of 2024, out of 7.1 million Jews living in Israel.

Which country has the second largest Jewish population?

The Central Bureau of Statistics reported 6.3 million Jews in the United States at the beginning of 2024, 40% of a world Jewish population of 15.7 million, second to Israel's 7.1 million.

What share of the world's Jews lived in Israel before World War II?

The Central Bureau of Statistics reported 449,000 Jews in Israel in 1939, 3% of a world Jewish population of 16.6 million.

Do these Israeli texts give an archaeological date for ancient Israel?

No. The Provisional Government of Israel issued its 1948 Declaration as recitals, the 2018 Basic Law is enacted text, and the Foreign Ministry published its 2010 account as its own history. None of them gives an archaeological date or an excavation record.

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

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What Does Israel's Nation-State Law Actually Say?

What Is the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917?



CHRONOLOGY August 21, 2026

How Many People Have Immigrated to Israel Since 1948?

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Casualties

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE MISSING IN GAZA?

Figures from the Gaza Government Media Office, the Gaza Health Ministry, the ICRC, UN OCHA and UNICEF on missing and separated children in Gaza.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

Missing persons | Children | UNICEF | UN OCHA | ICRC | Gaza Health Ministry



The Gaza Government Media Office said on 14 June 2024 that 3,600 children were missing under the rubble in Gaza. The Gaza Health Ministry said on 10

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November 2023 that it had received 2,700 reports of missing people, among them 1,500 children who were still under the rubble. In a report the Associated Press published on 7 October 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that its list of the missing in Gaza had at least 7,000 cases still unresolved, not including those believed to be under rubble. UN OCHA said in its report of 5 November 2026 that child protection partners identified 20 unaccompanied and separated children in the Gaza Strip between 27 October and 2 November 2026. UNICEF said in November 2024 that there was an estimate of 17,000 unaccompanied and separated children in the Gaza Strip one year into the armed conflict.

How many missing children has the Gaza Government Media Office reported?

The Gaza Government Media Office said in a statement on 8 October 2026, marking three years of the war, that 9,500 missing people remained under the rubble or among the unknown.

The Ministry of Social Development said, in a statement the Gaza Government Media Office published on 5 April 2026, that estimates indicated about 18,000 children in the Gaza Strip were unaccompanied or separated from their families. The ministry said in the same statement that more than 8,100 citizens, among them children and women, were still counted among the missing under the rubble and in the streets.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 14 June 2024, in a list of figures on Gaza's children, that 3,600 children were missing under the rubble.

The Gaza Government Media Office said at its daily press conference on 15 November 2023 that the number of missing had reached 3,640, among them 1,770 children who were still under the rubble.

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How many missing people has the Gaza Health Ministry reported?

In a report the Associated Press published on 7 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that some 6,000 people had been reported by relatives to still be buried under rubble. Zaher al-Wahidi, the Gaza Health Ministry official in charge of data, said in the same report that the ministry had separately received reports from families of some 3,600 others missing, their fate unknown.

At a UN Geneva press briefing on 14 May 2024, World Health Organization spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said that the most comprehensive update on casualty figures by the Ministry of Health specified that some 25,000 victims had been fully identified, while 10,000 remained missing and were yet to be identified.

The Gaza Health Ministry said in a circular to citizens on 7 January 2024, published with a list of the names it had registered, that its list did not count the missing or those trapped under the rubble. The ministry invited the families of the missing to register their relatives who had not been registered.

The Gaza Health Ministry's spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, said on 10 November 2023 that the ministry had received 2,700 reports of missing people, among them 1,500 children who were still under the rubble.

The Gaza Health Ministry's spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, said on 18 October 2023 that the ministry had received about 1,300 reports of missing people under the rubble, among them 600 children.

What has the ICRC said about people missing in Gaza?

The Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded in 1870. Its work includes restoring family links and searching for and identifying missing persons.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross said in an article on 30 August 2026 that "in Gaza, thousands of families are waiting for news of missing loved ones, some for nearly three years." The ICRC said in the same article that "forensic capacity in Gaza remains severely limited, and DNA testing facilities do not currently exist."

The ICRC said in the article of 30 August 2026 that under international humanitarian law, "each party to an armed conflict has the obligation to take all feasible measures to account for persons reported missing as a result of armed conflict and must provide their family members with any information it has on their fate."

In a report the Associated Press published on 7 October 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross's chief spokesman, Christian Cardon, said that its list of the missing in Gaza had at least 7,000 cases still unresolved, not including those believed to be under rubble.

How many separated children has UN OCHA reported in Gaza?

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

UN OCHA said in its report of 5 November 2026 that between 27 October and 2 November 2026, child protection partners in the Gaza Strip identified 196 new child protection cases, including 17 injured children and 20 unaccompanied and separated children.

UN OCHA said in its report of 25 September 2026 that between 14 and 20 September 2026, 29 unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk in the Gaza Strip were identified, registered and enrolled in alternative

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care and protection services. UN OCHA said in the same report that one child was reunified with a parent or family member in that week.

UN OCHA said in its report of 14 August 2026 that between 3 and 9 August 2026, 230 new high-risk child protection cases in the Gaza Strip were identified, including 28 unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk who were registered for alternative care services.

How many unaccompanied or separated children has UNICEF estimated in Gaza?

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

UNICEF said in its situation report of 8 August 2026 that from 1 January to 30 June 2026, 146 children in the Gaza Strip benefited from family reunification services, and 843 children without parental care benefited from emergency, family and community-based alternative care arrangements.

UNICEF said in November 2024 that there was an estimate of 17,000 unaccompanied and separated children in the Gaza Strip one year into the armed conflict. UNICEF says that "unaccompanied children are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so." UNICEF said in the same brief that identifying, registering and reunifying separated children had been "severely challenged by the lack of access, security constraints and continuous population movements."

UNICEF State of Palestine Chief of Communication Jonathan Crickx said at a press briefing in Geneva on 2 February 2024: "UNICEF estimates that at least 17,000 children in the Gaza Strip are unaccompanied or separated." UNICEF said in the same briefing that this corresponded to 1% of the overall displaced population, 1.7 million people. Crickx said: "Of course, this is an estimation since

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it is nearly impossible to gather and verify information under the current security and humanitarian conditions."

What figures have been given for missing children in Gaza?

The Gaza Government Media Office, the Ministry of Social Development, the Gaza Health Ministry, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN OCHA and UNICEF each gave figures for people or children missing in Gaza, or for unaccompanied or separated children, each in its own words and for the period it stated.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
9,500	Gaza Government Media Office	8 October 2026	missing people remain under the rubble or among the unknown	not stated
about 18,000	Ministry of Social Development	5 April 2026	estimates indicated children unaccompanied or separated from their families	not stated
more than 8,100	Ministry of Social Development	5 April 2026	citizens, among them children and women, counted among the missing	not stated
3,600	Gaza Government Media Office	14 June 2024	children missing under the rubble	not stated
3,640	Gaza Government Media Office	15 November 2023	the number of missing	not stated
1,770	Gaza Government Media Office	15 November 2023	children still under the rubble, among the missing	not stated

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
some 6,000	Gaza Health Ministry	7 October 2025	people reported by relatives to still be buried under rubble	not stated
some 3,600	Gaza Health Ministry	7 October 2025	others missing reported by families, their fate unknown	not stated
10,000	World Health Organization	14 May 2024	remained missing and were yet to be identified, per the Ministry of Health	not stated
2,700	Gaza Health Ministry	10 November 2023	reports of missing people	not stated
1,500	Gaza Health Ministry	10 November 2023	children still under the rubble, among the reports	not stated
about 1,300	Gaza Health Ministry	18 October 2023	reports of missing people under the rubble	not stated
600	Gaza Health Ministry	18 October 2023	children, among the reports	not stated
at least 7,000	International Committee of the Red Cross	7 October 2025	cases still unresolved, not including those believed to be under rubble	not stated
20	UN OCHA	5 November 2026	unaccompanied and separated children identified	27 October to 2 November 2026
29	UN OCHA	25 September 2026	unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk identified, registered and enrolled	14 to 20 September 2026
28	UN OCHA	14 August 2026	unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk registered for alternative care services	3 to 9 August 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
146	UNICEF	8 August 2026	children benefited from family reunification services	1 January to 30 June 2026
843	UNICEF	8 August 2026	children without parental care benefited from alternative care arrangements	1 January to 30 June 2026
17,000	UNICEF	November 2024	an estimate of unaccompanied and separated children	one year into the armed conflict
at least 17,000	UNICEF	2 February 2024	children estimated to be unaccompanied or separated	not stated

Frequently asked questions

What does UNICEF mean by an unaccompanied child in Gaza?

UNICEF says that unaccompanied children are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. UNICEF said in November 2024 that there was an estimate of 17,000 unaccompanied and separated children in the Gaza Strip one year into the armed conflict.

Does the Gaza Health Ministry count the missing among its dead?

The Gaza Health Ministry said in a circular to citizens on 7 January 2024, published with a list of the names it had registered, that its list did not count the missing or those trapped under the rubble.

How many people are reported to be under the rubble in Gaza?

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In a report the Associated Press published on 7 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that some 6,000 people had been reported by relatives to still be buried under rubble. The Gaza Government Media Office said on 8 October 2026 that 9,500 missing people remained under the rubble or among the unknown.

How many missing children did the Gaza Health Ministry report in October 2023?

The Gaza Health Ministry's spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, said on 18 October 2023 that the ministry had received about 1,300 reports of missing people under the rubble in Gaza, among them 600 children.

How many missing cases does the Red Cross have for Gaza?

In a report the Associated Press published on 7 October 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross's chief spokesman, Christian Cardon, said that its list of the missing in Gaza had at least 7,000 cases still unresolved, not including those believed to be under rubble.

Can DNA testing be done in Gaza to identify the missing?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said in an article on 30 August 2026 that "forensic capacity in Gaza remains severely limited, and DNA testing facilities do not currently exist."

How many children were reunited with their families in Gaza in 2026?

UNICEF said in its situation report of 8 August 2026 that from 1 January to 30 June 2026, 146 children in the Gaza Strip benefited from family reunification services. UN OCHA said in its report of 25 September 2026 that one child in the

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Gaza Strip was reunified with a parent or family member between 14 and 20 September 2026.

How many children in Gaza are separated from their families, according to Gaza's ministries?

The Ministry of Social Development said, in a statement the Gaza Government Media Office published on 5 April 2026, that estimates indicated about 18,000 children in the Gaza Strip were unaccompanied or separated from their families.

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Casualties

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Casualties

Who has said what about the reliability of Gaza's death toll?

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY National Security Concept State Comptroller National Security Council Security Cabinet October 7



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No fewer than 6 attempts to formulate and ratify a national security concept have been made, and none has ever been approved by the State Security Cabinet or the government, the State Comptroller of Israel found in a report released on 11 November 2025. The Comptroller found that the most recent draft, begun by the Prime Minister in 2017 to 2018, was never completed or approved. It also found that no head of the National Security Council since 2008 submitted an updated concept to the Security Cabinet. These are the Comptroller's own findings as the state audit body, quoted from its English release.

Figure	What it counts	Period
No fewer than 6	Attempts to formulate and ratify a national security concept, a floor	Over the years, as at 11 November 2025
0	Concepts approved by the State Security Cabinet or the government	Same
2017 to 2018	Years the Prime Minister initiated a draft that was not completed or approved	2017 to 2018
2008	Year the National Security Council Law was enacted; no Council head since submitted an updated concept	2008 to November 2025
Roughly 60	Issues in the October 7 audit the Comptroller announced	From 7 January 2024
Approximately 200	Audit managers examining those issues	As at November 2025
Approximately 15 months	Delay to those audits caused by an interim order, since lifted	Before November 2025
11	Earlier Swords of Iron reports, all on civilian matters	11 February 2025 to 4 November 2025

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Source: State Comptroller of Israel, newsroom release on the absence of a national security concept, 11 November 2025.

The State Comptroller counts 6 attempts, none ever approved

The State Comptroller of Israel recorded that "over the years, there have been no fewer than six attempts to formulate and ratify a national security concept; however, no such concept has ever received approval from the State Security Cabinet or the government." The 6 is a floor, in the Comptroller's own words "no fewer than". It is the Comptroller's own finding about the government, not a count the government published.

- Attempts to formulate and ratify a concept: no fewer than 6
- Concepts approved by the State Security Cabinet: none
- Concepts approved by the government: none
- Date of the finding: 11 November 2025

The Prime Minister's 2017 to 2018 draft was never approved

The State Comptroller found that the Prime Minister, who initiated the drafting of a concept in 2017 to 2018, "did not complete this undertaking and failed to secure the approval of an official national security concept." The Comptroller added: "In this regard, he did not fulfill his responsibilities, resulting in his concept remaining unimplemented and lacking binding validity."

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- Initiated by: the Prime Minister, on the Comptroller's own finding
- Drafting began: 2017 to 2018
- Completed: no
- Approved as an official concept: no
- Status the Comptroller records: unimplemented, without binding validity

These are the Comptroller's findings at the political level, quoted from its English release of 11 November 2025.

No National Security Council head since 2008 submitted an updated concept

The State Comptroller found that no head of the National Security Council since 2008 submitted an updated security concept to the State Security Cabinet. In the Comptroller's words, "even those who served as heads of the National Security Council since 2008, the year the National Security Council Law was enacted, did not submit an updated security concept for consideration and decision by the State Security Cabinet." The Comptroller dates this finding from the year the law was enacted, on its own audit.

The national security concept in the Comptroller's report
DATES AS STATED IN THE STATE COMPTROLLER'S RELEASE OF 11 NOVEMBER 2025.

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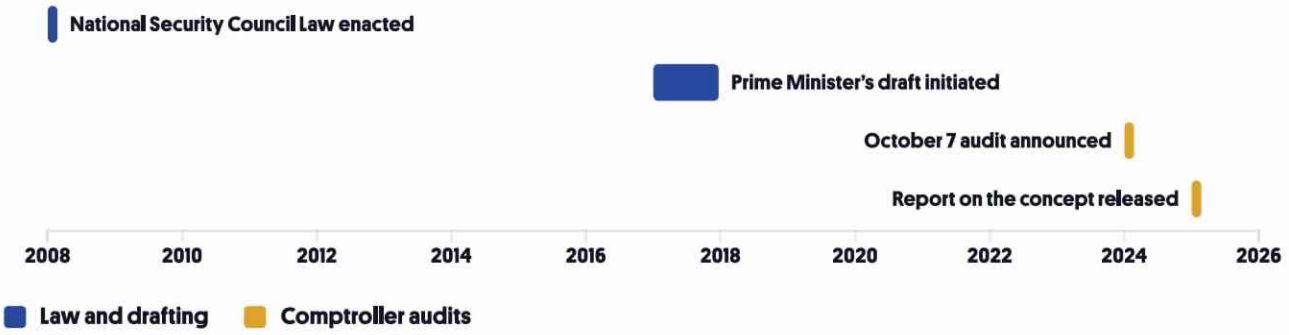

Source: State Comptroller of Israel, newsroom release, 11 November 2025. Findings are the Comptroller's own.

The report is no substitute for a full October 7 audit

The State Comptroller stated that this report "is not a substitute for a comprehensive audit aimed at identifying deficiencies or holding accountable any bodies or officials involved in the events of October 7." The core audits of the conduct of the IDF and the Israel Security Agency were still under way on 11 November 2025. A separate record covers why Israel did not see the October 7 attack coming.

Item	What the release records	Date or period
October 7 audit	Roughly 60 issues	Announced 7 January 2024
Audit staff	Approximately 200 audit managers	As at November 2025
Interim order	Delay of approximately 15 months, order since lifted	Lifted weeks before 11 November 2025
Earlier Swords of Iron reports	11, all on civilian matters	11 February 2025 to 4 November 2025

Source: State Comptroller of Israel, newsroom release, 11 November 2025.

These are the Comptroller's own counts of its own audit work, and the 60, the 200 and the 15 months are approximations as the

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release states them. The release names the IDF and the Israel Security Agency as parties to the agreements that lifted the interim order, not as sources of any figure. The 11 earlier reports covered mental health, resilience centres, community emergency teams, aid to victims of hostile activity, western Negev rehabilitation, the northern civil-economic front, small businesses, the civilian sphere, Eilat tourism, agriculture, and economic and budgetary aspects.

No Israeli text here records a Cabinet vote on any draft

The State Comptroller records that no national security concept "has ever received approval from the State Security Cabinet or the government." The Comptroller's English release publishes no Cabinet decision, no recorded vote and no draft text for any of the 6 attempts. It does not record a draft being put to the Security Cabinet and rejected.

- Cabinet or government decision on any draft: none in the release
- Recorded vote on any draft: none in the release
- Published text of any draft: none in the release
- Reason for non-approval stated by the Cabinet: none in the release

The absence is the Comptroller's own record of the government's process. The full report is published in Hebrew; these absences are of the English release.

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Every figure here is the State Comptroller's own

- Every figure comes from the State Comptroller's English release of 11 November 2025, a finding of the state audit body about the government and the IDF, not a count by either.
- The 6 is a floor and may not be restated as an exact number of attempts.
- The 60 issues, 200 audit managers and 15 months are the Comptroller's approximations.
- The release numbers itself two different ways within its own text, so it is cited by its date, not by an ordinal.
- This report is not the Comptroller's audit of the October 7 attack, which was still under way at that date.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel have an approved national security concept?

The State Comptroller found in November 2025 that no national security concept has ever received approval from the State Security Cabinet or the government.

How many times has Israel tried to write one?

The State Comptroller recorded "no fewer than six attempts" to formulate and ratify a concept. The figure is a floor.

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When was the most recent draft written?

The State Comptroller found that the Prime Minister initiated drafting in 2017 to 2018 and "did not complete this undertaking."

What status does the Comptroller give the 2017 to 2018 draft?

The State Comptroller found the concept remained "unimplemented and lacking binding validity."

When was the National Security Council Law passed?

The State Comptroller stated the law was enacted in 2008. It found that no head of the Council since then submitted an updated concept to the Security Cabinet.

Which bodies does the Comptroller say never approved a concept?

The State Comptroller named the State Security Cabinet and the government, on its own audit finding.

Does the report assign responsibility for October 7?

The State Comptroller stated the report "is not a substitute for a comprehensive audit aimed at identifying deficiencies or holding accountable any bodies or officials involved in the events of October 7."

How many October 7 issues is the Comptroller auditing?

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The State Comptroller announced on 7 January 2024 an audit of roughly 60 issues, examined by approximately 200 audit managers as at November 2025.

Why were the October 7 audits delayed?

The State Comptroller stated that an interim order delayed them by approximately 15 months. On the Comptroller's own account, the order was lifted after agreements between its office, the IDF and the Israel Security Agency.

What did the earlier Swords of Iron reports cover?

The State Comptroller published 11 earlier reports from 11 February 2025 to 4 November 2025, all on civilian matters, from mental health to agriculture.

When was the report on the national security concept released?

The State Comptroller published its English release on 11 November 2025.

Has the Security Cabinet published a vote on any draft?

The State Comptroller records no Cabinet vote, decision or draft text for any attempt in its English release.

Is the full report available in English?

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The State Comptroller published an English newsroom release. The report itself is in Hebrew.

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

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

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Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Is Israel Attacking UN Facilities in Gaza? The IDF Records Operations at UNRWA Sites

The IDF published its own accounts of a 7 June 2024 strike at an UNRWA school and a July 2024 operation inside UNRWA's Gaza City headquarters.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS UNRWA Gaza Israel Defense Forces UN Facilities Laws of War



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On 7 June 2024 and 12 July 2024, the Israel Defense Forces published its own accounts of two operations at UNRWA premises in Gaza. The first was an Air Force strike on Hamas operatives in the grounds of an UNRWA school in Shati. The second was close-quarters combat inside the UNRWA headquarters compound in Gaza City. In both releases the IDF gives intelligence on Hamas use of the site as its reason, and no Israeli body publishes a total of UN facilities struck in Gaza.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Strike at the 'Asmaa' school, Shati	An Air Force strike on Hamas operatives "operating from a container inside the grounds" of a school run by the UN agency for Palestine refugees, on the IDF's own account	Israel Defense Forces	7 June 2024
Operation at the Gaza City headquarters	Close-quarters combat at the agency's Gaza City headquarters compound, begun on intelligence the IDF cites, on its own account	Israel Defense Forces	Release of 12 July 2024, operation begun "earlier this week"
18 metres	Depth Israel gives for a Hamas server farm under the agency's headquarters, Israel's own intelligence account	Government of Israel	Undated page, linked paper filed as of 28 April 2025
At least 1,462	Employees of the agency in Gaza whom Israel identifies as members of Hamas or other designated organisations; a floor, and a count of staff, not facilities	Government of Israel	Same page
12%	The share those 1,462 form of 12,521 agency employees in Gaza, on Israel's own count	Government of Israel	Same page

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
No total	UN installations struck, damaged or operated in, or UN personnel killed	No Israeli body in this record	Not published

The IDF records operations at UNRWA premises in June and July 2024

The Israel Defense Forces published two dated accounts of its own operations at UNRWA premises in Gaza. Each states intelligence on Hamas use of the site as the basis for the operation.

Release	Site	What the IDF states it did	Reason the IDF gives
7 June 2024	'Asmaa' UNRWA school, Shati	The Air Force "targeted Hamas terrorists operating from a container inside the grounds"	"Hamas terrorists carried out terror attacks from the U.N. school premises while using it as a shield for their terror activities"
12 July 2024	UNRWA headquarters, Gaza City	Troops "engaged in close-quarters combat with terrorist cells that had fortified themselves inside the UNRWA compound"	"intelligence indicating that Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and infrastructure were embedded inside the UNRWA Headquarters in Gaza City"

Source: Israel Defense Forces, releases of 7 June 2024 and 12 July 2024, the IDF's own accounts of its own operations.

The Israel Defense Forces stated in the June release that "Prior to the strike, many steps were taken to mitigate civilian harm." The July release also describes the site as "a compound previously used by UNRWA". Neither release gives a casualty figure. The IDF publishes a dedicated section of releases on UNRWA premises, and these two are dated accounts, not a count of its operations at UN sites.

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A Hamas server farm lay 18 metres under UNRWA's headquarters, Israel states

The Government of Israel states that a Hamas server farm lay 18 metres underneath UNRWA's headquarters and served as Hamas's intelligence command centre. This is Israel's own intelligence account, on an undated government page whose linked paper is filed as of 28 April 2025, and it is the reason Israel publishes for operating at UNRWA premises.

The Government of Israel published these statements on that page, verbatim:

- "The tunnel included a central server farm lying 18 meters underneath UNRWA's headquarters and serving as the intelligence command center of Hamas."
- "It was connected directly to UNRWA's electricity supply."
- "The intelligence gathered on Hamas strongly indicates that it systematically uses UNRWA's vehicles, warehouses, apartments, and even the agency's headquarters, as headquarters, accommodation complexes, and weapons depots."

Each line is the government's statement and its intelligence claim, quoted as published.

The Foreign Ministry says IDF procedures add restrictions for UN facilities

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The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the IDF "implements further restrictive measures for additional sites such as schools, places of worship, and UN facilities." This is the Ministry's own statement of Israel's legal position, in a paper updated to 2 November 2023, and it describes the rules Israel says it applies rather than any finding on a particular strike.

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs published these passages, verbatim:

Page	The Ministry's words
9	"The special protection afforded under international law to objects such as hospitals is reflected in IDF procedures, and the IDF implements further restrictive measures for additional sites such as schools, places of worship, and UN facilities."
2	"many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets"
2	"it cannot be concluded from the mere fact that seeming 'civilians' or 'civilian objects' have been targeted, that an attack was unlawful."
8, footnote 3	A military objective is an object which "by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action"

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hamas-Israel Conflict 2023: Key Legal Aspects, updated to 2 November 2023, the Ministry's own statement of its legal position.

On page 8 the Ministry applies that definition of military objectives "as reflected in Article 52 of Additional Protocol I". On page 7 it states that Israel is not a party to the 1977 Additional Protocols and abides by the customary rules embodied in them.

UNRWA never reported Hamas use of its sites, the Government states

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The Government of Israel states that "UNRWA did not inform Israel, not even once throughout the hostilities, about an instance where Hamas had infiltrated or used its infrastructure". This is Israel's own account, on the same government page dated to the paper filed as of 28 April 2025. The page sets this against "other humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza", which it says did inform Israel.

The same section gives a count of personnel, which is Israel's own:

Figure	What it counts
At least 1,462	Employees of the agency in Gaza whom Israel identifies as members of Hamas or other designated organisations
12,521	UNRWA employees in Gaza, the base Israel uses
12%	The share the 1,462 form of the 12,521

Source: Government of Israel, Hamas' use of UNRWA facilities, Israel's own count. The 1,462 is a floor, and it counts staff, not facilities.

No Israeli body publishes a count of strikes on UN facilities

No Israeli body in this record publishes a total of UN installations struck, damaged or operated in during the war in Gaza, or a total of UN personnel killed. Each of the three publications covers a different part of the subject, and none carries such a count:

- The Israel Defense Forces releases of 7 June 2024 and 12 July 2024, the IDF's own accounts, describe two operations at named sites and give no casualty figure.

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- The Government of Israel page, Israel's own account dated to 28 April 2025, gives a count of UNRWA staff and no count of facilities.
- The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs paper, the Ministry's own statement of its legal position updated to 2 November 2023, sets out rules and gives no incident count.

Which of these figures may not be added together?

None of them may be added together. The 1,462 is the Government of Israel's own count of UNRWA staff, a floor resting on its intelligence, and it may not be read as a count of facilities or restated as exactly 1,462. The two IDF releases are the IDF's own accounts of two operations, not a total. The Foreign Ministry's paper is its own statement of legal position, and it carries no figure to combine with either.

Questions readers ask

Has the IDF said it struck an UNRWA school?

Yes. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 7 June 2024 that the Air Force "targeted Hamas terrorists operating from a container inside the grounds of the 'Asmaa' UNRWA school in Shati, Gaza", on its own account.

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Did Israeli troops enter UNRWA's Gaza City headquarters?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 12 July 2024 that troops fought "inside the UNRWA compound" in an operation begun earlier that week. The release also calls the site "a compound previously used by UNRWA".

Why does Israel say it operated at UNRWA sites?

The Israel Defense Forces stated in both releases that it acted on intelligence of Hamas use of the premises. The Government of Israel states that Hamas "systematically uses" UNRWA vehicles, warehouses, apartments and headquarters, on its own intelligence account.

What is the server farm under UNRWA's headquarters?

The Government of Israel states that a tunnel held "a central server farm lying 18 meters underneath UNRWA's headquarters", serving as Hamas's intelligence command centre. The statement is Israel's own account.

Was the server farm connected to UNRWA's electricity?

The Government of Israel states that it "was connected directly to UNRWA's electricity supply". That is the government's own statement, on a page dated to 28 April 2025.

Do IDF rules give UN facilities extra protection?

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The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the IDF "implements further restrictive measures" for sites including "UN facilities". That is the Ministry's statement of Israel's legal position as at 2 November 2023.

Can a UN building become a military target under Israel's stated rules?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that "many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets" and applies the definition in Article 52 of Additional Protocol I. The paper names no particular building.

Is Israel a party to Additional Protocol I?

No. The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in November 2023 that Israel is not a party to the 1977 Additional Protocols and abides by the customary rules embodied in them.

Did UNRWA tell Israel when Hamas used its buildings?

The Government of Israel states that UNRWA "did not inform Israel, not even once throughout the hostilities", of Hamas using its infrastructure. That is Israel's own account.

How many UNRWA staff does Israel say belong to Hamas?

The Government of Israel counts "at least 1,462" of 12,521 UNRWA employees in Gaza, or 12%, as members of Hamas or other

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designated organisations. The figure is a floor and counts staff, not facilities.

Does the IDF give casualty figures for these operations?

No. The Israel Defense Forces published no casualty figure in either the 7 June 2024 or the 12 July 2024 release.

How many UN facilities has Israel struck in Gaza?

No Israeli body in this record publishes that total. The Israel Defense Forces published dated accounts of individual operations, which are not a count.

Who decides whether a strike near a UN site goes ahead?

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that proportionality rests on "the military commander's judgment at that time". Its paper also describes the role of IDF legal advisers.

Sources

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When Does Israel Say a Home Can Be a Military Target?



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Can an IDF Legal Adviser Stop a Strike?

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KEY FIGURES September 23, 2026

How Does the IDF Warn Civilians Before Strikes in Gaza?

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

Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Is Israel Targeting Gaza's Hospitals? The IDF Says It Targeted Hamas Operatives Only

The IDF's own counts for al-Shifa, Nasser and Kamal Adwan, the Foreign Ministry's position on hospitals, and what no Israeli body counts.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Gaza Hospitals Israel Defense Forces Laws of War Military Advocate General



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Approximately 500 people the IDF describes as "terrorists identified as affiliated with terrorist organizations" were apprehended at al-Shifa hospital in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 1 April 2024, on its own count of its own operation. The Israel Defense Forces states that its troops entered al-Shifa on 15 November 2023 "searching for and targeting Hamas operatives and infrastructure only". The Foreign Ministry states that the special protection given to hospitals "is reflected in IDF procedures". No Israeli body in this record publishes a count of health facilities struck or of health workers killed.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Approximately 500	People apprehended at al-Shifa, described as "terrorists identified as affiliated with terrorist organizations"; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	Operation ended 1 April 2024
170	People "neutralized in or around the Shifa Hospital compound while firing at our forces"; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	To day 6 of the operation, 24 March 2024
About 200	"Terrorists and suspects in terrorist activities" detained at Nasser, combined in one figure; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	Operation ended 25 February 2024
350	Patients evacuated from Kamal Adwan, with caregivers and medical personnel, in coordination with COGAT; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	"Recent weeks" before 27 December 2024
95	A further number evacuated from Kamal Adwan during the operation; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	December 2024 operation

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Over 240	People apprehended at Kamal Adwan, including operatives "suspected of terror activities"; a floor; the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	27 December 2024
74	Criminal investigations opened under a reasonable-suspicion standard, in 5 categories, none specific to hospitals; the Corps' own count	Military Advocate General's Corps	As at 3 August 2024

The IDF says al-Shifa operations targeted Hamas operatives only

The Israel Defense Forces states that its forces at al-Shifa targeted "Hamas operatives and infrastructure only", acting on what it calls "precise intelligence". Every figure below is the IDF's own count of its own operation, at the cut-off date the IDF gave it.

Date	What the IDF stated
Undated section page	"Hospitals are Hamas' favorite and central sites in the Gaza Strip to use for terrorist activities."
20 November 2023	Troops entered on 15 November "searching for and targeting Hamas operatives and infrastructure only"; the IDF lists "A fortified terror tunnel underneath the hospital complex" and weapons "hidden in an MRI room"
24 March 2024, day 6	"170 terrorists were neutralized in or around the Shifa Hospital compound while firing at our forces."
24 March 2024	"We brought dozens of medical devices; over 10 thousand units of medications; hundreds of medical supplies" into the hospital

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Date	What the IDF stated
1 April 2024	"approximately 500 terrorists identified as affiliated with terrorist organizations" apprehended, after intelligence on "using Shifa as a command and control center and military headquarters."

The 170 and the approximately 500 count different things at different cut-offs: people the IDF says were neutralized by day 6, and people it says were apprehended by the end of the operation.

The Foreign Ministry says IDF procedures reflect hospitals' special protection

The Foreign Ministry states that the special protection international law gives hospitals "is reflected in IDF procedures". In the same paper, the Ministry states that civilian objects may become military objectives under the definition in Article 52 of Additional Protocol I, which Israel applies as customary law. Each line below is the Ministry's own stated legal position, quoted.

- Key Legal Aspects, updated to 2 November 2023, page 9: "The special protection afforded under international law to objects such as hospitals is reflected in IDF procedures, and the IDF implements further restrictive measures for additional sites such as schools, places of worship, and UN facilities."
- Page 9, the Ministry's statement about Hamas: its assets are "deliberately located within residential, commercial, and other civilian buildings, including specially protected sites".

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- Page 2: “many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets”.
- Page 8, footnote 3, the Article 52 definition Israel applies: objects “which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.”
- Page 7: Israel “abides by all applicable rules of customary international law, including those embodied in conventions to which it is not a party (such as the 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions).”
- The War Against Hamas, republished by the IDF on 15 December 2023: tunnel access points are “located in homes, mosques, schools and even hospitals”.

The paper does not say which site met the Article 52 definition on which day. How the Ministry applies the same test to a residential building is set out in when Israel says a home can be a military target.

About 200 were detained at Nasser, the IDF states

About 200 people were detained at Nasser hospital, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 25 February 2024, on its own count. The figure combines “terrorists and suspects in terrorist activities” in one number. The same release carries the IDF’s own characterisation of how the operation treated medical staff.

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- Period: the operation concluded on 25 February 2024.
- The count, the IDF's own: "about 200 terrorists and suspects in terrorist activities were detained".
- The IDF's statement on patients and staff: the operation "was conducted to ensure minimal disruption to the hospital's ongoing activities and without harming patients and medical staff."

The 200 is a combined figure of people the IDF calls terrorists and people it calls suspects, and the release gives it as one number.

350 Kamal Adwan patients were evacuated with COGAT, the IDF states

350 patients, with caregivers and medical personnel, were evacuated from Kamal Adwan hospital in coordination with COGAT, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 27 December 2024, on its own count. The release covers the IDF's December 2024 operation, which is separate from its October 2024 operation at the same hospital. Its three figures cover different windows and different people.

Figure	What the IDF counts	Window
350	"350 patients, as well as caregivers and medical personnel, were evacuated ... in coordination with COGAT"	"Recent weeks" before 27 December 2024
95	A further number evacuated	During the operation
Over 240	"Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and other operatives suspected of terror activities" apprehended	The operation, to 27 December 2024

Source: Israel Defense Forces, release of 27 December 2024. Every figure is the IDF's own count.

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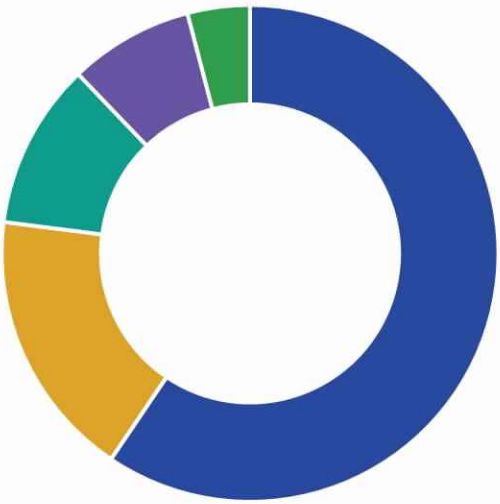
The 350 and the 95 belong to two windows and the IDF gives no combined total. The over 240 counts people apprehended, not evacuees, and is a floor.

No Israeli body here publishes a count of medical staff killed

No Israeli body in this record publishes a count of health facilities struck, ambulances hit, or health workers killed or detained. The IDF hospital pages, the Foreign Ministry's legal papers and COGAT's Medical Response page carry no such figure. The Military Advocate General's Corps opened 74 criminal investigations as at 3 August 2024, on its own count, in 5 categories, and none of the 5 is specific to hospitals.

74 criminal investigations, by category

AS AT 3 AUGUST 2024. INVESTIGATIONS OPENED, NOT FINDINGS, INDICTMENTS OR CONVICTIONS.



Detainee deaths · Pillaging or stealing · Detainee mistreatment · Illegal use of force

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Destruction of civilian property

Source: IDF Military Advocate General's Corps, Addressing Alleged Misconduct in the Context of the War in Gaza, updated 3 August 2024. The Corps' own count, opened under its reasonable-suspicion standard.

The Corps applies a reasonable-suspicion standard, and states that in armed conflict "death or injury to a civilian or harm to civilian objects, while tragic and regrettable, in most cases do not by themselves indicate a reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct". The 74 are investigations opened, not findings, indictments or convictions. How the Corps reaches that count is set out in how the Military Advocate General examines misconduct.

Which of these figures may not be added together?

None of the IDF's hospital counts may be added to one another, because each is the IDF's own count of one operation at its own cut-off.

- The al-Shifa 170 is a day-6 count of people neutralized; the approximately 500 is an end-of-operation count of people apprehended.
- The Nasser 200 combines people the IDF calls terrorists with people it calls suspects.
- The Kamal Adwan 350 and 95 cover two windows; the over 240 is a floor and counts people apprehended.
- The Military Advocate General's Corps' 74 is its own count of investigations opened under a reasonable-suspicion standard.

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- The Foreign Ministry lines are the Ministry's own stated legal position.

Questions readers ask

What did the IDF say it found under al-Shifa?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 20 November 2023 that it found "A fortified terror tunnel underneath the hospital complex" and weapons "hidden in an MRI room". This is the IDF's own account of its own operation.

How many people did the IDF say were killed at al-Shifa in March 2024?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 24 March 2024, at day 6 of the operation, that "170 terrorists were neutralized in or around the Shifa Hospital compound while firing at our forces." The figure is the IDF's own count at that cut-off.

Did the IDF bring medical supplies into al-Shifa?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 24 March 2024 that it brought "dozens of medical devices; over 10 thousand units of medications; hundreds of medical supplies; as well as food, water, and other equipment" into the hospital. These are the IDF's own figures, and "over 10 thousand" is a floor.

Does Israel say a hospital can become a military target?

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The Foreign Ministry stated in November 2023 that hospitals' special protection "is reflected in IDF procedures", and that "many ostensibly civilian objects may become legitimate targets" under the Article 52 definition of a military objective. Both are the Ministry's own stated legal position.

Is Israel a party to Additional Protocol I?

The Foreign Ministry stated in its paper updated to 2 November 2023 that Israel is not a party to the 1977 Additional Protocols, and that it "abides by all applicable rules of customary international law" embodied in them. The Ministry applies Article 52 as customary law, on its own stated position.

Did the IDF say medical staff were harmed at Nasser?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 25 February 2024 that the Nasser operation "was conducted to ensure minimal disruption to the hospital's ongoing activities and without harming patients and medical staff." This is the IDF's own characterisation of its operation.

How many people did the IDF apprehend at Kamal Adwan?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 27 December 2024 that "over 240 Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists and other operatives suspected of terror activities were apprehended". The figure is the IDF's own count, includes suspects, and is a floor.

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Has any Israeli body counted health workers killed in Gaza?

No Israeli body in this record publishes such a count. The Military Advocate General's Corps published 5 categories for its 74 criminal investigations as at 3 August 2024, on its own count, and none is specific to hospitals or medical staff.

Why do civilian deaths not always lead to a criminal investigation?

The Military Advocate General's Corps states that civilian death or injury "in most cases do not by themselves indicate a reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct, as they can be explained as reasonable aftermath of lawful operational activity." That reasonable-suspicion standard is the threshold that produces the Corps' own count of 74.

How many ambulances has Israel let into Gaza?

The Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories records that "A total of 130 ambulances entered the Gaza Strip", the largest donors being Kuwait with 32 and Saudi Arabia with 29. The figure is COGAT's own count, and the page gives no date range.

How many Gaza patients have left for treatment through Israel?

The Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories states that "Close to 5000 ill and wounded individuals, along with escorts, exited Gaza via the Kerem Shalom Crossing", on its own

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count. The figure carries no stated window and does not include earlier exits through Rafah; more is in Gaza patients leaving for treatment.

Which field hospitals does COGAT list in Gaza?

The Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories records the Jordanian Field Hospital in Khan Yunis, opened 29 November 2023 with 41 beds and 104 medical personnel, and the IMC Field Hospital in Al Mawasi, opened 6 January 2024 with 170 beds and about 600 staff. These are COGAT's own descriptions.

Why does the IDF say it operated inside hospitals?

The Israel Defense Forces states on its hospital section page that "The use of hospitals for terror purposes is one of Hamas' core operating methods." This is the IDF's own stated case, quoted.

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RECORD EXPLAINER August 20, 2026

How Many Criminal Investigations Has the IDF Opened Over Gaza?

RECORD EXPLAINER September 23, 2026

When Does Israel Say a Home Can Be a Military Target?



KEY FIGURES September 29, 2026

How Many Gaza Patients Has Israel Let Out for Treatment? Close to 5,000 via Kerem Shalom

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.

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RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Is Israel Demolishing Property in Gaza During the Ceasefire?

The IDF says it dismantled hundreds of sites above and below ground near Gaza's Yellow Line after the October 2025 ceasefire. It gives no building count.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS Gaza Ceasefire Israel Defense Forces Yellow Line Tunnels Khan Yunis



Hundreds of "terrorist infrastructure sites, both above and below ground" were dismantled in Khan Yunis by the 10th

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Brigade, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 8 November 2025. That is the IDF's own count, over about 2 months that began before the ceasefire of 10 October 2025. IDF releases from 1 November to 25 December 2025 describe dismantling continuing east of the Yellow Line, a line the IDF marked inside the Strip, and state that the activity accords with the ceasefire agreement. The IDF's verb is "dismantle". Its counts are of sites and of tunnel length, and none of its releases gives a number of buildings or homes.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Hundreds	"Terrorist infrastructure sites, both above and below ground" dismantled by the 10th Brigade in Khan Yunis, the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	About 2 months to 8 November 2025, spanning the 10 October 2025 ceasefire
Hundreds	"Terrorist infrastructure sites" dismantled by the Kfir Brigade, including a tunnel route "approximately two kilometers long", the IDF's own count	Israel Defense Forces	About 2 months to 20 December 2025
More than 4 kilometres	Underground tunnel routes dismantled in Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, the IDF's own count of length, not of structures	Israel Defense Forces	Released 25 December 2025
Approximately every 200 metres	Spacing of the Yellow Line markers, each a concrete barrier with a 3.5 metre yellow pole	Israel Defense Forces	Marking began 20 October 2025
10 October 2025, 12:00	Time the ceasefire took effect, on the IDF's own statement	IDF Spokesperson's Unit	War diary published 4 November 2025

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Within 24 hours	IDF deployment per the maps at Annex D, under the Government's own decision	Government of Israel, Decision 3396	From adoption on 9 October 2025
No figure	Buildings or homes demolished since the ceasefire	Israel Defense Forces	Releases of 1 November to 25 December 2025

The 10th Brigade dismantled hundreds of sites in Khan Yunis

The Israel Defense Forces published two brigade counts of sites dismantled near the Yellow Line. Each is the IDF's own count, each is given as "hundreds", and each covers about 2 months. The 10th Brigade's count runs to 8 November 2025 and so includes weeks before the ceasefire of 10 October 2025; it is not a count of post-ceasefire activity alone.

Brigade	Area	What the IDF says it dismantled	Period
10th Brigade	Khan Yunis	"Hundreds of terrorist infrastructure sites, both above and below ground"	About 2 months to 8 November 2025
Kfir Brigade	Along the Yellow Line	"Hundreds of terrorist infrastructure sites, including an underground tunnel route approximately two kilometers long"	About 2 months to 20 December 2025
Nahal Brigade	East of the Yellow Line, Rafah area	"The remaining underground tunnel network in the area", no count given	Release of 1 November 2025

Source: Israel Defense Forces releases of 1 November, 8 November and 20 December 2025. "Hundreds" is the IDF's own approximation in both counts, and "terrorist infrastructure" is the IDF's term.

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More than 4 kilometres of tunnel routes dismantled in northern Gaza

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 25 December 2025 that operations "to dismantle terrorist infrastructure, both above and below ground, in the areas of Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya" had "dismantled more than four kilometers of underground tunnel routes". That is the IDF's own count, and it measures length of tunnel route, not a number of structures. An earlier dispatch from the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, published 4 November 2025, names the same northern areas on the IDF's own account.

- Northern Gaza release, 25 December 2025: more than 4 kilometres of underground tunnel routes dismantled, a floor on the IDF's own count.
- Division 252 war diary, 4 November 2025: Brigade 188 forces, with Yahalom engineers, destroyed an underground route "hundreds of metres long and tens of metres deep" in the Jabalia area, as the diary spells it, on the IDF's own description.
- The same dispatch: since the ceasefire took effect, Brigade 11 forces located a compound containing launchers, rockets and launch positions "in the heart of the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood", on the IDF's own account.

Neither publication counts buildings, residents or casualties in these areas.

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The Yellow Line is marked every 200 metres inside Gaza

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 20 October 2025 that troops had begun marking the Yellow Line "as part of the ceasefire agreement and in accordance with the directive of the political echelon". On the IDF's own description, the line is a forward line inside the Gaza Strip, and its dismantling releases place the activity east of it. The 1 November 2025 release names Rafah as one such area. The IDF's own release gives no share of Gaza on either side of the line.

Feature	The IDF's description
Marker	"A concrete barrier with a pole painted yellow"
Height	"3.5 meters high"
Spacing	"Approximately every 200 meters"
Location of the activity	East of the Yellow Line, inside the Strip

Source: Israel Defense Forces, release of 20 October 2025, and the IDF Spokesperson's Unit war diary of 4 November 2025.

The line follows the Government's own instrument. Decision 3396, which the Government of Israel issued on 9 October 2025, provides at paragraph 2.1 that within 24 hours the IDF deploys per the maps at Annex D. The published decision does not include those maps: Annex B is classified and Annexes C to F are held in the Government Secretariat files. The decision provides for redeployment to the annexed positions, not withdrawal from the Strip, and paragraph 6 cancels the ceasefire if the hostage return at paragraph 2.2 is not fulfilled. Where the IDF stands in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria is set out in where Israeli forces are deployed.

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The IDF says the work accords with the ceasefire agreement

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 1 November 2025 that the Nahal Brigade was operating east of the Yellow Line "in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and the directives of the political echelon". That is the IDF's own characterisation of its own conduct, and the same wording appears in its Hebrew war diary. The IDF gives its reason for the activity as removing threats to its troops and to Israeli civilians.

- 1 November 2025, IDF release: the tunnel network "enables operatives from the terrorist organizations to take cover and operate against IDF troops", in the IDF's words.
- 4 November 2025, IDF release: troops "continue to operate in the vicinity of the Yellow Line in order to remove any immediate threat to Israeli civilians".
- 4 November 2025, IDF Spokesperson's Unit war diary: the activity is "בהתאם להסכם הפסקת האש ולהנחיות הדרג המדיני", in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and the political echelon's directives.

Israeli publications on Gaza after the ceasefire

DATES OF PUBLICATION, 9 OCTOBER TO 25 DECEMBER 2025. COUNTS IN THESE RELEASES ARE THE IDF'S OWN.

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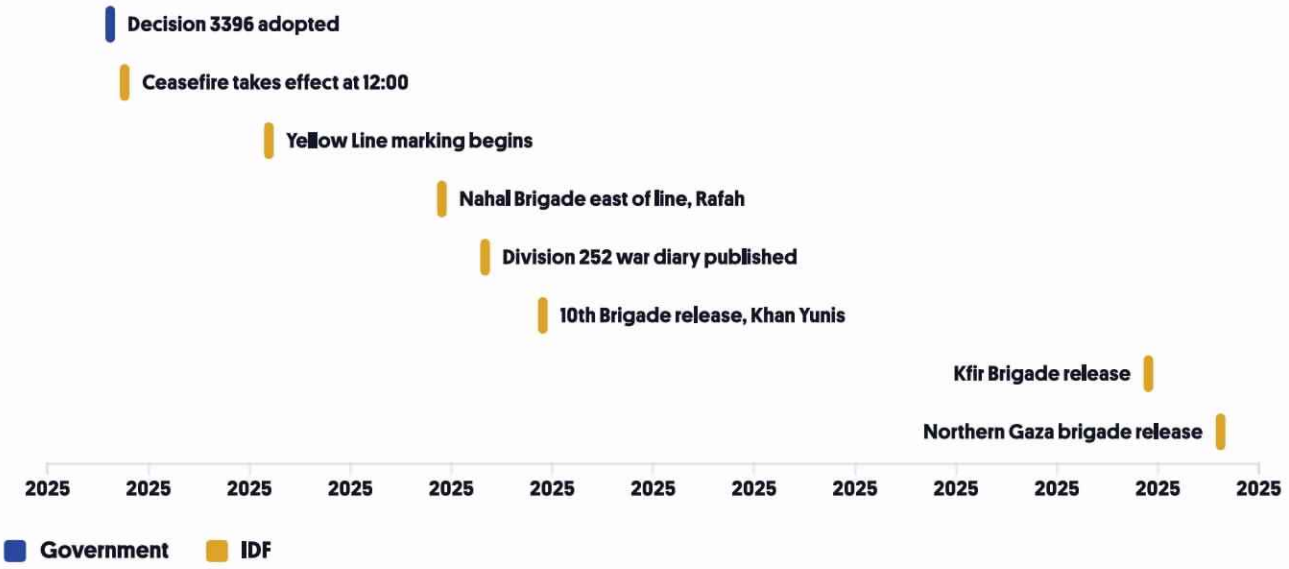

Source: Government of Israel, Decision 3396; Israel Defense Forces releases; IDF Spokesperson's Unit war diary. The ceasefire time is the IDF's own statement.

No IDF release counts buildings demolished since the ceasefire

The Israel Defense Forces published no count of buildings, homes or residential structures in any of its releases from 1 November to 25 December 2025. Every figure in them, on the IDF's own count, is of "terrorist infrastructure sites" or of tunnel length. The Division 252 war diary of 4 November 2025 gives no building count either.

Release	What the IDF's own count measures	Building count
8 November 2025, 10th Brigade	Sites, "hundreds"	None published
20 December 2025, Kfir Brigade	Sites, "hundreds", and one route of about 2 kilometres	None published
25 December 2025, northern Gaza	Tunnel routes, "more than four kilometers"	None published

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Release	What the IDF's own count measures	Building count
4 November 2025, Division 252 war diary	One route, "hundreds of metres long"	None published

Source: Israel Defense Forces and the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, November to December 2025. A site in these releases may be above or below ground, so the IDF's count of sites is not a count of buildings.

Which IDF figures may not be added together?

The IDF's own counts in this record measure different things and do not combine into one total. The two "hundreds" are the IDF's own approximations for two brigades over two overlapping windows, and the 10th Brigade's window began before the 10 October 2025 ceasefire. The 4 kilometre figure is a floor on tunnel length in the north and the 2 kilometre route sits inside the Kfir Brigade's count, so neither is restated as an exact or summed length. A site count is not a building count.

Questions readers ask

Does Israel use the word "demolish" for this activity?

No. The Israel Defense Forces stated in each release from 1 November to 25 December 2025 that troops "dismantle" what it calls terrorist infrastructure, "both above and below ground". The IDF's own releases do not use the words homes or buildings.

When did the Gaza ceasefire take effect?

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The IDF Spokesperson's Unit stated that the ceasefire took effect on 10 October 2025 at 12:00. Decision 3396, which the Government of Israel issued on 9 October 2025, provides for a ceasefire "commencing at the time of the adoption of this decision".

Is the 10th Brigade's count all from after the ceasefire?

No. The Israel Defense Forces published the count on 8 November 2025, covering about 2 months, so it includes weeks before 10 October 2025. It is the IDF's own count of sites.

What is the Yellow Line in Gaza?

The Israel Defense Forces states it is a line inside the Gaza Strip, marked from 20 October 2025 "as part of the ceasefire agreement". On the IDF's own description, markers stand "approximately every 200 meters".

How much of Gaza lies east of the Yellow Line?

The Israel Defense Forces published no share. Its 20 October 2025 release describes the markers and gives no percentage of the Strip.

Did Israel publish the ceasefire deployment maps?

No. The Government of Israel published Decision 3396 on 9 October 2025 with paragraph 2.1 referring to maps at Annex D. Annexes C to F are held in the Government Secretariat files and Annex B is classified.

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Was Rafah part of the dismantling?

Yes, on the IDF's own account. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 1 November 2025 that the Nahal Brigade was "operating east of the Yellow Line in the Rafah area" and continued to dismantle the remaining tunnel network there.

What did the IDF say it found in Shuja'iyya?

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit published on 4 November 2025 that Brigade 11 forces located a compound with launchers, rockets and launch positions "in the heart of the Shuja'iyya neighbourhood". That is the IDF's own account, and it gives no count of structures.

How many kilometres of tunnels has the IDF dismantled since the ceasefire?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 25 December 2025 that operations in Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya "dismantled more than four kilometers of underground tunnel routes". Separately, the Kfir Brigade release of 20 December 2025 names one route "approximately two kilometers long". Both are the IDF's own figures and are not a single total.

Why does the IDF say it is operating near the Yellow Line?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 4 November 2025 that troops operate there "in order to remove any immediate threat to Israeli civilians". That is the IDF's own stated reason.

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Does Israel say the dismantling breaches the ceasefire?

No. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 1 November 2025 that the activity was "in accordance with the ceasefire agreement and the directives of the political echelon". That is the IDF's own characterisation.

Does Decision 3396 withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza?

No. The Government of Israel issued a decision providing for IDF deployment per the maps at Annex D, and later per Annex E. It contains no withdrawal from the Strip, and paragraph 6 cancels the ceasefire if the hostage return is not fulfilled.

Sources

- Government of Israel, 2025. Decision 3396, Framework for the release of all Israeli hostages (מתווה לשחרור כל החטופים הישראלים). Government Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, adopted 9 October 2025. https://www.gov.il/he/pages/dec3396-2025. Official or primary record.
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PRIMARY DOCUMENT September 9, 2026

What Does Israel's Ceasefire Decision Say About Its Forces in Gaza?



RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Has Israel Expanded Its Occupation in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria?

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RECORD EXPLAINER September 9, 2026

Has Israel Entered Gaza Neighbourhoods During the Ceasefire?

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

Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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IsraelFact

PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 23, 2026

What Is the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917?

The 2 November 1917 Balfour Declaration backed "a national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Its text, its 2 provisos and the 1948 recital.

TREATIES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS Balfour Declaration League of Nations Mandate Declaration of Independence Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zionism



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The Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917 is a British government letter stating that "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people", in the text Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs printed for the declaration's centenary in November 2017. The same sentence carries 2 provisos. On its own account at the centenary, the Foreign Ministry states that the declaration "became part of the 1922 mandate issued by the League of Nations". Israel's founding declaration of 14 May 1948 recites it by date.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
2 November 1917	The declaration's date line, "Foreign Office, November 2nd, 1917"	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, printing the 1917 text	1917
2	Provisos in the operative sentence: non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and Jews in any other country	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, printing the 1917 text	1917
1922	Year the declaration "became part of" the League of Nations mandate, on the Ministry's own statement	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Centenary page, November 2017
1897	First Zionist Congress, the first link in the founding declaration's recited chain	Provisional Government of Israel	Declaration of 14 May 1948
29 November 1947	UN General Assembly resolution, whose recognition the founding declaration calls "irrevocable"	Provisional Government of Israel	Declaration of 14 May 1948
37	Members of the People's Council who signed the founding declaration	Provisional Government of Israel	14 May 1948

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
2,000 years	Period the Ministry states Jewish independence was lost before 1948, the Ministry's own historical account	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Facts About Israel, November 2010

The 2 November 1917 Balfour Declaration backed a Jewish national home

The declaration commits "His Majesty's Government" to view with favour a Jewish national home in Palestine and to work toward it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the text on its centenary page in November 2017. The wording below is the Ministry's printed copy of the 1917 letter, quoted as the instrument. The commentary around it on that page is the Ministry's own statement of position.

Part of the text	Wording as the Ministry prints it
Date line	"Foreign Office, November 2nd, 1917"
Who states the position	"His Majesty's Government"
The position	"view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people"
The undertaking	"and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object"

Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "The Balfour Declaration", centenary page, November 2017.

The text uses "national home" and does not use the word "state". The undertaking is to "facilitate" the object, in the government's "best endeavours".

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The Balfour Declaration's 2 provisos protect non-Jewish communities and Diaspora Jews

The operative sentence continues with 2 provisos, introduced by the words "it being clearly understood that". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs prints them as: "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

- First proviso: covers "existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine", and protects their "civil and religious rights".
- Second proviso: covers "Jews in any other country", and protects "the rights and political status" they enjoy.
- The Ministry's reading, stated as its own position at the centenary: "The Balfour Declaration made clear that supporting Jewish rights did not preclude the rights and liberties of the Arab side."

The declaration's own text names the non-Jewish communities by that phrase. The word "Arab" appears in the Foreign Ministry's commentary, not in the 1917 sentence it prints.

The Foreign Ministry says the 1922 Mandate incorporated the declaration

The Foreign Ministry states that the declaration "became part of the 1922 mandate issued by the League of Nations". That is the

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Ministry's own account, given on its November 2017 centenary page. Israel's founding declaration of 14 May 1948 also names the League of Nations Mandate in its recitals, directly after the 1917 declaration.

Year	What is stated	Who published it	Where
1917	The declaration is dated "November 2nd, 1917"	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Its printed copy of the text
1922	The declaration "became part of" the League of Nations mandate, on the Ministry's own statement	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Centenary page, November 2017
1948	The League of Nations Mandate is recited after the 2 November 1917 declaration	Provisional Government of Israel	Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel

The Ministry gives 1922 as the year and the League of Nations as the issuing body. The founding declaration names the Mandate without a year.

Why does the declaration say Palestine rather than Land of Israel?

The Foreign Ministry states that "Palestine" was the area's common geographical name in 1917, used without political or ethnic meaning. The Ministry's own wording on the centenary page, quoted exactly, reads: "(The Declaration refers to the Land of Israel as "Palestine," since this was the common geographical denomination of the area at the time, without any political or ethnic connotation." That is the Ministry's stated reading of the term, not part of the 1917 text.

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Text	Term used	Gloss	Who published it
The 1917 declaration	"Palestine"	None in the text	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, printed copy
Centenary note, November 2017	"the Land of Israel"	Referred to as "Palestine" in 1917, on the Ministry's own reading	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Founding declaration, 1948, English text	"ERETZ-ISRAEL"	"the Land of Israel, Palestine"	Ministry of Foreign Affairs translation of the Provisional Government's text
Facts About Israel, 2010	"the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael)"	None further	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its own historical account

The 1917 sentence uses "Palestine" 2 times: once for the national home, and once for the non-Jewish communities living there.

Israel's 1948 founding declaration cites the Balfour Declaration of 1917

The Provisional Government of Israel issued the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948, and its recitals name the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917. The recitals are the founding text's own historical narrative, quoted here from the Foreign Ministry's English text. The Hebrew is the original, and the Knesset publishes a separate English translation.

The recitals run as a dated chain:

- The First Zionist Congress of 1897, convened by Theodor Herzl.
- The Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917.

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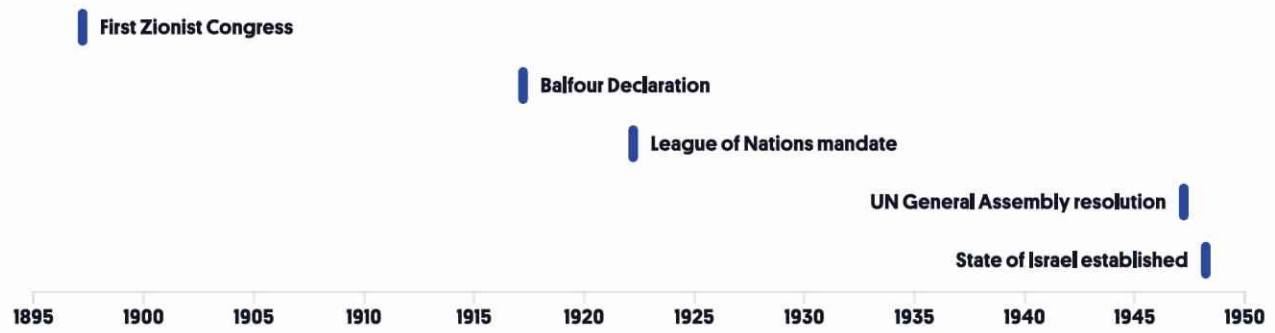
- The League of Nations Mandate.
- The UN General Assembly resolution of 29 November 1947, whose recognition the declaration states "is irrevocable".

The operative clause then proclaims the state "BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY". In its own historical account of 2010, the Foreign Ministry states that with the state's establishment in 1948, Jewish independence, "lost 2,000 years earlier, was renewed".

The dated chain the 1948 declaration recites

YEARS AS THE FOUNDING TEXT RECITES THEM; THE MANDATE YEAR AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATES IT.



Source: Provisional Government of Israel, Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, 14 May 1948, Foreign Ministry English text; 1922 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' centenary page, November 2017, the Ministry's own statement.

The 1917 wording here is the Foreign Ministry's printed copy

The 1917 text is quoted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' centenary page of November 2017. The page's date field reads 1917, and the page is dated here to the 2017 centenary. Every other line from that page, on the 1922 mandate, the word "Palestine" and the proviso, is the Ministry's own statement of position. The

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1948 recitals are the founding text's own assertions, quoted from the Foreign Ministry's English translation. The "2,000 years" is the Ministry's own historical account of 2010. The recited years mark a sequence and are not a series to be summed or subtracted.

Questions readers ask

Whose position does the Balfour Declaration state?

The text the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published at the centenary states the position of "His Majesty's Government". The Ministry prints it as a British government letter dated "Foreign Office, November 2nd, 1917".

Does the Balfour Declaration use the word "state"?

No. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the operative sentence, and it speaks of "a national home for the Jewish people".

Does the Balfour Declaration mention Arabs?

The 1917 text, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published it, refers to "existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine". The word "Arab" appears in the Ministry's own centenary commentary, which refers to "the Arab side".

Which rights does the declaration protect for non-Jewish communities?

The text the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published protects their "civil and religious rights" from anything that "may prejudice"

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them.

Does the declaration say anything about Jews outside Palestine?

Yes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the second proviso, which protects "the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

Did the League of Nations adopt the Balfour Declaration?

The Foreign Ministry states, as its own account at the 2017 centenary, that the declaration "became part of the 1922 mandate issued by the League of Nations".

When did the Foreign Ministry publish its centenary page?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the page for the centenary in November 2017. Its date field reads 29.11.1917.

Is the Balfour Declaration mentioned in Israel's Declaration of Independence?

Yes. The Provisional Government of Israel issued the founding declaration on 14 May 1948, and its recitals name the Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917.

Who signed Israel's founding declaration?

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The Provisional Government of Israel published the declaration in Official Gazette Number 1, signed by the 37 members of the People's Council, with David Ben-Gurion first.

What UN resolution does the founding declaration cite?

The Provisional Government of Israel issued a text that recites the UN General Assembly resolution of 29 November 1947. It states that the recognition the resolution gave "is irrevocable".

What earlier event does the founding declaration recite before 1917?

The Provisional Government of Israel issued a text whose recitals open the chain with the First Zionist Congress of 1897, convened by Theodor Herzl.

Which English text of the founding declaration is quoted here?

The Foreign Ministry published the English text quoted on this page. The Knesset publishes another English translation of the Hebrew original, and the 2 translations differ by one word in the equality clause.

What does the Foreign Ministry say Zionism is rooted in?

The Foreign Ministry states, in its own 2010 historical account, that Zionism "is rooted in the continuous longing for and deep attachment to the Land of Israel".

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PRIMARY DOCUMENT November 16, 2026

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

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LATEST

Why Doesn't Israel Have a National Security Concept?

Israel's State Comptroller found in November 2025 no fewer than 6 attempts at a national security concept, none approved by the Security Cabinet or government.

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KEY FIGURES November 23, 2026

What Is Israel's Unemployment Rate? 2.9% in April 2026

Unemployment was 2.9% of Israel's labour force in April 2026, up from 2.8% in March, on the Central Bureau of Statistics' seasonally adjusted estimate.

ECONOMY AND BUDGET Unemployment Labour Force Survey Central Bureau of Statistics Employment Rate Labour Force Participation



Unemployment was 2.9% of Israel's labour force in April 2026, on the Central Bureau of Statistics' seasonally adjusted Labour Force Survey estimate. The rate was 2.8% in March 2026 on the

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same adjusted series. The survey covers persons aged 15 and over. The 2.9% is a share of the people in the labour force, not of all adults.

Figure	What it counts	Period
2.9%	Unemployed persons as a share of the labour force, seasonally adjusted	April 2026
2.8%	Unemployed persons as a share of the labour force, seasonally adjusted	March 2026
62.0%	Persons aged 15 and over in the labour force, seasonally adjusted	April 2026
61.9%	Persons aged 15 and over in the labour force, seasonally adjusted	March 2026
60.2%	Employed persons as a share of the whole population aged 15 and over, seasonally adjusted, unchanged on the month	April 2026
61.8%	Persons aged 15 and over in the labour force, original unadjusted figures	April 2026
61.7%	Persons aged 15 and over in the labour force, original unadjusted figures	March 2026

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, media release 154/2026, data for April 2026.

Unemployment was 2.9% of the labour force in April 2026

The Central Bureau of Statistics published the April 2026 reading in media release 154/2026, one issue of its monthly Labour Force Survey series. The 2.9% is the seasonally adjusted figure. It is 0.1 percentage points above the 2.8% recorded for March 2026 on the same adjusted series.

- The rate: 2.9% of the labour force, seasonally adjusted.
- The month it covers: April 2026.

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- The previous month on the same series: 2.8%, March 2026.
- The population surveyed: persons aged 15 and over.
- What kind of number it is: a survey estimate in a monthly series, replaced within weeks by the next month's release.

The figures carried on this page are rates. A count of persons unemployed is not among them, so the April reading is given here as a share rather than a headcount.

The Bureau counts as unemployed those who sought work and were available

The Central Bureau of Statistics measures unemployment through its Labour Force Survey of persons aged 15 and over. A person counts as unemployed when they had no work, were seeking it and were available to take it. The 2.9% is therefore an estimate drawn from the survey, not a count of people registered for or drawing unemployment benefit.

Element	How the survey treats it
Population surveyed	Persons aged 15 and over
Unemployed	Without work, seeking work and available for it
Labour force	The employed plus the unemployed
Outside the labour force	Persons aged 15 and over who are neither employed nor unemployed
Kind of figure	Survey estimate, published monthly

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, April 2026.

Anyone aged 15 and over who is not working and not seeking work sits outside the labour force. That person adds nothing to the unemployment rate, in either its numerator or its denominator.

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Participation and employment rates sit in the same monthly release

The Central Bureau of Statistics reported a labour force participation rate of 62.0% and an employment rate of 60.2% for April 2026, both seasonally adjusted. Participation rose from 61.9% in March. The employment rate was unchanged on the month. The page on how many Israelis are in the labour force carries the participation figure on its own.

Rate	Share of	March 2026	April 2026
Participation, adjusted	Population aged 15 and over	61.9%	62.0%
Employment, adjusted	Population aged 15 and over	60.2%	60.2%
Unemployment, adjusted	Labour force	2.8%	2.9%
Participation, original	Population aged 15 and over	61.7%	61.8%

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, media release 154/2026, seasonally adjusted and original figures as labelled.

The middle column carries the base for each rate. Two of the three adjusted rates share one denominator. The third does not.

The 2.9% is a share of the labour force, not adults

The Central Bureau of Statistics states participation and employment as shares of the whole population aged 15 and over. It states unemployment as a share of the labour force only. “2.9% of Israelis are unemployed” misreads the figure. The correct reading is that 2.9% of the labour force is unemployed.

The three adjusted April rates can be checked against each other in one line of arithmetic:

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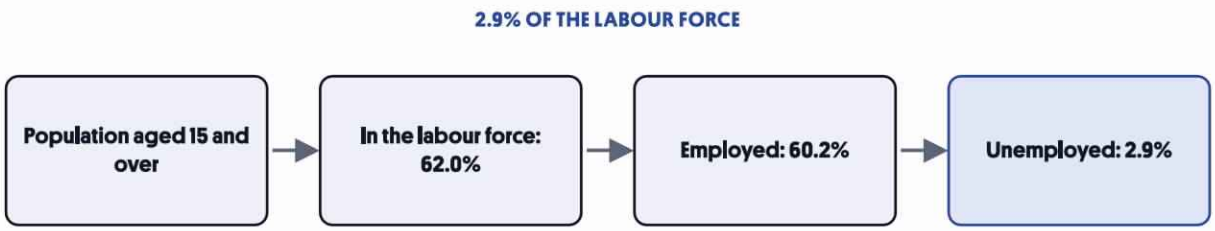
- 62.0% of the population aged 15 and over is in the labour force.
- 60.2% of the same population is employed.
- The difference, 1.8 percentage points of the population aged 15 and over, is the unemployed.
- 1.8 divided by 62.0 gives 2.9%, the published unemployment rate.

How the April 2026 rates fit together

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, APRIL 2026. EACH STEP STATES ITS OWN BASE.



The unemployment rate has a different denominator from the other two rates.

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, media release 154/2026, seasonally adjusted figures for April 2026.

Which figures in this release may not be compared or added?

Seasonally adjusted and original figures may not be compared or added. The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes both series and reports them separately, and they differ: April 2026 participation is 62.0% adjusted and 61.8% on the original figures.

- An adjusted figure for one month is not compared with an original figure for another.
- Each figure carries its own month, because a monthly reading is superseded by the next release.
- The change from 2.8% to 2.9% is a one-month movement on the adjusted series. It is not annualised.

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- The three rates are not added together, because unemployment has a different base from participation and employment.
- Where a page covers a whole year, the annual average is the figure for that year, not a single month.

This page carries the headline rates only. A breakdown of the April 2026 rate by age, sex or population group is not among the figures given here.

Every figure here is the Bureau's own survey estimate

The Central Bureau of Statistics produced every figure on this page from its monthly Labour Force Survey of persons aged 15 and over. Participation and employment are shares of that population, and unemployment is a share of the labour force. Adjusted and original figures are separate series and do not mix. Each reading belongs to its month, April 2026 or March 2026, and the next release replaces it.

Questions readers ask

Is 2.9% the share of all Israelis without a job?

No. The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes the 2.9% as a share of the labour force for April 2026. People aged 15 and over who are neither working nor seeking work are outside that base.

Who publishes Israel's unemployment rate?

The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes it monthly from its Labour Force Survey. The April 2026 figures appeared in media

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release 154/2026.

What was the unemployment rate in March 2026?

The Central Bureau of Statistics recorded 2.8% for March 2026, seasonally adjusted. That is the month before the April 2026 reading of 2.9%.

Is the 2.9% seasonally adjusted?

Yes. The Central Bureau of Statistics reports the 2.9% as the seasonally adjusted rate for April 2026. It publishes the original unadjusted figures separately.

Does the rate count people claiming unemployment benefit?

No. The Central Bureau of Statistics measures unemployment through its Labour Force Survey. The rate is a survey estimate of people without work who were seeking it and available, not a register of benefit claimants.

From what age does the survey count people?

The Central Bureau of Statistics surveys persons aged 15 and over. That population is the base for the participation and employment rates.

What is Israel's labour force participation rate?

The Central Bureau of Statistics puts it at 62.0% of persons aged 15 and over in April 2026, seasonally adjusted, up from 61.9% in March.

What is Israel's employment rate?

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The Central Bureau of Statistics reported an employment rate of 60.2% of the whole population aged 15 and over in April 2026, seasonally adjusted. The rate was unchanged on March.

Why are there two participation rates for April 2026?

The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes a seasonally adjusted rate of 62.0% and an original unadjusted rate of 61.8%. They are separate series and are not mixed.

Can the unemployment rate be worked out from the other two rates?

Yes. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported participation of 62.0% and employment of 60.2% for April 2026. Dividing the 1.8-point gap by 62.0 gives 2.9%, the published unemployment rate.

How often does the rate change?

The Central Bureau of Statistics publishes the Labour Force Survey monthly, so each reading is replaced by the next month's release. Each figure on this page carries its month.

Did participation rise on the original figures as well?

Yes. The Central Bureau of Statistics recorded 61.8% on the original figures for April 2026, against 61.7% in March 2026.

Sources

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ECONOMY AND BUDGET

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KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

How Many Israelis Are in the Labour Force? 62.0% of Those Aged 15 and Over



KEY FIGURES November 9, 2026

Which Jobs Have the Most Vacancies in Israel? Service and Sales, at About 41,500 a Month

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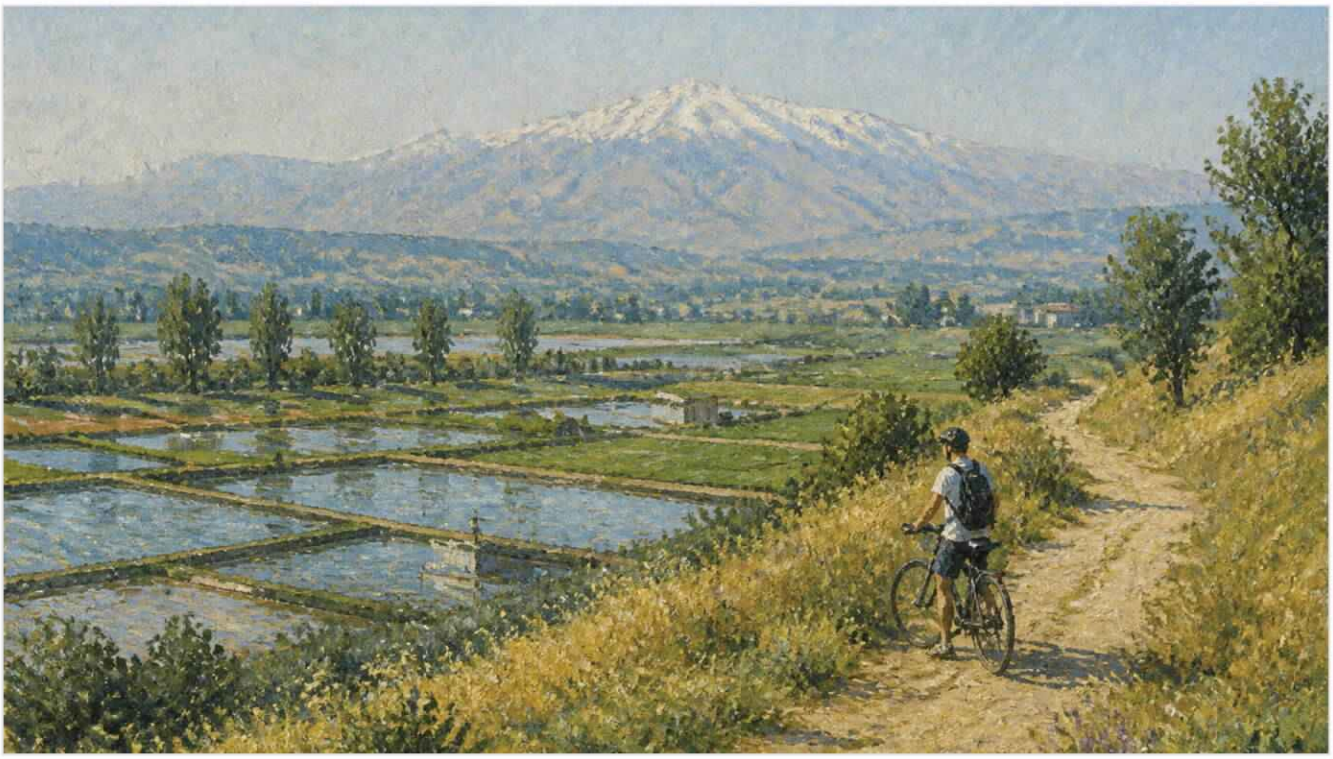
RECORD EXPLAINER November 23, 2026

Has Israel Expanded Its Occupation in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria?

The IDF put its Gaza control at about 80% in 2025, crossed the Litani on 31 May 2026, and holds a 'security zone' in southern Syria, on its own account.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY Gaza Yellow Line Lebanon Syria Mount Hermon Israel Defense Forces



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About 80% of the Gaza Strip was under the IDF's operational control, the Israel Defense Forces stated in a war retrospective published on 27 October 2025, its own figure for Operation Gideon's Chariots B. After the ceasefire decision of 9 October 2025, the IDF began marking a Yellow Line inside the Strip on 20 October 2025. In Lebanon, the Israel Defense Forces stated on 31 May 2026 that it had crossed the Litani River to expand its "Forward Defense Line". In Syria it describes troops "within the security zone in southern Syria", and no Israeli body publishes the area it holds in either country.

Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
About 30%	Gaza territory "designated as an Operational Security Perimeter", the IDF's own figure	Israel Defense Forces	18 March to 16 April 2025
About 75%	Gaza territory under "Operational Control", the IDF's own figure	Israel Defense Forces	18 March to 20 August 2025
About 80%	Gaza territory over which the IDF declared operational control in Gideon's Chariots B, its own figure, translated from Hebrew	Israel Defense Forces	Operation undated in the source; published 27 October 2025
24 hours	Time set for the IDF to deploy per the maps at Annex D, which are not published	Government of Israel, Decision 3396	From 9 October 2025
3.5 metres, about every 200 metres	Height and spacing of the Yellow Line markers in Gaza, on the IDF's own description	Israel Defense Forces	From 20 October 2025
3 months	Time 55th Brigade troops were active in the "security zone in southern Syria", on the IDF's own account	Israel Defense Forces	To 28 December 2025

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Figure	What it counts	Who published it	Period
Not published	Area, depth or share held in Lebanon or Syria, or share of Gaza held after the ceasefire	Prime Minister's Office and Israel Defense Forces	Statements of 17 December 2024 to 31 May 2026

IDF releases put Gaza control at 30%, 75%, then about 80%

The Israel Defense Forces published three territorial figures for Gaza in 2025, each its own count of its own operations. The 30% is territory "designated as an Operational Security Perimeter". The 75% and the 80% are operational control. These are two different measures, so the three figures are not one series.

- 16 April 2025, covering operations since 18 March 2025: "Approximately 30% of the Gaza Strip's territory is now designated as an Operational Security Perimeter."
- 20 August 2025, covering 18 March to 20 August 2025: "Operational Control Over Approximately 75% of the Gaza Strip", in the English headline of the release.
- 27 October 2025, a retrospective of 752 days of war: during Gideon's Chariots B the IDF "declared operational control of about 80% of the territory", translated from the Hebrew. The retrospective gives no dates for that operation.

Each figure is a party's own account of its own operations, and each carries the IDF's "approximately" or "about", which stays with it.

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The IDF began marking the Yellow Line on 20 October 2025

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 20 October 2025 that troops under Southern Command had begun marking the Yellow Line "As part of the ceasefire agreement and in accordance with the directive of the political echelon." The marking is "a concrete barrier with a pole painted yellow, standing 3.5 meters high," placed "approximately every 200 meters." The release gives no share of the Strip.

The basis Israel states is Government Decision 3396, which the Government of Israel issued on 9 October 2025. Paragraph 2.1 provides for the IDF to deploy per the maps at Annex D within 24 hours, then per Annex E "in order to prevent friction with the population in the Gaza Strip." The annex maps are not published: Annex B is classified, and Annexes C to F sit in the Government Secretariat files.

Date	Published by	What it states
1 November 2025	Israel Defense Forces	The Nahal Brigade "is operating east of the Yellow Line in the Rafah area in accordance with the ceasefire agreement"
4 November 2025	Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson	Division 252 forces operating in the northern Strip east of the Yellow Line, which the IDF describes as a forward line inside the Strip
4 November 2025	Israel Defense Forces	Troops "continue to operate in the vicinity of the Yellow Line in order to remove any immediate threat to Israeli civilians"
13 April 2026	Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson	Forces under Southern Command "are deployed in the area in accordance with the agreement"

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Each row is the IDF's own account of its own deployment, and the statement that the deployment accords with the agreement is the IDF's own characterisation of its conduct.

The IDF crossed the Litani River on 31 May 2026

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 31 May 2026 that ground forces "commenced offensive operations aimed at expanding the Forward Defense Line," and that "The IDF has crossed the Litani River and expanded its operations against Hezbollah targets north of the river." The release is titled "IDF Takes Operational Control of the Beaufort Ridge Southern Lebanon." Both are the IDF's own account of its own operations.

Those operations followed a temporary ceasefire. The Prime Minister's Office published on 17 April 2026 a statement, its own statement of Israel's position, that Israel had "agreed to a temporary ceasefire in Lebanon" and had created "a deep security buffer zone along the entire northern border," with the IDF "stationed there, at the 'Yellow Line'." That Yellow Line is in Lebanon and is a separate line from the one in Gaza.

IDF positions in Lebanon, in Israel's own releases

27 NOVEMBER 2024 TO 31 MAY 2026. DATES AS THE IDF AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE STATE THEM.

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Source: Israel Defense Forces deployment releases of 27 November 2025 and 31 May 2026; Prime Minister's Office statement of 17 April 2026. Each is a party's own account of its own deployment.

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 27 November 2025 that troops of the Northern Command and the 91st Division "have been operating in Lebanon" since the understandings took effect on 27 November 2024. The same release, the IDF's own account, places the 810th Brigade "in the 'Har Dov' area in Lebanon, alongside their activity in Syria."

Mount Hermon deployment holds until another arrangement, the Prime Minister said

The Prime Minister's Office published on 17 December 2024 that the Prime Minister held an assessment on the Hermon summit "to decide on the deployment of the IDF in this important place until another arrangement is found that ensures Israel's security." That is the Prime Minister's own statement of Israel's position, and it sets no end date. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 28 December 2025, on its own account, that 55th Brigade troops had spent three months "within the security zone in southern Syria."

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Date	Published by	Place named	Wording
17 December 2024	Prime Minister's Office	Summit of Mt. Hermon	deployment "until another arrangement is found"
28 December 2025	Israel Defense Forces	Golan Heights and southern Syria	"defending the Golan Heights and within the security zone in southern Syria"
17 April 2026	Prime Minister's Office	Mount Hermon, the Golan Heights, the Yarmouk	a buffer zone "up to Mount Hermon, through the Golan Heights, and down to the Yarmouk"

"Security zone" is the IDF's term and "buffer zone" is the Prime Minister's Office's, each quoted as published.

No Israeli body publishes the area it holds in Lebanon or Syria

None of the statements and releases on this page gives an area, a depth in kilometres or a percentage for the northern buffer zone. Each is a party's own account of its own deployment, and each describes positions by name rather than by size.

- Prime Minister's Office, 17 December 2024: a deployment on the Hermon summit, with no area or depth.
- Prime Minister's Office, 17 April 2026: a "deep security buffer zone" from Lebanon to the Yarmouk, with no area or depth.
- Israel Defense Forces deployment releases, 20 October 2025 to 31 May 2026: the Gaza Yellow Line, Har Dov, the "security zone in southern Syria" and the "Forward Defense Line", with no area, depth or share.

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- Government of Israel, Decision 3396: deployment per Annex D and Annex E maps, neither of which is published.

No release on this page gives a share of Gaza held after the ceasefire took effect on 10 October 2025.

Which of these figures may not be added together?

None of them. The Israel Defense Forces published the 30% as a designated perimeter and the 75% and 80% as operational control, its own figures for two measures over different windows. The 80% belongs to an operation the IDF retrospective does not date, so it cannot be placed against the 18 March to 20 August 2025 window of the 75%. The 'Yellow Line' in the Prime Minister's Office statement of 17 April 2026 is in Lebanon, not Gaza. Every description here is a party's own account, published by the IDF, the Prime Minister's Office or the Government of Israel.

Questions readers ask

What is the Yellow Line in Gaza?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 20 October 2025 that it had begun marking the Yellow Line as part of the ceasefire agreement, with yellow-painted poles on concrete barriers 3.5 metres high, about every 200 metres. The release is the IDF's own description and gives no share of the Strip.

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Is the Yellow Line the border of the Gaza Strip?

The Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson published on 4 November 2025 that Division 252 forces were operating east of the Yellow Line, which the IDF describes as a forward line inside the Strip. On the IDF's own account, the area east of the line lies within Gaza.

Did the ceasefire decision withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza?

The Government of Israel issued Decision 3396 on 9 October 2025, providing for the IDF to deploy per the maps at Annex D and, after the hostage release, per Annex E. Its published text contains no provision withdrawing forces from the Strip, and its annex maps are not published.

Is the Gaza ceasefire conditional?

Decision 3396, which the Government of Israel issued on 9 October 2025, states at paragraph 6 that if the hostage return at paragraph 2.2 is not fulfilled, "the ceasefire shall be cancelled and the IDF shall no longer be bound by the deployment at Annex D." Paragraph 4.3 reserves termination to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence acting jointly.

What has the IDF done east of the Yellow Line?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 25 December 2025 that troops in northern Gaza had dismantled "more than four kilometers of underground tunnel routes", its own count. On 8 November 2025 it stated that the 10th Brigade had dismantled "hundreds of terrorist

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infrastructure sites" over about two months, a count that spans the 10 October 2025 ceasefire.

Does the IDF say its Gaza deployment follows the ceasefire?

The Israel Defense Forces Spokesperson published on 13 April 2026 that forces under Southern Command "are deployed in the area in accordance with the agreement." That is the IDF's own characterisation of its own conduct.

How long have Israeli troops been in Lebanon since the 2024 ceasefire?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 27 November 2025 that Northern Command and 91st Division troops had been operating in Lebanon since the ceasefire understandings took effect on 27 November 2024. That is the IDF's own account of its own deployment.

What is the Forward Defense Line?

It is the IDF's term for its line in southern Lebanon. The Israel Defense Forces stated on 31 May 2026 that forces had begun operations "aimed at expanding the Forward Defense Line", and the release gives no depth or area for it.

Is the Yellow Line in Lebanon the same as the one in Gaza?

No. The Prime Minister's Office published on 17 April 2026 that the IDF is stationed "at the 'Yellow Line'" along the northern

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buffer zone, a line in Lebanon that is separate from the Gaza Yellow Line the IDF began marking in October 2025.

Where does Israel's northern buffer zone run?

The Prime Minister's Office published on 17 April 2026 that the zone runs "along the entire Lebanese border up to Mount Hermon, through the Golan Heights, and down to the Yarmouk." That is the Prime Minister's own statement of Israel's position.

How long will the IDF stay on Mount Hermon?

The Prime Minister's Office published on 17 December 2024 that the deployment there holds "until another arrangement is found that ensures Israel's security." The release sets no date.

What does the IDF call the area it holds in southern Syria?

The Israel Defense Forces stated on 28 December 2025 that 55th Brigade troops had spent three months "within the security zone in southern Syria", its own term and its own account.

How deep is the buffer zone in Lebanon and Syria?

The Prime Minister's Office published no depth in its 17 April 2026 statement, and the IDF deployment releases of 20 October 2025 to 31 May 2026 give no area or distance for the zone.

How much of Gaza does Israel say it holds after the ceasefire?

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No release on this page gives one. The Israel Defense Forces published the 30%, 75% and 80% figures before the ceasefire of 10 October 2025, and its Yellow Line release of 20 October 2025 gives no share of the Strip.

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August 2025. Official or primary record, a party's own count of its own operations.

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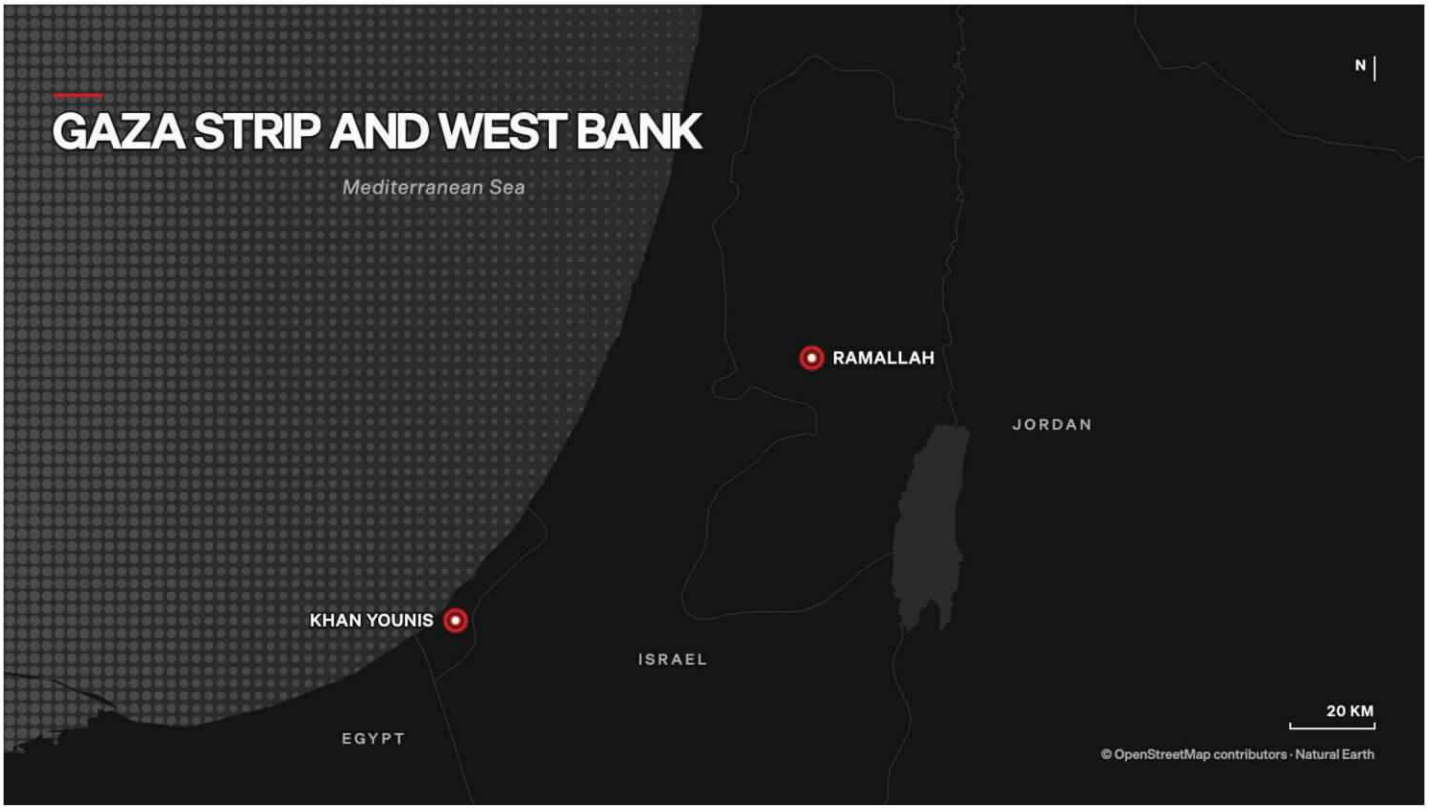
Hostages and Detainees

HOW MANY PALESTINIAN PRISONERS WERE RELEASED IN THE HOSTAGE EXCHANGES?

What Hamas, the ICRC, Israel's government and Palestinian prisoners' bodies have said about prisoners released in the exchanges since 2023.

FIGURES 23 November 2026 Palestinian prisoners Hostages ICRC Gaza ceasefire



The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that since October 2023 it had supported the return of 3,472 detainees. The Israel

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Prison Service said on 13 October 2025 that Israel had released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails. Hamas said on 13 October 2025 that 154 of the prisoners were deported to Egypt. WAFA said on 13 October 2025 that "the first batch of 96 prisoners was freed from Ofer Prison".

What did the Gaza truces and ceasefire plan say about prisoners?

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

UN Security Council resolution 2735, adopted on 10 June 2024, describes a first phase of a ceasefire proposal that includes "the exchange of Palestinian prisoners". A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect at 11.15 a.m. local time on 19 January 2025. The release of Palestinian prisoners scheduled for 22 February 2025, under the ceasefire of January 2025, was delayed, and Palestinian detainees were released overnight into 27 February 2025.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. In October 2025, Israel's government and Hamas agreed to the first phase of US President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, dated 29 September 2025. The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict is annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803, which endorsed the plan on 17 November 2025.

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict provides that within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement, all hostages, alive and deceased, will be returned. The plan, as annexed to resolution 2803 on 17 November 2025, provides: "Once all hostages are released, Israel will release 250 life sentence prisoners plus 1700 Gazans who were detained after October 7th 2023, including all women and children detained in that context."

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Ofer is an Israeli military prison near Ramallah, in the West Bank.

What prisoner release figures has Hamas given?

Hamas said on 13 October 2025 that 154 of the prisoners were deported to Egypt.

Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif al-Qanou said on 22 February 2025 that the failure to carry out the release of the seventh batch of prisoners in the exchange deal at the agreed time constituted "a blatant violation of the agreement".

Hamas said in a statement on 8 February 2025 that 18 of the Palestinian prisoners released that day were serving life sentences. Hamas said on 8 February 2025 that 54 of them had lesser sentences. Hamas also said on 8 February 2025 that 111 were detained in Gaza after October 7.

Hamas said on 27 November 2023 that it had agreed to the extension of the four-day truce by 48 hours after the intervention of Qatar and Egypt, and with the same conditions. Hamas said on 26 November 2023 that it wanted "to extend the truce after the four-day period ends, through serious efforts to increase the number of those released from imprisonment as stipulated in the humanitarian ceasefire agreement."

Hamas said on 22 November 2023 that under a "humanitarian truce" 150 Palestinian women and children would be freed from Israeli jails.

How many detainees has the ICRC said it helped release?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that since October 2023 it had supported the return of 3,472 detainees. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that the operation began in October with the release and transfer of 20 living hostages and 1,808 detainees.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025 that it had that day facilitated the return of 1,808 Palestinian detainees to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025: “A total of 1,968 detainees were released today”. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 3,472 detainees since October 2023 as part of ceasefire agreements. Earlier on 13 October 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that in previous release operations it had facilitated the release and transfer of 1,931 detainees since October 2023.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 27 February 2025 that in an overnight operation it had transferred 537 Palestinian detainees to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 27 February 2025: “In total 642 detainees were released today from places of detention in Israel.”

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 15 February 2025 that it had transferred 343 Palestinian detainees from Israeli places of detention to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 15 February 2025: “A total of 369 detainees were released today.” The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 15 February 2025 that six release operations under the ceasefire agreement had so far taken place, in which it had “safely facilitated the return of 24 hostages and 985 detainees.”

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 8 February 2025 that its fifth release operation brought 174 detainees from Israeli places of detention to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 8 February 2025: “In total, 183 detainees were released today.”

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 30 January 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 75 detainees from Israeli detention centres to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 30 January 2025: “In total, 110 Palestinian detainees were released today.”

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The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 25 January 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 128 detainees from Israeli detention centres to Gaza and the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 25 January 2025 that its teams had also interviewed detainees before "a separate release and transfer organized by authorities", and that "In total, 200 detainees were released today."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 20 January 2025 that it had facilitated the release and transfer of 90 Palestinian detainees from Israel. The ICRC said that the operation marked "the beginning of a multi-phase operation, as agreed by the parties, to bring hostages and detainees home."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 24 November 2023 that its teams had begun "a multi-day operation to facilitate the release and transfer of hostages held in Gaza and of Palestinian detainees to the West Bank." The ICRC said that the parties to the conflict agreed to the details of the operation, "including who would be released and when".

What prisoner release figures has Israel's government given?

The Israel Prison Service said on 13 October 2025 that Israel had released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails.

A spokesperson for the Israel Prison Service said on 15 February 2025 that 369 Palestinian prisoners and detainees were released that day.

Israel's Ministry of Justice said on 18 January 2025 that 737 prisoners and detainees would be freed as part of the agreement's first phase. The ministry said in a statement that "The government approves" the "release (of) 737 prisoners and detainees" in the custody of the prison service. According to a decision of Israel's government made early on 18 January 2025, Israel was set to release up to 1,904 Palestinian prisoners and detainees during the first, 42-day phase of its deal with Hamas.

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The Israel Prison Service said early on 1 December 2023 that it had released 30 Palestinians from Israeli jails as part of the latest exchange for hostages under the truce deal with Hamas. The Israel Prison Service said on 29 November 2023: "During the night, 30 male and female security prisoners were released from a number of prison facilities." The Israel Prison Service said on 26 November 2023 that it had released 39 prisoners and detainees from a total of seven Israeli prisons.

Israel's government said on 22 November 2023 that it had approved the outline for the first stage, under which "at least 50 abductees" would be released over four days.

What release figures have Palestinian prisoners' bodies and WAFA given?

WAFA said on 13 October 2025 that "the first batch of 96 prisoners was freed from Ofer Prison". WAFA said on 13 October 2025 that the second batch included 154 prisoners serving life sentences, who would be transferred from the Gaza Strip to Egypt. WAFA said on 13 October 2025 that this was in addition to 1,718 detainees from the Gaza Strip "who were detained on October 7, 2023."

The Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office said on 27 February 2025 that 642 prisoners had been released overnight in the seventh phase of the Gaza ceasefire, of whom 46 were women or minors.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office said on 15 February 2025 that 369 Palestinians were set to be released that day, including 333 Palestinians who had been detained in Gaza during the war. The Palestinian Prisoners Society said on 15 February 2025 that 333 Palestinians arrested in Gaza after the October 7 attack had arrived in the enclave that day.

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What figures have been given for Palestinian prisoners released since 2023?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that since October 2023 it had supported the return of 3,472 detainees. The Israel Prison Service said on 13 October 2025 that Israel had released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
154	Hamas	13 October 2025	of the prisoners, "deported to Egypt"
18	Hamas	8 February 2025	Palestinian prisoners released that day "serving life sentences"
54	Hamas	8 February 2025	of them with "lesser sentences"
111	Hamas	8 February 2025	"detained in Gaza after October 7"
150	Hamas	22 November 2023	Palestinian women and children to be freed from Israeli jails under the "humanitarian truce"
3,472	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	detainees whose return it supported since October 2023
1,808	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	detainees released and transferred at the start of the operation in October 2025
1,808	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	Palestinian detainees returned to Gaza and the West Bank that day
1,968	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	"detainees were released today"

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
3,472	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	detainees released and transferred since October 2023 “as part of ceasefire agreements”
1,931	International Committee of the Red Cross	13 October 2025	detainees released and transferred since October 2023 in previous release operations
537	International Committee of the Red Cross	27 February 2025	Palestinian detainees transferred to Gaza and the West Bank overnight
642	International Committee of the Red Cross	27 February 2025	“detainees were released today from places of detention in Israel”
343	International Committee of the Red Cross	15 February 2025	Palestinian detainees transferred to Gaza and the West Bank
369	International Committee of the Red Cross	15 February 2025	“detainees were released today”
985	International Committee of the Red Cross	15 February 2025	detainees returned in six release operations under the ceasefire agreement
174	International Committee of the Red Cross	8 February 2025	detainees brought to Gaza and the West Bank, fifth release operation
183	International Committee of the Red Cross	8 February 2025	“detainees were released today”
75	International Committee of the Red Cross	30 January 2025	detainees released and transferred to Gaza and the West Bank

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
110	International Committee of the Red Cross	30 January 2025	"Palestinian detainees were released today"
128	International Committee of the Red Cross	25 January 2025	detainees released and transferred to Gaza and the West Bank
200	International Committee of the Red Cross	25 January 2025	"detainees were released today"
90	International Committee of the Red Cross	20 January 2025	Palestinian detainees released and transferred from Israel
1,968	Israel Prison Service	13 October 2025	"mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails", released
369	Israel Prison Service	15 February 2025	Palestinian prisoners and detainees released that day
737	Israel's Ministry of Justice	18 January 2025	prisoners and detainees to be freed in the agreement's first phase
up to 1,904	Israel's government	18 January 2025	Palestinian prisoners and detainees to be released in the first, 42-day phase, government decision
30	Israel Prison Service	1 December 2023	Palestinians released from Israeli jails, latest exchange under the truce
30	Israel Prison Service	29 November 2023	"male and female security prisoners" released during the night
39	Israel Prison Service	26 November 2023	prisoners and detainees released from seven Israeli prisons
96	WAFA	13 October 2025	first batch of prisoners "freed from Ofer Prison"

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
154	WAFA	13 October 2025	"prisoners serving life sentences", to be transferred from the Gaza Strip to Egypt
1,718	WAFA	13 October 2025	detainees from the Gaza Strip "detained on October 7, 2023"
642	Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office	27 February 2025	prisoners released overnight in the seventh phase
46	Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office	27 February 2025	of them "women or minors"
369	Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office	15 February 2025	Palestinians "set to be released"
333	Palestinian Prisoners' Information Office	15 February 2025	of them "detained in Gaza during the war"
333	Palestinian Prisoners Society	15 February 2025	Palestinians "arrested in Gaza after the October 7 attack", arrived in the enclave
250	UN Security Council	17 November 2025	"life sentence prisoners" Israel will release once all hostages are released, Comprehensive Plan as annexed to resolution 2803
1700	UN Security Council	17 November 2025	"Gazans who were detained after October 7th 2023", Comprehensive Plan as annexed to resolution 2803

Frequently asked questions

How many prisoners did Israel say it released during the November 2023 truce?

The Israel Prison Service said on 26 November 2023 that it had released 39 prisoners and detainees from a total of seven Israeli prisons. The Israel Prison Service said early on 1 December 2023 that it had released 30 Palestinians from

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Israeli jails as part of the latest exchange for hostages under the truce deal with Hamas.

How many Palestinian prisoners were released on 13 October 2025?

The Israel Prison Service said on 13 October 2025 that Israel had released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2025: “A total of 1,968 detainees were released today”.

How many detainees has the Red Cross helped return since October 2023?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that since October 2023 it had supported the return of 3,472 detainees.

How many prisoners were to be freed in the first phase of the January 2025 ceasefire?

Israel’s Ministry of Justice said on 18 January 2025 that 737 prisoners and detainees would be freed as part of the agreement’s first phase. According to a decision of Israel’s government made early on 18 January 2025, Israel was set to release up to 1,904 Palestinian prisoners and detainees during the first, 42-day phase.

What does the Gaza ceasefire plan say about releasing Palestinian prisoners?

The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict, as annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803 on 17 November 2025, provides: “Once all hostages are

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released, Israel will release 250 life sentence prisoners plus 1700 Gazans who were detained after October 7th 2023, including all women and children detained in that context."

How many released prisoners were sent to Egypt in October 2025?

Hamas said on 13 October 2025 that 154 of the prisoners were deported to Egypt. WAFA said on 13 October 2025 that the second batch included 154 prisoners serving life sentences, who would be transferred from the Gaza Strip to Egypt.

What happened to the prisoner release scheduled for 22 February 2025?

The release of Palestinian prisoners scheduled for 22 February 2025, under the ceasefire of January 2025, was delayed, and Palestinian detainees were released overnight into 27 February 2025. Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif al-Qanou said on 22 February 2025 that the delay constituted "a blatant violation of the agreement".

Where is Ofer prison?

Ofer is an Israeli military prison near Ramallah, in the West Bank.

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Hostages and Detainees

HOW MANY PALESTINIANS ARE HELD IN ISRAELI DETENTION?

What the Israel Prison Service, the Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the ICRC and the UN Human Rights Office have said about Palestinians held by Israel.

FIGURES 23 November 2026 Detainees Israel Prison Service ICRC West Bank



WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

According to the Israel Prison Service's quarterly inmate report produced on 23 July 2026, at the end of June 2026 the Service held 3,233 security administrative detainees, 2,723 security detainees held until the end of proceedings, 1,444

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sentenced security prisoners and 1,317 security "unlawful combatants". The Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society and Addameer said on 6 October 2026 that about 9,300 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons as of October 2026. The UN Human Rights Office said on 16 March 2026 that, as of 31 October 2025, 9,204 Palestinians were being held in prisons in Israel and in Ofer prison in the West Bank. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 9 September 2026 that it had been unable to access detainees held in Israeli detention facilities since October 2023.

What detention categories does the Israel Prison Service use?

The Israel Prison Service is Israel's national incarceration organisation, responsible for holding all prisoners in Israel. The Israel Prison Service answers to Israel's Ministry of National Security.

The Israel Prison Service's main prisons for security prisoners are Gilboa and Megiddo in its Northern District, Ofer in its Central District, and Ketziot and Ganot in its Southern District.

The Israel Prison Service publishes a quarterly inmate report under Israel's Freedom of Information Law. Each report gives the number of inmates held at the end of each month of the quarter. The report's security categories include sentenced security prisoners, security detainees held until the end of proceedings, security administrative detainees and security "unlawful combatants".

The State Comptroller of Israel's report of June 2026 names five types of security prisoner held in Israel Prison Service facilities: sentenced security prisoners, administrative detainees arrested in Israel, administrative detainees arrested in the area it calls Judea and Samaria, "unlawful combatants", and detainees under criminal investigation against whom an indictment is to be filed. The report

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refers to “unlawful combatants” as defined in the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law of 2002.

An Israel Prison Service ordinance defines a security prisoner as one suspected, charged or convicted of an offence that by its nature or circumstances is a security offence, or one about whom the Israel Security Agency has given an opinion of security danger. The Israel Prison Service treats a prisoner not defined as a security prisoner as a criminal prisoner.

What do the Commission of Detainees’ Affairs’ monthly updates count?

The Commission of Detainees’ and Ex-Detainees’ Affairs was formed by presidential decree on 29 May 2014, as the official and legal successor of the Ministry of Detainees’ and Ex-Detainees’ Affairs, founded by presidential decree in 1998. The Commission is attached to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Commission of Detainees’ Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society and Addameer publish joint updates on the number of prisoners held in Israeli prisons.

In a report published on 6 October 2026, the Commission of Detainees’ Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society and Addameer said that about 9,300 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons as of October 2026. Of those, the report said, 3,101 were held under “administrative detention” and 1,419 under the “unlawful combatants” law, and 49% were held without charge or trial. The report said that it condemned “the continued denial of access to Palestinian prisoners by the International Committee of the Red Cross”.

The Commission of Detainees’ Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society and Addameer said on 2 July 2026 that “the number of prisoners and detainees in Israeli occupation prisons reached about 9,400”, among them 99 women and more than 350 children. According to the same update of 2 July 2026, 3,244 people were held as administrative detainees and 1,320 detainees were

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"classified under the name 'unlawful combatants'". The update said that this figure "does not include all Gaza detainees held in the occupation army's camps and classified in this category, and it also includes Arab detainees from Lebanon and Syria."

The Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society and Addameer said on 6 April 2026 that more than 9,600 prisoners and detainees were held as of the start of April 2026, among them 84 women and about 350 children. According to the update of 6 April 2026, there were 3,532 administrative detainees and 1,251 detainees classified as "unlawful combatants".

What has the ICRC said about access to Palestinian detainees?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 6 October 2026 that over the last three years it had facilitated the return of more than 6,000 released Palestinian detainees, across many different operations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 9 September 2026 that a team had held a technical meeting, assessment and tour of a military detention facility in Israel, and that "the team neither met nor had direct contact with any detainees." The ICRC said that day: "The ICRC has been unable to access detainees held in Israeli detention facilities since October 2023."

In a summary of its work in the first half of 2026, published on 9 September 2026, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that visits to places of detention remained "suspended by Israeli authorities".

Israel's High Court of Justice ruled on 3 June 2026 to annul the government's policy prohibiting the Red Cross from visiting Palestinian security prisoners.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 29 January 2026 that its operation under the ceasefire agreement began in October 2025 with the release

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and transfer of 1,808 detainees.

In questions and answers on its site dated 5 November 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said: “Since 7 October 2023, the ICRC has not been able to visit any Palestinian detainees in Israeli places of detention.” In the same questions and answers, dated 5 November 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that since October 2023 it had facilitated the release of over 3,400 Palestinian detainees under ceasefire agreement operations, and the transfer of over 2,200 Palestinian detainees within Gaza in unilateral releases.

What does the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly report count?

According to the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly inmate report produced on 23 July 2026, the Service held 3,233 security administrative detainees and 2,723 security detainees held until the end of proceedings at the end of June 2026. According to the same report of 23 July 2026, there were 1,444 sentenced security prisoners and 1,317 security “unlawful combatants” at the end of June 2026, of whom 1,252 were residents of the Gaza Strip.

According to the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly inmate report produced on 4 November 2025, the Service held 3,521 security administrative detainees, 2,807 security detainees held until the end of proceedings and 1,492 sentenced security prisoners at the end of September 2025. According to the same report of 4 November 2025, it held 2,674 security “unlawful combatants” at the end of September 2025, of whom 2,632 were residents of the Gaza Strip.

According to the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly inmate report produced on 15 January 2025, the Service held 3,376 security administrative detainees, 2,055 sentenced security prisoners and 1,889 security “unlawful combatants” at the end of December 2024.

According to the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly inmate report produced on 24 January 2024, the Service held 3,288 security administrative detainees, 2,132

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sentenced security prisoners and 626 security "unlawful combatants" at the end of December 2023.

According to the Israel Prison Service's quarterly inmate report produced on 17 October 2023, the Service held 1,326 security administrative detainees and 2,430 sentenced security prisoners at the end of September 2023.

Netanel Shimson, a department head at the Israel Prison Service, said on 16 September 2025 at the Knesset National Security Committee: "The entry of the Red Cross into prisons is liable to damage prison security and therefore, national security."

What has the UN Human Rights Office said about detention numbers?

The UN Human Rights Office said in a report dated 16 March 2026 that, as of 31 October 2025, 9,204 Palestinians were being held in prisons in Israel and in Ofer prison in the West Bank. The UN Human Rights Office said on 16 March 2026 that the 9,204 comprised 1,242 sentenced prisoners, 3,389 remand detainees, 3,368 in administrative detention without charge or trial and 1,205 detained as "unlawful combatants". The Office said that these figures "do not include detainees from the Gaza Strip held by the Israeli military."

The UN Human Rights Office said in the same report, dated 16 March 2026, that 350 children, including 175 held in administrative detention, and 47 women were being detained at the end of September 2025, citing the Israel Prison Service.

The UN Human Rights Office said in a report dated 13 February 2025 that at the end of October 2024 the Israel Prison Service held 10,091 "security detainees".

The UN Human Rights Office said in a thematic report dated 31 July 2024 that at the end of June 2024 the Israel Prison Service held 9,440 detainees qualified as "security detainees" by Israel: 3,377 administrative detainees, 2,561 remand

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detainees, 2,087 sentenced prisoners and 1,415 “unlawful combatants”. The Office said in the same report: “Since 7 October, Israel has suspended the ICRC’s access to all Palestinian detainees in its custody, whether from Gaza or the West Bank.”

What detention figures have been given since October 2023?

According to the Israel Prison Service’s quarterly inmate report produced on 23 July 2026, the Service held 1,317 security “unlawful combatants” at the end of June 2026. The Commission of Detainees’ Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners’ Society and Addameer said on 6 October 2026 that about 9,300 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons as of October 2026.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
9,300	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	6 October 2026	Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, “approximately”, as of October 2026
3,101	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	6 October 2026	Palestinians held under “administrative detention”, as of October 2026
1,419	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	6 October 2026	people held under the “unlawful combatants” law, as of October 2026
49%	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	6 October 2026	held without charge or trial, “nearly half”, as of October 2026
9,400	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	2 July 2026	prisoners and detainees, “about”, to the start of July 2026
99	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	2 July 2026	women prisoners among them
350	Commission of Detainees’ Affairs	2 July 2026	child prisoners, “more than”, in Megiddo and Ofer prisons

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
3,244	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	2 July 2026	administrative detainees
1,320	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	2 July 2026	detainees classified as "unlawful combatants", not including all Gaza detainees held in army camps
9,600	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	6 April 2026	prisoners and detainees, "more than", to the start of April 2026
84	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	6 April 2026	women prisoners among them
350	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	6 April 2026	child prisoners, "about"
3,532	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	6 April 2026	administrative detainees
1,251	Commission of Detainees' Affairs	6 April 2026	detainees classified as "unlawful combatants"
6,000	International Committee of the Red Cross	6 October 2026	released Palestinian detainees whose return it facilitated, "more than", over the last three years
1,808	International Committee of the Red Cross	29 January 2026	detainees released and transferred, October 2025
3,400	International Committee of the Red Cross	5 November 2025	Palestinian detainees whose release it facilitated under ceasefire agreement operations, "over", since October 2023
2,200	International Committee of the Red Cross	5 November 2025	Palestinian detainees transferred within Gaza in unilateral releases, "over"
3,233	Israel Prison Service	23 July 2026	security administrative detainees, end of June 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
2,723	Israel Prison Service	23 July 2026	security detainees held until the end of proceedings, end of June 2026
1,444	Israel Prison Service	23 July 2026	sentenced security prisoners, end of June 2026
1,317	Israel Prison Service	23 July 2026	security "unlawful combatants", end of June 2026
1,252	Israel Prison Service	23 July 2026	security "unlawful combatants" resident in the Gaza Strip, end of June 2026
3,521	Israel Prison Service	4 November 2025	security administrative detainees, end of September 2025
2,807	Israel Prison Service	4 November 2025	security detainees held until the end of proceedings, end of September 2025
1,492	Israel Prison Service	4 November 2025	sentenced security prisoners, end of September 2025
2,674	Israel Prison Service	4 November 2025	security "unlawful combatants", end of September 2025
2,632	Israel Prison Service	4 November 2025	security "unlawful combatants" resident in the Gaza Strip, end of September 2025
3,376	Israel Prison Service	15 January 2025	security administrative detainees, end of December 2024
2,055	Israel Prison Service	15 January 2025	sentenced security prisoners, end of December 2024
1,889	Israel Prison Service	15 January 2025	security "unlawful combatants", end of December 2024
3,288	Israel Prison Service	24 January 2024	security administrative detainees, end of December 2023

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
2,132	Israel Prison Service	24 January 2024	sentenced security prisoners, end of December 2023
626	Israel Prison Service	24 January 2024	security "unlawful combatants", end of December 2023
1,326	Israel Prison Service	17 October 2023	security administrative detainees, end of September 2023
2,430	Israel Prison Service	17 October 2023	sentenced security prisoners, end of September 2023
9,204	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	Palestinians held in prisons in Israel and in Ofer prison, as of 31 October 2025
1,242	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	sentenced prisoners, as of 31 October 2025
3,389	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	remand detainees, as of 31 October 2025
3,368	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	in administrative detention without charge or trial, as of 31 October 2025
1,205	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	detained as "unlawful combatants", as of 31 October 2025
350	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	children being detained, end of September 2025, citing the Israel Prison Service
47	UN Human Rights Office	16 March 2026	women being detained, end of September 2025, citing the Israel Prison Service
10,091	UN Human Rights Office	13 February 2025	"security detainees" held by the Israel Prison Service, end of October 2024
9,440	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	detainees qualified as "security detainees" by Israel, end of June 2024

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
3,377	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	administrative detainees, end of June 2024
2,561	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	remand detainees, end of June 2024
2,087	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	sentenced prisoners, end of June 2024
1,415	UN Human Rights Office	31 July 2024	"unlawful combatants", end of June 2024

Frequently asked questions

How many Palestinians does Israel hold as administrative detainees?

According to the Israel Prison Service's quarterly inmate report produced on 23 July 2026, the Service held 3,233 security administrative detainees at the end of June 2026. The Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society and Addameer said on 6 October 2026 that 3,101 Palestinians were held under "administrative detention" as of October 2026.

How many people does Israel hold as "unlawful combatants"?

According to the Israel Prison Service's quarterly inmate report produced on 23 July 2026, the Service held 1,317 security "unlawful combatants" at the end of June 2026, of whom 1,252 were residents of the Gaza Strip.

Can the Red Cross visit Palestinian detainees held by Israel?

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The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 9 September 2026: "The ICRC has been unable to access detainees held in Israeli detention facilities since October 2023." Israel's High Court of Justice ruled on 3 June 2026 to annul the government's policy prohibiting the Red Cross from visiting Palestinian security prisoners.

What has the Israel Prison Service said about Red Cross visits?

Netanel Shimson, a department head at the Israel Prison Service, said on 16 September 2025 at the Knesset National Security Committee: "The entry of the Red Cross into prisons is liable to damage prison security and therefore, national security."

How many Palestinian children are held in Israeli prisons?

The Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoners' Society and Addameer said on 2 July 2026 that more than 350 children were held in Megiddo and Ofer prisons. The UN Human Rights Office said on 16 March 2026 that 350 children were being detained at the end of September 2025, citing the Israel Prison Service.

How many Palestinian detainees has the ICRC helped release since 2023?

In questions and answers dated 5 November 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that since October 2023 it had facilitated the release of over 3,400 Palestinian detainees under ceasefire agreement operations. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 6 October 2026 that over the last three years it had facilitated the return of more than 6,000 released Palestinian detainees.

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Hostages and Detainees

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Displacement and Reconstruction

HOW MANY PEOPLE IN GAZA HAVE BEEN DISPLACED?

Figures from the Gaza Government Media Office, Israel's military, the Site Management Cluster, UN OCHA and UNRWA on displacement in Gaza since August 2025.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

Displacement | Gaza Strip | Gaza City | UN OCHA | UNRWA | Site Management Cluster



The Gaza Government Media Office said on 17 August 2026 that more than 2.15 million people in the Gaza Strip were displaced. Israel's military said on 3

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October 2025 that over 870,000 residents had evacuated south from Gaza City. The Site Management Cluster said on 23 June 2026 that nearly 1,600 active displacement sites across Gaza were hosting an estimated 1.7 million people. UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 15 October 2026 that an estimated 950,000 people were living in displacement sites at medium to high risk of flooding. UNRWA said on 4 November 2026 that 113 of its collective emergency shelters hosted approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons.

How many people has the Gaza Government Media Office said are displaced?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 17 August 2026 that more than 2.15 million people in the Gaza Strip were displaced, among them about 867,000 people living in worn-out tents no longer fit for shelter. The office said that it was launching an urgent appeal on shelter ahead of the winter.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 2 July 2026 that there were nearly 2 million displaced people in Gaza, living in 132,000 tents that had completely worn out.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 22 December 2025 that more than 125,000 tents had gone out of service and were no longer fit to give the minimum of protection to more than 1.5 million displaced people.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 24 September 2025 that nearly 335,000 people had had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south, more than 60,000 of them in the previous three days. The office said in the same statement that more than 24,000 people had returned to their areas inside Gaza City.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 20 September 2025 that nearly 270,000 people had had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south, and that more than 22,000 had returned. The office said on 16 September 2025 that nearly

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190,000 people had had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south in the preceding days, and called the movement “forced displacement”.

How many people has Israel’s military said left Gaza City?

Gaza City is in the north of the Gaza Strip.

Israel’s military said on 3 October 2025 that “so far over 870,000 residents have evacuated south from Gaza City.” In the same post, the military said that it “once again calls on the Gazan residents to move to the Humanitarian Area for their safety.”

Israel’s military said on 21 September 2025 that more than 550,000 civilians had left Gaza City and moved southward. In a statement issued on 21 September 2025, the IDF Spokesperson, BG Effie Defrin, said that “until now, 550,000 people have moved south,” and that Israel “continues to ensure that corridors remain open for civilians to move south, toward safer areas.”

Israel’s military said on 10 September 2025 that it had begun “an effort to warn the civilian population in Gaza City” the day before, through voice messages, leaflets, text messages and phone calls. Its leaflet told residents: “For your safety, evacuate immediately via the Al-Rashid corridor to the humanitarian area in Al-Mawasi.”

How many displacement movements has the Site Management Cluster tracked in Gaza?

The Site Management Cluster is a coordination body of non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies supporting displaced communities in Gaza. The cluster coordinates humanitarian organisations and United Nations agencies supporting displacement-affected communities across Gaza.

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The Site Management Cluster said on 23 June 2026 that a new assessment had found nearly 1,600 active displacement sites across Gaza hosting an estimated 1.7 million people. The cluster said in the same release that humanitarian conditions across Gaza displacement sites "remain catastrophic despite relative improvements following the October 2025 ceasefire."

The Site Management Cluster said on 18 February 2026 that its count of displacement movements since 10 October 2025 stood at 832,865. The cluster said that since 10 October 2025, approximately 694,167 displacement movements had been observed crossing from south to north, primarily through Al-Rasheed Road.

The Site Management Cluster said on 18 February 2026 that "the numbers refer to displacement movements, and not individuals," and that "people are displaced multiple times, therefore what is reported is flow figures rather than stock figures." The cluster said that between 1 and 14 February 2026 it tracked 6,454 displacement movements, including 21 reverse movements from northern Gaza towards the southern governorates.

How many people has UN OCHA said live in Gaza's displacement sites?

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

UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 15 October 2026 that an estimated 950,000 people were living in displacement sites at medium to high risk of flooding, including more than 400,000 at high risk. UN OCHA, citing the cluster, said on 25 September 2026 that 451 displacement sites at high risk of flooding were hosting an estimated 464,402 people.

UN OCHA said on 12 February 2026 that "most people in Gaza continue to be displaced." Citing the Site Management and Protection clusters, UN OCHA said

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on 12 February 2026 that as of 11 February, at least two thirds of the population, 1.4 million of 2.1 million people, were estimated to reside in about 1,000 displacement sites.

UN OCHA said on 14 January 2026 that "nearly the entire population remains displaced, many multiple times." UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 14 January 2026 that nearly 795,000 people were sheltering across 761 displacement sites in flood-prone areas.

UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 12 November 2025 that as of 10 November, about 1 million people were residing in 862 displacement sites across the Gaza Strip, out of a total population of 2.1 million. UN OCHA said on 23 October 2025 that the cluster estimated that around 1 million people were residing in about 800 displacement sites as of 21 October, "noting that these figures fluctuate daily."

UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 6 November 2025 that the total since 10 October 2025 had risen to 687,593 population movements, of which 559,247 were from southern to northern Gaza. UN OCHA said on 29 October 2025 that since 10 October 2025, cumulative tracking had identified over 502,000 movements from south to north of the Gaza Strip. UN OCHA said on 23 October 2025 that since 10 October 2025, about 546,000 movements of people had been tracked by the cluster's partners.

UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 2 October 2025 that since mid-August there had been over 450,000 movements, about 404,000 of which were movements from northern to southern Gaza, mainly to Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. UN OCHA said on 25 September 2025 that the cluster had tracked more than 388,400 displacement movements between 14 August and 23 September 2025, the majority of them from Gaza City.

How many displaced people does UNRWA say live in its Gaza shelters?

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The UN General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East on 8 December 1949. UNRWA manages collective emergency shelters in the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA said in its situation report of 4 November 2026 that 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters hosted approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons. UNRWA said in the same report that it "continues to monitor the movement of displaced persons and displacement sites."

UNRWA said in its situation report of 15 April 2026 that an estimated 67,000 displaced people were living in 83 collective emergency shelters managed by the agency.

UNRWA said in its situation report of 7 January 2026 that as of 21 December 2025, 79,000 displaced people were estimated to be living in UNRWA collective emergency shelters and the surrounding areas, including in 85 displacement sites managed by the agency.

What figures have been given for displacement in Gaza?

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip took effect at noon local time on 10 October 2025. The Gaza Strip is a territory between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Gaza Government Media Office, Israel's military, the Site Management Cluster, UN OCHA and UNRWA each gave figures on displacement in Gaza, each for the period and the definition it stated.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
more than 2.15 million	Gaza Government Media Office	17 August 2026	displaced people in the Gaza Strip	at 17 August 2026

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
nearly 2 million	Gaza Government Media Office	2 July 2026	displaced people	at 2 July 2026
more than 1.5 million	Gaza Government Media Office	22 December 2025	displaced people, for whom tents were no longer fit to give protection	at 22 December 2025
nearly 335,000	Gaza Government Media Office	24 September 2025	people who had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south	to 24 September 2025
nearly 270,000	Gaza Government Media Office	20 September 2025	people who had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south	to 20 September 2025
nearly 190,000	Gaza Government Media Office	16 September 2025	people who had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south	the preceding days
over 870,000	Israel's military	3 October 2025	residents evacuated south from Gaza City	so far
more than 550,000	Israel's military	21 September 2025	civilians have left Gaza City and moved southward	so far
an estimated 1.7 million	Site Management Cluster	23 June 2026	hosted in nearly 1,600 active displacement sites	at 23 June 2026
832,865	Site Management Cluster	18 February 2026	displacement numbers, counted as movements, not individuals	since 10 October 2025
approximately 694,167	Site Management Cluster	18 February 2026	displacement movements observed crossing from south to north	since 10 October 2025
an estimated 950,000	UN OCHA	15 October 2026	people living in displacement sites at	at 15 October

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
			medium to high risk of flooding, citing the Site Management Cluster	2026
1.4 million	UN OCHA	12 February 2026	people estimated to reside in about 1,000 displacement sites, citing the Site Management and Protection clusters	as of 11 February 2026
about 1 million	UN OCHA	12 November 2025	people residing in 862 displacement sites, citing the Site Management Cluster	as of 10 November 2025
687,593	UN OCHA	6 November 2025	total population movement since 10 October, citing the Site Management Cluster	since 10 October 2025
more than 1,200,000	UN OCHA	2 October 2025	displacement movements, citing the Site Management Cluster	since 18 March 2025
approximately 60,000	UNRWA	4 November 2026	internally displaced persons in 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters	at 4 November 2026
an estimated 67,000	UNRWA	15 April 2026	displaced people living in 83 collective emergency shelters	at 15 April 2026
79,000	UNRWA	7 January 2026	displaced people in UNRWA collective emergency shelters and the surrounding areas	as of 21 December 2025

Frequently asked questions

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How many people in Gaza are displaced, according to the Gaza Government Media Office?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 17 August 2026 that more than 2.15 million people in the Gaza Strip were displaced, among them about 867,000 people living in tents.

How many people left Gaza City in September 2025?

Israel's military said on 3 October 2025 that over 870,000 residents had evacuated south from Gaza City. The Gaza Government Media Office said on 24 September 2025 that nearly 335,000 people had had to leave their homes in Gaza City for the south.

How many people moved from southern to northern Gaza after the ceasefire?

The Site Management Cluster said on 18 February 2026 that since the ceasefire of 10 October 2025, approximately 694,167 displacement movements had been observed crossing from south to north, primarily through Al-Rasheed Road.

How many displacement sites are there in Gaza?

The Site Management Cluster said on 23 June 2026 that nearly 1,600 active displacement sites across Gaza were hosting an estimated 1.7 million people.

How many displaced people live in UNRWA shelters in Gaza?

UNRWA said in its situation report of 4 November 2026 that 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters in Gaza hosted approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons.

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How many people in Gaza live in displacement sites at risk of flooding?

UN OCHA, citing the Site Management Cluster, said on 15 October 2026 that an estimated 950,000 people in Gaza were living in displacement sites at medium to high risk of flooding, including more than 400,000 at high risk.

Does the Site Management Cluster count people or movements in Gaza?

The Site Management Cluster said on 18 February 2026 that its figures for Gaza "refer to displacement movements, and not individuals," and that "people are displaced multiple times."

When did the Gaza ceasefire take effect?

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

What is UNRWA?

The UN General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East on 8 December 1949. UNRWA manages collective emergency shelters in the Gaza Strip.

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Displacement and Reconstruction

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Food, Health and Water

HOW MANY PEOPLE IN GAZA HAVE DIED OF MALNUTRITION?

Dated figures from the Gaza Health Ministry, UN OCHA, UNICEF and WHO on deaths from malnutrition in Gaza, with the IPC's and Israel's statements.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

Malnutrition | Gaza Health Ministry | World Health Organization | UNICEF | IPC | COGAT



The Gaza Health Ministry said on 16 October 2026 that 466 deaths had been registered "due to malnutrition and starvation" since 2024, among them 157

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children. In figures UN OCHA published on 9 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 461 malnutrition-related deaths, including 157 children, had been documented since October 2023, as of 7 October 2025. UNICEF Communication Manager Tess Ingram said on 9 December 2025 that at least 165 children were reported to have died of causes related to malnutrition during the war. The World Health Organization said in its emergency situation report dated 31 October 2026 that 9 malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0 to 59 months were validated in 2026. Israel's military said on 12 August 2025 that its review of the ministry's July 2025 figures had verified "only a handful of cases".

How many malnutrition deaths has the Gaza Health Ministry stated?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 16 October 2026, in a statement for World Food Day on its Telegram channel, that 466 deaths had been registered "due to malnutrition and starvation" since 2024. The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same statement that 157 children had died "due to malnutrition", and that older people made up the largest share of malnutrition deaths, at 189 older people. The ministry said that the war had "made hunger a daily reality".

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 11 October 2025, in its daily statistical report, that it had registered 463 "martyrs" as a result of "famine and malnutrition", among them 157 children. The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same report that 185 deaths, among them 42 children, had been registered since the IPC's announcement of famine in Gaza.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 30 September 2025 that the total of deaths it had registered as a result of "famine and malnutrition" had reached 453 "martyrs", among them 150 children. The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same statement that 175 deaths, among them 35 children, had been registered since the IPC's announcement of famine in Gaza.

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The Gaza Health Ministry said on 28 July 2025 that Gaza hospitals had registered 14 new deaths "as a result of famine and malnutrition" in the previous 24 hours. The Gaza Health Ministry said that the total of deaths from "famine and malnutrition" had risen to 147, among them 88 children.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 22 July 2025, in an urgent statement, that Gaza hospitals had registered 15 deaths, among them 4 children, "as a result of famine and malnutrition" in the previous 24 hours. The Gaza Health Ministry said that the total of deaths from "famine and malnutrition" had reached 101, among them 80 children.

What has the IPC said about malnutrition deaths in Gaza?

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) says that it defines Famine as "an extreme deprivation of food", in which "starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition are or will likely be evident."

The IPC published an analysis of the Gaza Strip on 22 August 2025, covering 1 July to 15 August 2025 with a projection for 16 August to 30 September 2025. The analysis was conducted remotely from 30 July to 4 August 2025, and its conclusions were reviewed by the Famine Review Committee.

The IPC said in that analysis of 22 August 2025 that "non-trauma mortality in the Gaza Strip is likely underreported due to collapsed monitoring systems." The IPC said that "mortality among the population in Gaza Governorate is assessed to have reached the famine threshold."

The IPC said in the same analysis that "in the absence of reliable mortality data, data on public health and other contextual information were used to assess mortality trends for each area analysed, in accordance with the IPC protocols."

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The IPC's Famine Review Committee said in its conclusions of 22 August 2025 that "increasing reports of malnutrition-related deaths suggest that the most vulnerable in society are beginning to succumb." The committee said that if an immediate and sustained ceasefire was not implemented and essential services were not restored, "avoidable deaths will increase exponentially."

Which statements on malnutrition deaths have Israel's military and COGAT issued?

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

Israel's military said in a post on X on 12 August 2025 that "Gaza's Ministry of Health claims 133+ malnutrition deaths in July alone, but failed to share identities." Israel's military said in the same post that "following the in-depth review, only a handful of cases were verified," and that "most 'malnutrition' deaths were due to severe pre-existing conditions."

COGAT said in its response to the IPC, dated 22 August 2025, that the IPC was "speculating wildly about mortality rates that even Hamas's own Health Ministry does not report." COGAT said in the same response that the IPC's reliance on UN data "makes independent verification of claims, such as thousands of malnourished children and recent hunger-related deaths, impossible."

COGAT and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a joint paper dated 11 September 2025 that "famine classification requires clear evidence of excess deaths." COGAT and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in the same paper that "Gaza Ministry of Health figures were not only almost two orders of magnitude lower than the IPC protocol threshold, but also flat over time."

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What malnutrition deaths has UN OCHA relayed from the Gaza Health Ministry?

In 1998, as part of the UN Secretary-General's programme of reform, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs became the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In 2025, UN OCHA issued its Humanitarian Situation Updates on the Gaza Strip every Wednesday or Thursday.

In figures UN OCHA published on 9 October 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 461 malnutrition-related deaths, including 157 children, had been documented since October 2023, as of 7 October 2025.

In figures UN OCHA published on 18 September 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 432 malnutrition-related deaths, including 146 children, had been documented since October 2023, as of 17 September 2025.

In figures UN OCHA published on 13 August 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 235 malnutrition-related deaths, including 106 children, had been documented since October 2023, as of 13 August 2025. In figures UN OCHA published on 13 August 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that this included 170 deaths since 1 July 2025, of whom 45 were children.

In figures UN OCHA published on 30 July 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that as of 30 July 2025, malnutrition-related deaths had reached 154, including 89 children. In figures UN OCHA published on 30 July 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said that on 24 July 2025 it had documented a total of 113 malnutrition-related deaths, including 81 children and 32 adults.

What have UNICEF and WHO said about malnutrition deaths in Gaza?

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

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Organization (WHO) is the United Nations agency for health, founded in 1948. WHO EMRO publishes numbered Gaza emergency situation reports.

UNICEF Communication Manager Tess Ingram said at a briefing in Geneva on 9 December 2025 that "at least 165 children are reported to have died painful, preventable deaths related to malnutrition during the war."

UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Edouard Beigbeder, said on 24 July 2025 that "in total, more than 100 people have died from malnutrition during this war, and 80 per cent of them are children." UNICEF's Regional Director said in the same statement that "since April this year, the reported number of children who have died from malnutrition has jumped from 52 to 80", citing the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The World Health Organization said in its emergency situation report dated 31 October 2026 that "in 2026, nine malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0-59 months were validated." The World Health Organization said in its report dated 30 June 2026 that "as of 1 June 2026, four confirmed malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0-59 months had been reported."

The World Health Organization said in its report dated 30 April 2026 that "since January 2025, a total of 421 malnutrition-related deaths has been verified." The World Health Organization said in its report dated 31 January 2026 that "cumulatively, since October 2023, reported SAM-related outcomes have exceeded 421 deaths", SAM being severe acute malnutrition.

The World Health Organization said in its report dated 7 October 2025 that between 1 January and 24 September 2025, "a total of 369 verified deaths due to malnutrition were reported, including 97 children (with 77 less than 5 years old)."

The World Health Organization's Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on 7 August 2025 that "so far this year, 99 people have died from malnutrition, including 29 children under five," and that "these reported numbers are likely underestimates." The World Health Organization said on 27

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July 2025 that of 74 malnutrition-related deaths in 2025, 63 had occurred in July, including 24 children under five, a child over five and 38 adults. The World Health Organization's Director-General said on 23 July 2025 that "in 2025, WHO has documented 21 deaths related to malnutrition of children under five-years-old."

What malnutrition death figures have been given for Gaza since 2025?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 16 October 2026 that 466 deaths had been registered "due to malnutrition and starvation" since 2024. The World Health Organization said in its report dated 31 October 2026 that 9 malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0 to 59 months were validated in 2026.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
466	Gaza Health Ministry	16 October 2026	deaths registered "due to malnutrition and starvation" since 2024 (working translation)
157	Gaza Health Ministry	16 October 2026	children who died "due to malnutrition" (working translation)
189	Gaza Health Ministry	16 October 2026	older people among malnutrition deaths, "the largest share" (working translation)
463	Gaza Health Ministry	11 October 2025	"martyrs" as a result of "famine and malnutrition" (working translation)
157	Gaza Health Ministry	11 October 2025	children among them (working translation)
185	Gaza Health Ministry	11 October 2025	deaths since the IPC's announcement of famine (working translation)
42	Gaza Health Ministry	11 October 2025	children among the deaths since the IPC's announcement (working translation)

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
453	Gaza Health Ministry	30 September 2025	"martyrs", total of deaths as a result of "famine and malnutrition" (working translation)
150	Gaza Health Ministry	30 September 2025	children among them (working translation)
175	Gaza Health Ministry	30 September 2025	deaths since the IPC's announcement of famine (working translation)
35	Gaza Health Ministry	30 September 2025	children among the deaths since the IPC's announcement (working translation)
147	Gaza Health Ministry	28 July 2025	total of deaths from "famine and malnutrition" (working translation)
88	Gaza Health Ministry	28 July 2025	children among them (working translation)
101	Gaza Health Ministry	22 July 2025	total of deaths from "famine and malnutrition" (working translation)
80	Gaza Health Ministry	22 July 2025	children among them (working translation)
461	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	9 October 2025	malnutrition-related deaths documented since October 2023, as of 7 October
157	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	9 October 2025	children among them
432	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	18 September 2025	malnutrition-related deaths documented since October 2023, as of 17 September
146	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	18 September 2025	children among them
235	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	13 August 2025	malnutrition-related deaths documented since October 2023, as of 13 August
106	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	13 August 2025	children among them

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
154	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	30 July 2025	malnutrition-related deaths as of 30 July
89	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	30 July 2025	children among them
113	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	30 July 2025	malnutrition-related deaths documented, stated on 24 July
81	Gaza Health Ministry, as relayed by UN OCHA	30 July 2025	children among them
165	UNICEF	9 December 2025	children reported to have died of causes related to malnutrition during the war, at least
100	UNICEF	24 July 2025	people who died from malnutrition during the war, more than
80	UNICEF	24 July 2025	children who died from malnutrition, the reported number in July 2025, citing the Palestinian Ministry of Health
52	UNICEF	24 July 2025	children who died from malnutrition, the reported number in April 2025, citing the Palestinian Ministry of Health
9	World Health Organization	31 October 2026	malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0 to 59 months “validated” in 2026
4	World Health Organization	30 June 2026	“confirmed” malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0 to 59 months, as of 1 June 2026
421	World Health Organization	30 April 2026	malnutrition-related deaths “verified” since January 2025
421	World Health Organization	31 January 2026	“exceeded”, deaths among outcomes related to severe acute malnutrition since October 2023
369	World Health Organization	7 October 2025	“verified deaths due to malnutrition”, 1 January to 24 September 2025

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
97	World Health Organization	7 October 2025	children among them
99	World Health Organization	7 August 2025	people who died from malnutrition "so far this year"
29	World Health Organization	7 August 2025	children under five among them
74	World Health Organization	27 July 2025	malnutrition-related deaths in 2025
63	World Health Organization	27 July 2025	malnutrition-related deaths that occurred in July 2025
21	World Health Organization	23 July 2025	deaths related to malnutrition of children under five documented in 2025

Frequently asked questions

How many people has the Gaza Health Ministry said died of malnutrition?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 16 October 2026 that 466 deaths had been registered "due to malnutrition and starvation" since 2024. The Gaza Health Ministry said in the same statement that 157 children had died "due to malnutrition".

How many children have died of malnutrition in Gaza, according to UNICEF?

UNICEF Communication Manager Tess Ingram said on 9 December 2025 that at least 165 children were reported to have died of causes related to malnutrition during the war in Gaza.

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What is WHO's latest figure for malnutrition deaths in Gaza?

The World Health Organization said in its emergency situation report dated 31 October 2026 that 9 malnutrition-related deaths among children aged 0 to 59 months in Gaza were validated in 2026. The World Health Organization said in its report dated 30 April 2026 that 421 malnutrition-related deaths in Gaza had been verified since January 2025.

What did the IPC say about mortality in Gaza Governorate in August 2025?

The IPC said in its analysis of 22 August 2025 that "mortality among the population in Gaza Governorate is assessed to have reached the famine threshold." The IPC said in the same analysis that "non-trauma mortality in the Gaza Strip is likely underreported due to collapsed monitoring systems."

What did Israel's military say about the Gaza Health Ministry's malnutrition figures?

Israel's military said on 12 August 2025 that the Gaza Health Ministry "claims 133+ malnutrition deaths in July alone, but failed to share identities." Israel's military said that after its review "only a handful of cases were verified."

What did COGAT say about malnutrition deaths in its response to the IPC?

COGAT said in its response to the IPC of 22 August 2025 that the IPC was "speculating wildly about mortality rates that even Hamas's own Health Ministry does not report." COGAT and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a paper dated 11 September 2025 that "famine classification requires clear evidence of excess deaths."

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What total did the Gaza Health Ministry give for malnutrition deaths on 11 October 2025?

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 11 October 2025 that it had registered 463 “martyrs” as a result of “famine and malnutrition”, among them 157 children.

How does the IPC define Famine?

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) says that it defines Famine as “an extreme deprivation of food”, in which “starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition are or will likely be evident.”

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Food, Health and Water

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23 November 2026



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How do patients leave Gaza for medical treatment?

16 November 2026



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Who has said what about starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza?

16 November 2026



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Diplomacy and Negotiations

HOW MUCH MILITARY AID DOES THE US GIVE ISRAEL?

US and Israeli government figures for US military aid to Israel: the 2016 memorandum, yearly FMF and missile defence, and the 2024 supplemental.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

US military aid | Memorandum of understanding | Foreign Military Financing | Missile defence | US Department of State | Israel's Ministry of Defense



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Israel's Ministry of Defense said on 26 September 2024 that it had concluded negotiations in Washington for a $8.7 billion US aid package, of which $3.5 billion was for essential wartime procurement and $5.2 billion for air defense systems. The US Department of Defense said on 25 June 2024 that the national security supplemental President Biden signed carried "more than $14 billion in assistance for Israel". On 25 April 2025, the US Department of State said that, consistent with the memorandum of understanding for 2019 to 2028, "the United States annually provides $3.3 billion in FMF and $500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense." US President Donald Trump said on 3 November 2026 that "we give Israel $4 billion a year", and that the United States would stop by the end of the year.

What is the 2016 US-Israel memorandum of understanding on military aid?

The United States concluded a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with Israel on security assistance for Fiscal Years 2019 to 2028. The memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel on military assistance and missile defense was signed in the Treaty Room of the Department of State on 14 September 2016.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice and Israel's Acting National Security Advisor Jacob Nagel spoke at the signing.

Foreign Military Financing (FMF) is a program of Title 22 U.S. security assistance. Israel is authorized to use its annual FMF allocation to procure defense articles, services and training through the Foreign Military Sales system, through FMF-funded Direct Commercial Sales procurements and through Off Shore Procurement.

Through Off Shore Procurement, the current MOU allows Israel to spend a portion of its FMF on Israeli-origin rather than U.S.-origin defense articles, a

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portion set to decrease to zero in FY 2028.

The United States and Israel have signed a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement (1952), a General Security of Information Agreement (1982), a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (1991) and a Status of Forces Agreement (1994). Since 1983, the United States and Israel have met regularly via the Joint Political-Military Group.

What US military aid figures has Israel's government given?

Israel's Acting National Security Advisor Jacob Nagel said at the signing of the memorandum on 14 September 2016, on behalf of the prime minister of Israel, that the assistance would "cover a robust missile defense funding through the next decade for the first time". He said that it would help Israel "effectively plan and develop multi-layer missile defense systems".

Israel's Ministry of Defense said on 26 September 2024 that its Director General, Major General (Res.) Eyal Zamir, had concluded negotiations in Washington for "a substantial $8.7 billion U.S. aid package to support Israel's ongoing military efforts." In the same statement, Israel's Ministry of Defense said that the package comprised $3.5 billion for essential wartime procurement, already transferred to the ministry, and $5.2 billion designated for air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling and an advanced laser system.

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X on 6 November 2026: "U.S. military aid to Israel has always been a cross-the-aisle agreement." The office said in the same post: "Today, Israel has a strong and stable economy. The move by PM Netanyahu and President Trump from aid to partnership shows the strength and sophistication of our relationship, and its ability to adapt and stand strong over time."

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X on 11 November 2026: "In 1996, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that Israel would gradually end U.S. financial

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support of $1.2 billion. He did just that." In the same post, the office said: "Thirty years later, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that Israel is strong enough economically to gradually end military support."

The post also quoted what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in May 2026: "I want to draw down to zero the American financial support."

What has the US Department of Defense said about aid to Israel?

The House of Representatives passed an aid package for Ukraine, Israel and the Indo-Pacific region, in the form of four separate bills, in April 2024. Joe Biden signed the bill of foreign aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan into law on 24 April 2024.

The US Department of Defense said on 25 June 2024, in remarks by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III welcoming Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to the Pentagon, that President Biden had signed the national security supplemental "with more than $14 billion in assistance for Israel".

What military aid figures has the US State Department given for Israel?

The US Department of State said on 13 September 2016 that the United States had concluded a new 10-year memorandum of understanding with Israel on security assistance for Fiscal Years 2019 to 2028. The Department said that the memorandum "constitutes the single largest pledge of bilateral military assistance in U.S. history."

In its paper "U.S. Security Cooperation with Israel" of 19 October 2023, the US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs said that "consistent with the MOU, the United States annually provides $3.3 billion in FMF and $500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense." The US Department of

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State said in the same paper that since FY 2009, the United States had provided Israel with $3.4 billion in funding for missile defense, including $1.3 billion for Iron Dome support starting in FY 2011.

According to the US Department of State's paper of 19 October 2023, since its founding in 1948, the United States has provided Israel with over $130 billion in bilateral assistance. The US Department of State said in the same paper that as of October 2023, the United States had 599 active Foreign Military Sales cases with Israel, valued at $23.8 billion, and that from FY 2018 through FY 2022 it had authorized the permanent export of over $12.2 billion in defense articles to Israel through Direct Commercial Sales.

In its paper of 25 April 2025, the US Department of State said that "consistent with the MOU, the United States annually provides $3.3 billion in FMF and $500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense." The US Department of State said in the same paper that as of April 2025, the United States had 751 active Foreign Military Sales cases with Israel, valued at $39.2 billion.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a press statement on 1 March 2025 that he had signed a declaration to use emergency authorities to expedite the delivery of approximately $4 billion in military assistance to Israel. The US Department of State said in the same statement that since taking office, the Trump Administration had approved "nearly $12 billion in major FMS sales to Israel."

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on 9 November 2026 that President Trump wants the Foreign Military Financing portion of US aid to Israel to end "as soon as possible." Asked whether Israel could go without US military financing starting in 2027, Rubio said: "I think they could if they wanted to."

What has the White House said about military aid to Israel?

The White House's National Security Advisor, Susan E. Rice, said at the signing on 14 September 2016, on behalf of President Obama, that the memorandum

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"commits to providing Israel $38 billion in military aid over 10 years, including $33 billion in foreign military financing funds and an unprecedented commitment of $5 billion for missile defense." Rice said in the same remarks that over the past eight years, the United States had provided Israel with "almost $24 billion in military aid", and had invested "over $3 billion in Iron Dome and other missile defense technologies".

The White House's Office of Management and Budget said in its request to Congress of 20 October 2023 that the request "would provide $4 billion to the Procurement, Defense-Wide account in the Department of Defense", for funds to be transferred to the government of Israel for the procurement of Iron Dome and David's Sling capabilities. In the same letter, the Office of Management and Budget said that the request would provide $1.2 billion for the development of the Iron Beam defense system, $3.5 billion in FMF funding for Israel and $4.4 billion to the Department of Defense for activities in response to the situation in Israel.

US President Donald Trump said in a telephone interview with Fox News on 3 November 2026: "As far as paying Israel, Bibi Netanyahu and I have made a deal that we give Israel $4 billion a year, and we made a deal months ago that we're stopping." Asked how the funding should be defined, Trump said in the same interview: "You can consider it barter. You can consider military aid or cash."

What US military aid figures for Israel have been given since 2016?

The US Department of State said on 25 April 2025 that the United States annually provides $3.3 billion in FMF and $500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense, consistent with the memorandum of understanding. Israel's Ministry of Defense said on 26 September 2024 that it had secured a $8.7 billion US aid package.

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
$1.2 billion	Prime Minister's Office	11 November 2026	U.S. financial support, which Israel would "gradually end"	1996
$8.7 billion	Israel's Ministry of Defense	26 September 2024	U.S. aid package	concluded in September 2024
$3.5 billion	Israel's Ministry of Defense	26 September 2024	for essential wartime procurement, of the package	concluded in September 2024
$5.2 billion	Israel's Ministry of Defense	26 September 2024	designated for air defense systems, of the package	concluded in September 2024
more than $14 billion	US Department of Defense	25 June 2024	in assistance for Israel, in the national security supplemental	signed by President Biden in 2024
$3.3 billion	US Department of State	25 April 2025	in FMF, annually provided	each year of the MOU, 2019 to 2028
$500 million	US Department of State	25 April 2025	for cooperative programs for missile defense, annually	each year of the MOU, 2019 to 2028
$39.2 billion	US Department of State	25 April 2025	Israel's 751 active Foreign Military Sales cases, valued at	as of April 2025
over $130 billion	US Department of State	25 April 2025	in bilateral assistance	since 1948
approximately $4 billion	US Department of State	1 March 2025	in military assistance to Israel, delivery expedited	declaration of 1 March 2025

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
nearly $12 billion	US Department of State	1 March 2025	in major FMS sales to Israel, approved	since the administration took office
$3.3 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	in FMF, annually provided	each year of the MOU, 2019 to 2028
$500 million	US Department of State	19 October 2023	for cooperative programs for missile defense, annually	each year of the MOU, 2019 to 2028
$3.4 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	in funding for missile defense	since FY 2009
$1.3 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	for Iron Dome support	starting in FY 2011
$23.8 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	valued, 599 active Foreign Military Sales cases	as of October 2023
over $12.2 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	in defense articles authorized for permanent export, Direct Commercial Sales	FY 2018 through FY 2022
$6.6 billion	US Department of State	19 October 2023	worth of equipment under the Excess Defense Articles program	since 1992
$4 billion	US President Donald Trump	3 November 2026	we give Israel, a year	yearly, to the end of 2026
$4 billion	The White House Office of Management and Budget	20 October 2023	to the Procurement, Defense-Wide account, for Iron Dome and David's Sling	requested for FY 2024

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
$1.2 billion	The White House Office of Management and Budget	20 October 2023	to the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account, for Iron Beam	requested for FY 2024
$3.5 billion	The White House Office of Management and Budget	20 October 2023	in FMF funding for Israel	requested for FY 2024
$4.4 billion	The White House Office of Management and Budget	20 October 2023	to the Department of Defense, in response to the situation in Israel	requested for FY 2024
$38 billion	The White House	14 September 2016	in military aid over 10 years, under the memorandum	FY 2019 to FY 2028
$33 billion	The White House	14 September 2016	in foreign military financing funds, of the memorandum	FY 2019 to FY 2028
$5 billion	The White House	14 September 2016	for missile defense, of the memorandum	FY 2019 to FY 2028
almost $24 billion	The White House	14 September 2016	in military aid	the past eight years
over $3 billion	The White House	14 September 2016	in Iron Dome and other missile defense technologies, invested	the past eight years

Frequently asked questions

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What years does the 2016 US-Israel memorandum of understanding cover?

The United States concluded a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with Israel on security assistance for Fiscal Years 2019 to 2028. It was signed in the Treaty Room of the Department of State on 14 September 2016.

How much Foreign Military Financing does Israel receive each year?

The US Department of State said on 25 April 2025 that, consistent with the memorandum of understanding, “the United States annually provides $3.3 billion in FMF”. The Department said the same in its paper of 19 October 2023.

How much does the US give Israel for missile defence each year?

The US Department of State said on 25 April 2025 that the United States annually provides “$500 million for cooperative programs for missile defense”, consistent with the memorandum of understanding.

How much US aid has Israel received since 1948?

According to the US Department of State’s paper of 25 April 2025, since its founding in 1948, the United States has provided Israel with over $130 billion in bilateral assistance.

Is the United States ending its military aid to Israel?

US President Donald Trump said in an interview with Fox News on 3 November 2026: “We’ve already agreed that by the end of this year we won’t be paying Israel.” Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office said in a post on X on 11 November 2026

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that "Prime Minister Netanyahu said that Israel is strong enough economically to gradually end military support." Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on 9 November 2026 that President Trump wants the Foreign Military Financing portion of US aid to Israel to end "as soon as possible."

How much has the US given Israel for Iron Dome?

The US Department of State said in its paper of 19 October 2023 that since FY 2009, the United States had provided Israel with $3.4 billion in funding for missile defense, including $1.3 billion for Iron Dome support starting in FY 2011.

How much was in the April 2024 US supplemental for Israel?

The US Department of Defense said on 25 June 2024 that the national security supplemental President Biden signed carried "more than $14 billion in assistance for Israel". Israel's Ministry of Defense said on 26 September 2024 that it had secured a $8.7 billion US aid package, of which $3.5 billion was for essential wartime procurement and $5.2 billion for air defense systems.

How is Israel allowed to spend its Foreign Military Financing?

Israel is authorized to use its annual FMF allocation to procure defense articles, services and training through the Foreign Military Sales system, through FMF-funded Direct Commercial Sales procurements and through Off Shore Procurement.

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What are the terms of the Gaza ceasefire?



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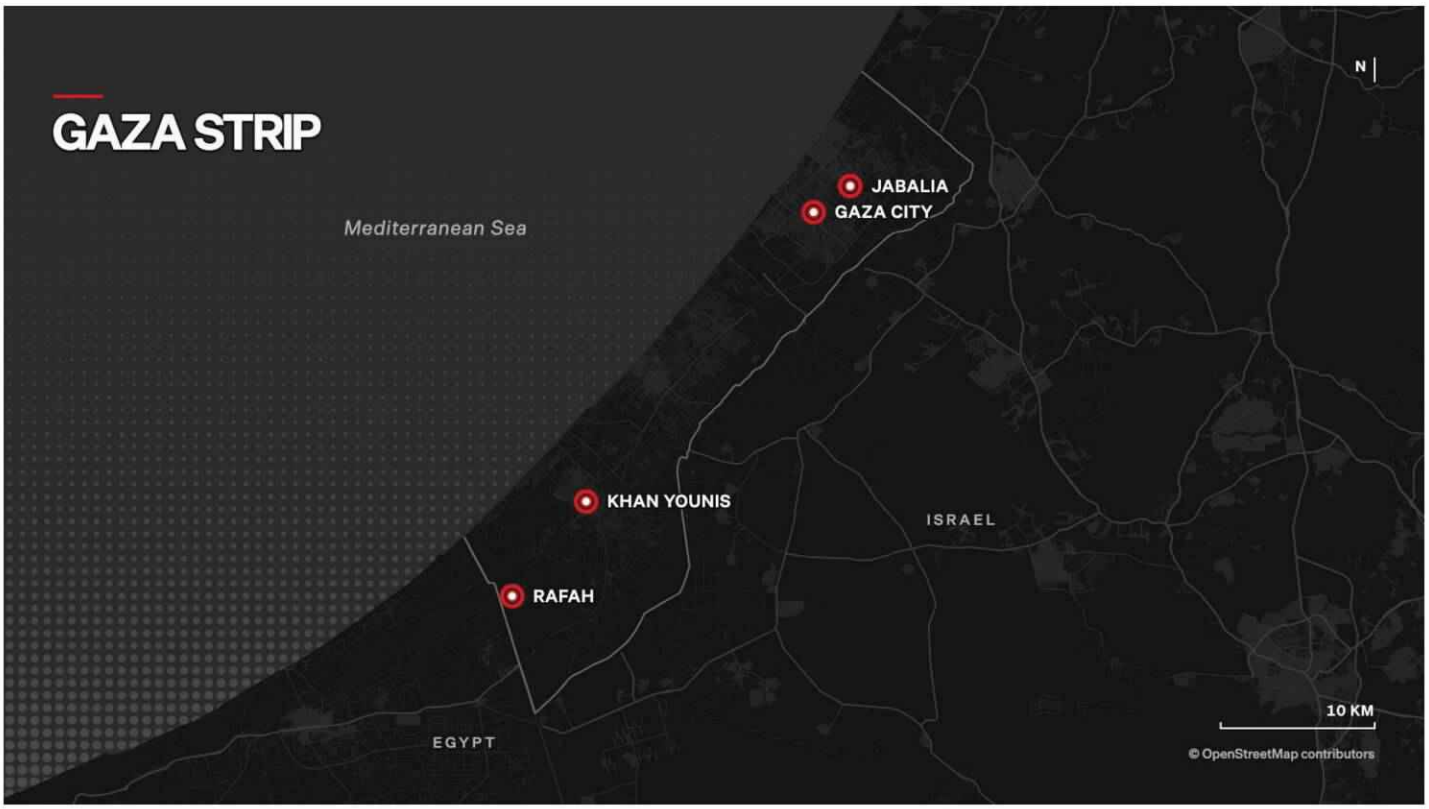
Displacement and Reconstruction

HOW MUCH OF GAZA HAS BEEN DESTROYED?

Figures from UNOSAT, the World Bank, EU and UN, UNEP, the Gaza Government Media Office and Israel's military on destruction in the Gaza Strip.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

Gaza Strip | UNOSAT | Damage assessment | Housing | Debris | Reconstruction



The Gaza Government Media Office said on 7 October 2026 that 335,000 buildings and housing units had been totally destroyed in the Gaza Strip from 7

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October 2023 to 7 October 2026. Israel's military said, in figures Ynet published on 27 June 2024, that 16% of buildings in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed since the start of the war, for the period ending 31 May 2024. The UN Environment Programme said on 23 September 2025 that more than 61 million tons of debris would require clearing, sorting and recycling or disposal, in a report covering the period up to 1 September 2025. UN OCHA said on 28 October 2026, citing UNOSAT, that 82% of all structures in the Gaza Strip were destroyed or damaged as of 16 June 2026. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their assessment released on 20 April 2026 that approximately 371,888 homes, equivalent to 76.6% of all units, had been directly affected.

How many homes has the Gaza Government Media Office said were destroyed?

The Gaza Government Media Office publishes updates of its main statistics on the war on its Telegram channel. Its update of 7 October 2026 covers the period from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing said, in a statement the Gaza Government Media Office published on 21 November 2026, that about 410,000 housing units had been damaged, of which 335,000 were totally demolished and 75,000 had become uninhabitable. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing said in the same statement that this meant the destruction of about 80% of the Strip's buildings.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 7 October 2026 that 227,703 buildings and 510,000 housing units had been damaged from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026. In the same update of 7 October 2026, the Gaza Government Media Office said that 335,000 buildings and housing units had been totally destroyed and 75,000 partially destroyed and left uninhabitable, and that its total of buildings and housing units totally demolished or uninhabitable was 410,000. According to the Gaza Government Media Office's update of 7 October 2026, more than

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100,000 housing units were partially destroyed and habitable, and the rate of comprehensive destruction in the Gaza Strip was more than 90%.

The Gaza Government Media Office said in its press statement of 10 October 2025, read by its Director General, that nearly 300,000 housing units had been totally destroyed and 200,000 others severely or partially. In the same statement of 10 October 2025, the Gaza Government Media Office said that civilian infrastructure had been demolished at a rate of 90%.

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 23 March 2025 that about 165,000 housing units had been totally destroyed, about 115,000 severely destroyed and left uninhabitable, and about 200,000 partially destroyed, from 7 October 2023 to 23 March 2025. According to the Gaza Government Media Office's update of 23 March 2025, the rate of destruction in the Gaza Strip was more than 88%.

How many Gaza buildings has Israel's military said were destroyed?

Israel's military said, in figures Ynet published on 27 June 2024, that 16% of buildings in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed since the start of the war, for the period ending 31 May 2024.

In figures JNS published on 30 June 2024, Israel's military said that 35,952 permanent structures in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed, after an analysis using digital aerial mapping by Unit 9900 of its Intelligence Corps. In the same figures JNS published on 30 June 2024, Israel's military said that 84,276 temporary structures, including sheds and tents, had been destroyed.

Israel's military said in the same Ynet report that, unlike the UN and media outlets, it collects almost daily visual evidence using advanced drones and other technological means in addition to satellite imagery. It said that its data would be presented to the various international tribunals and investigations into Israel's conduct in the war.

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How much debris has UNEP estimated in the Gaza Strip?

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) published a preliminary assessment of the environmental impact of the conflict in Gaza on 18 June 2024, in response to an official request from the State of Palestine in December 2023. UNEP issued its second assessment of environmental damage in the Gaza Strip on 23 September 2025, covering the period up to 1 September 2025.

The UN Environment Programme said on 23 September 2025 that, on current estimates, more than 61 million tons of debris would require clearing, sorting and recycling or disposal, some of it contaminated with asbestos and industrial chemicals and wastes.

The UN Environment Programme said on 18 June 2024 that an estimated 39 million tonnes of debris had been generated by the conflict.

How many structures in Gaza has UNOSAT counted as damaged?

The United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) provides United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies with satellite analysis, training and capacity development, at their request. UNOSAT's comprehensive damage assessments of the Gaza Strip are maps based on satellite images collected on a stated date and compared with images collected on earlier dates.

UN OCHA said on 28 October 2026, citing UNOSAT, that 82% of all structures in the Gaza Strip were destroyed or damaged as of 16 June 2026.

UNOSAT said on 31 October 2025 that, as of 11 October 2025, approximately 81% of all structures in the Gaza Strip were damaged. UNOSAT said in its assessment of 31 October 2025 that it identified 123,464 destroyed structures, 17,116 severely damaged structures, 33,857 moderately damaged structures and 23,836 possibly damaged structures, for a total of 198,273 affected structures. UNOSAT said on 31

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October 2025 that an estimated 320,622 housing units had been damaged, and that the assessment was a preliminary analysis that had not yet been validated in the field.

UNOSAT said on 5 August 2025 that, in images collected on 8 July 2025, it identified 102,067 destroyed structures, 17,421 severely damaged structures, 41,895 moderately damaged structures and 31,429 possibly damaged structures, for a total of 192,812 structures. UNOSAT said in its assessment of 5 August 2025 that these corresponded to around 78% of the total structures in the Gaza Strip and a total of 282,904 estimated damaged housing units.

UNOSAT said on 13 December 2024 that, in images collected on 1 December 2024, it identified 60,368 destroyed structures, 20,050 severely damaged structures, 56,292 moderately damaged structures and 34,102 possibly damaged structures, for a total of 170,812 structures. UNOSAT said in its assessment of 13 December 2024 that these corresponded to around 69% of the total structures in the Gaza Strip and a total of 245,123 estimated damaged housing units.

What have the World Bank, EU and UN said about Gaza's damage?

The World Bank and the United Nations released the Gaza Interim Damage Assessment on 2 April 2024, with financial support of the European Union. The Interim Damage Assessment covers damage to physical infrastructure between October 2023 and the end of January 2024. The World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union released the Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment on 18 February 2025, based on data from October 2023 to October 2024. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations conducted the Gaza Strip Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment of April 2026, which covers damages incurred between 8 October 2023 and 9 October 2025.

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In their assessment released on 20 April 2026, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that approximately 371,888 homes, equivalent to 76.6% of all units, had been directly affected. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in the same assessment of 20 April 2026 that nearly 84.6% of the total impacted units had been destroyed, and that before the most recent crisis Gaza was estimated to have roughly 485,361 housing units.

According to the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations in their assessment of 20 April 2026, physical damage caused by the conflict was estimated at US$35.2 billion, with the housing sector's damages at US$18.0 billion. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in the same assessment of 20 April 2026 that an estimated 68 million tons of debris covered the Gaza Strip, including infectious and medical waste.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said on 18 February 2025 that damages to physical structures alone in Gaza were estimated at about $30 billion, with housing accounting for 53% of total damages. In the same release of 18 February 2025, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that funding was needed for the management of 41 to 47 million tons of rubble and debris.

The World Bank and the United Nations said on 2 April 2024 that the cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza was estimated at around $18.5 billion, for damage between October 2023 and the end of January 2024. The World Bank and the United Nations said in the same release of 2 April 2024 that an estimated 26 million tons of debris and rubble had been left.

What figures have been given for destruction in Gaza since 2023?

The Gaza Government Media Office, Israel's military, the UN Environment Programme, UNOSAT, UN OCHA and the World Bank, the European Union and

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the United Nations each gave figures for destruction or damage in the Gaza Strip, each for the period and the unit it stated. The table gives each figure as its publisher stated it, newest first within each series.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
about 80%	Ministry of Public Works and Housing	21 November 2026	of the Strip's buildings destroyed, in a statement the Gaza Government Media Office published	to 21 November 2026
335,000	Gaza Government Media Office	7 October 2026	buildings and housing units totally destroyed	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026
510,000	Gaza Government Media Office	7 October 2026	total number of damaged housing units	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026
more than 90%	Gaza Government Media Office	7 October 2026	rate of comprehensive destruction in the Gaza Strip	7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026
nearly 300,000	Gaza Government Media Office	10 October 2025	housing units totally destroyed	to 10 October 2025
about 165,000	Gaza Government Media Office	23 March 2025	housing units totally destroyed	7 October 2023 to 23 March 2025
more than 88%	Gaza Government Media Office	23 March 2025	rate of destruction in the Gaza Strip	7 October 2023 to 23 March 2025

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
35,952	Israel's military	30 June 2024	permanent structures destroyed, as relayed by JNS	to the end of May 2024
84,276	Israel's military	30 June 2024	temporary structures destroyed, including sheds and tents, as relayed by JNS	to the end of May 2024
16%	Israel's military	27 June 2024	of buildings in the Strip destroyed since the start of the war, as relayed by Ynet	period ending 31 May 2024
more than 61 million tons	UN Environment Programme	23 September 2025	debris that will require clearing, sorting and recycling or disposal	up to 1 September 2025
an estimated 39 million tonnes	UN Environment Programme	18 June 2024	debris generated by the conflict	to 18 June 2024
82%	UN OCHA, citing UNOSAT	28 October 2026	of all structures destroyed or damaged	as of 16 June 2026
approximately 81%	UNOSAT	31 October 2025	of all structures in the Gaza Strip damaged	as of 11 October 2025
123,464	UNOSAT	31 October 2025	destroyed structures	as of 11 October 2025
around 78%	UNOSAT	5 August 2025	of the total structures in the Gaza Strip	images of 8 July 2025
102,067	UNOSAT	5 August 2025	destroyed structures	images of 8 July 2025

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
around 69%	UNOSAT	13 December 2024	of the total structures in the Gaza Strip	images of 1 December 2024
60,368	UNOSAT	13 December 2024	destroyed structures	images of 1 December 2024
approximately 371,888	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	homes directly affected, equivalent to 76.6% of all units	8 October 2023 to 9 October 2025
nearly 84.6%	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	of the total impacted units destroyed	8 October 2023 to 9 October 2025
an estimated 68 million tons	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	debris covering the Gaza Strip	8 October 2023 to 9 October 2025
US$35.2 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	physical damage caused by the conflict	8 October 2023 to 9 October 2025
about $30 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	18 February 2025	damages to physical structures alone	October 2023 to October 2024
41 to 47 million tons	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	18 February 2025	rubble and debris to be managed	October 2023 to October 2024

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
around $18.5 billion	World Bank and United Nations	2 April 2024	estimated cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza	October 2023 to the end of January 2024
an estimated 26 million tons	World Bank and United Nations	2 April 2024	debris and rubble left in the wake of the destruction	October 2023 to the end of January 2024

Frequently asked questions

What share of Gaza's structures has UNOSAT counted as damaged?

UNOSAT said on 31 October 2025 that, as of 11 October 2025, approximately 81% of all structures in the Gaza Strip were damaged. UN OCHA said on 28 October 2026, citing UNOSAT, that 82% of all structures in the Gaza Strip were destroyed or damaged as of 16 June 2026.

How many housing units does the Gaza Government Media Office say were destroyed?

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 7 October 2026 that 335,000 buildings and housing units in the Gaza Strip had been totally destroyed and 75,000 partially destroyed and left uninhabitable, from 7 October 2023 to 7 October 2026.

How much rubble is there in Gaza?

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The UN Environment Programme said on 23 September 2025 that more than 61 million tons of debris in the Gaza Strip would require clearing, sorting and recycling or disposal. In their assessment released on 20 April 2026, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that an estimated 68 million tons of debris covered the Gaza Strip.

What share of Gaza's buildings did Israel's military say had been destroyed?

Israel's military said, in figures Ynet published on 27 June 2024, that 16% of buildings in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed since the start of the war, for the period ending 31 May 2024.

How many homes in Gaza did the 2026 World Bank, EU and UN assessment count as affected?

In their assessment released on 20 April 2026, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that approximately 371,888 homes in the Gaza Strip, equivalent to 76.6% of all units, had been directly affected between 8 October 2023 and 9 October 2025.

How much debris did the World Bank and the UN estimate in Gaza in 2024?

The World Bank and the United Nations said on 2 April 2024 that an estimated 26 million tons of debris and rubble had been left in Gaza, for damage between October 2023 and the end of January 2024.

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How many people in Gaza have been displaced?



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Who has said what about ethnic cleansing in Gaza?



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Aid and Crossings

WHAT IS COGAT?

COGAT: what the Israeli unit is, who heads it, how aid has reached Gaza through the crossings since 2023, and dated statements on its role.

PROFILE 23 November 2026

COGAT | Gaza Strip | Kerem Shalom | aid and crossings | UN2720 Mechanism



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

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COGAT is the Israeli unit tasked with coordinating and facilitating humanitarian initiatives in Gaza, in coordination with the international community.

What kind of Israeli body is COGAT?

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

COGAT is the Israeli unit tasked with coordinating and facilitating humanitarian initiatives in Gaza, in coordination with the international community. COGAT publishes data on aid to Gaza on its own website.

COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for the Gaza Strip issues entry permits into Israel.

COGAT said on 17 December 2023 that UN aid trucks would "undergo security checks and be transferred directly to Gaza via Kerem Shalom". COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that it coordinates medical evacuations with the World Health Organization.

Who heads COGAT and its Gaza liaison administration?

The post COGAT names as Head of COGAT is held by Major General Yoram Halevy. The Head of COGAT is a member of the IDF's General Staff. The unit reports to Israel's Minister of Defense.

COGAT's other position holders include the Head of the Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) for Gaza and the Head of the Civil Administration. COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for the Gaza Strip issues entry permits into Israel.

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COGAT's Civil Coordination branch works with representatives of the Palestinian Civil Committee in the Gaza Strip. COGAT's division for coordination and liaison with international organisations works with UN agencies, governmental aid agencies and non-governmental international organisations.

COGAT's School for Coordination and Liaison trains its soldiers, commanders and officers.

How did aid reach Gaza through the crossings from October 2023?

The Kerem Shalom crossing was closed after the attack of 7 October 2023, and aid was delivered to Gaza solely through the Rafah crossing with Egypt. The Rafah crossing is on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

The Kerem Shalom crossing opened for aid trucks on 17 December 2023, for the first time since the outbreak of the war. The Kerem Shalom crossing is on the border of Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip, a few kilometres from the Rafah crossing.

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

The Zikim crossing is in the north of the Gaza Strip.

What aid arrangements has Gaza had since the October 2025 ceasefire?

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

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US Central Command opened a Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) in Israel on 17 October 2025.

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

EUBAM Rafah is a civilian mission of the European Union, established in 2005. EUBAM Rafah deployed to the Rafah Crossing Point on 1 February 2026, at the request of the parties, to facilitate the traffic of a controlled number of passengers and to monitor and support the Palestinian border personnel at the crossing. The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions.

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

What has been said about COGAT's role in Gaza?

Martin Griffiths, the UN emergency relief chief, said on 7 December 2023 that there were "promising signs" in negotiations in the COGAT committee on aid access to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing. He said that the committee "meets daily and nightly".

COGAT said in a statement on 17 December 2023: "Starting today (Dec. 17), UN aid trucks will undergo security checks and be transferred directly to Gaza via Kerem Shalom, to abide by our agreement with the US." Colonel Elad Goren, head of the civil department at COGAT, said the same day that humanitarian agencies had not increased their capacity to distribute aid to meet the demand from the influx of Gazans who had fled to the south of the enclave on Israeli advice.

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Jens Laerke, a spokesperson for UN OCHA, said on 9 April 2024 that COGAT counts trucks that it screens and sends across the border while OCHA counts trucks that arrive at its warehouses, and that "between those two, there are issues." He said that trucks screened by COGAT are typically only half full, in line with its requirements.

On 7 May 2024, Jens Laerke of UN OCHA said: "We currently do not have any physical presence at the Rafah crossing as our access to go to that area for coordination purposes has been denied by COGAT."

Jens Laerke of UN OCHA said on 21 June 2024: "Of course, we welcome any initiative that aims at facilitated aid delivery and we did reach an understanding with COGAT on coordinated movements intended to facilitate safe movements of humanitarian aid." He said: "In reality, as we hear from the ground, it has come to very little."

UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said on 25 October 2024 that COGAT "does not provide reasons for refusals" of medical evacuations of children. He said: "Only a list of approved patients is provided by Israel's COGAT, which controls Gaza's entry and exit points. The status of others is not shared."

The US State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel, said on 14 November 2024: "Particularly, we anticipate that the IDF and COGAT may make some adjustments to the list of items, the dual-use items, that would be allowed in."

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 12 August 2025 that a statement issued by COGAT was "nothing but a leap in the air" and "a desperate attempt to cover up an internationally documented crime".

On 22 August 2025, the Prime Minister's Office said, citing COGAT and the Ministry of Defense, that "101,000 trucks, 2 million tons of aid have entered Gaza facilitated by Israel since October 7."

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On 14 October 2025, COGAT said that from 15 October 2025 it would allow only 300 of the previously agreed 600 aid trucks from the UN and other NGOs to enter the Gaza Strip, ending the flow of commercial goods.

COGAT said in a paper dated 15 December 2025 that "today's aid mechanism operates through seven inspection and transfer points that handle humanitarian supplies and commercial goods entering Gaza". According to the paper, the transfer and offloading points are Kerem Shalom in southern Gaza, Kisufim in central Gaza and Zikim in northern Gaza.

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

COGAT said that crossings into the Gaza Strip were closed on 28 February 2026, and that the closures included the Rafah crossing.

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

In its report of 9 July 2026, COGAT said: "Through the CMCC coordination framework, Israel works closely with the United States and other international partners to monitor humanitarian operations, share operational data, and advance practical solutions that facilitate the humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip." The report said that health products "were approved by Israel through the UN2720 mechanism, operated in cooperation with UNOPS, for UN agencies and international organizations."

COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that it coordinates medical evacuations with the World Health Organization. It said: "Medical evacuations are in no sense restricted by the State of Israel but are wholly dependent on the receiving country's request; without the official request, COGAT cannot coordinate a patient's leave."

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

Asked by the Associated Press on 16 September 2026 whether it would allow in machinery to help with a building collapse in Gaza City, COGAT said that the Israeli government's policy is that heavy machinery is allowed into Gaza.

COGAT said on 14 October 2026 that Gazan merchants had told it that they had stopped coordinating the entry of their trucks in response to a 10,000 shekel fee imposed by Hamas on each truck entering Gaza and a demand for 30% of all of their sales in Gaza to be carried out in cash. On 14 October 2026, COGAT said that the merchants' decision would cut the total number of trucks entering Gaza each day to around 300.

COGAT's deputy spokesperson, Kantorovich, said on 15 October 2026: "We were prepared to coordinate the entry of their trucks as usual, but the vendors informed us that they were cancelling the coordination due to Hamas's taxation mechanism and threats against them."

The Gaza Government Media Office said on 15 October 2026 that it was following "the false statement" issued by COGAT. The office said: "We categorically deny imposing any government taxes or fees on commercial trucks."

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
101,000 trucks	Prime Minister's Office	22 August 2025	trucks "have entered Gaza facilitated by Israel since October 7 (COGAT, Ministry of Defense)"
2 million tons	Prime Minister's Office	22 August 2025	tons of aid "have entered Gaza facilitated by Israel since October 7 (COGAT, Ministry of Defense)"
300 of 600	COGAT	14 October 2025	aid trucks it would allow from 15 October 2025, of the previously agreed number

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
seven	COGAT	15 December 2025	inspection and transfer points that handle goods entering Gaza
around 5,800	COGAT	13 August 2026	Gazans needing medical treatment who exited to Egypt since February 2026
10,000 shekel	COGAT	14 October 2026	fee it said merchants told it Hamas imposed on each truck
30%	COGAT	14 October 2026	share of sales it said merchants told it Hamas demanded in cash
around 300	COGAT	14 October 2026	trucks entering Gaza each day after the merchants' decision

Frequently asked questions

What does COGAT stand for?

COGAT stands for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories. COGAT is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in the West Bank and in regard to the Gaza Strip.

Who does COGAT report to?

COGAT reports to Israel's Minister of Defense. The Head of COGAT is a member of the IDF's General Staff.

Who is the head of COGAT?

The post COGAT names as Head of COGAT is held by Major General Yoram Halevy. COGAT's other position holders include the Head of the Coordination

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and Liaison Administration (CLA) for Gaza and the Head of the Civil Administration.

What does COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for Gaza do?

COGAT's Coordination and Liaison Administration for the Gaza Strip issues entry permits into Israel. COGAT's Civil Coordination branch works with representatives of the Palestinian Civil Committee in the Gaza Strip.

When did aid first enter Gaza through Kerem Shalom during the war?

The Kerem Shalom crossing opened for aid trucks on 17 December 2023, for the first time since the outbreak of the war. Until then, aid was delivered to Gaza solely through the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

What is the Civil-Military Coordination Center?

US Central Command opened a Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) in Israel on 17 October 2025. COGAT said in its report of 9 July 2026 that "Through the CMCC coordination framework, Israel works closely with the United States and other international partners to monitor humanitarian operations".

What is the UN2720 Mechanism?

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

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How does COGAT coordinate medical evacuations from Gaza?

COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that it coordinates medical evacuations with the World Health Organization. UNICEF spokesperson James Elder said on 25 October 2024 that COGAT "does not provide reasons for refusals" of medical evacuations of children.

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Aid and Crossings

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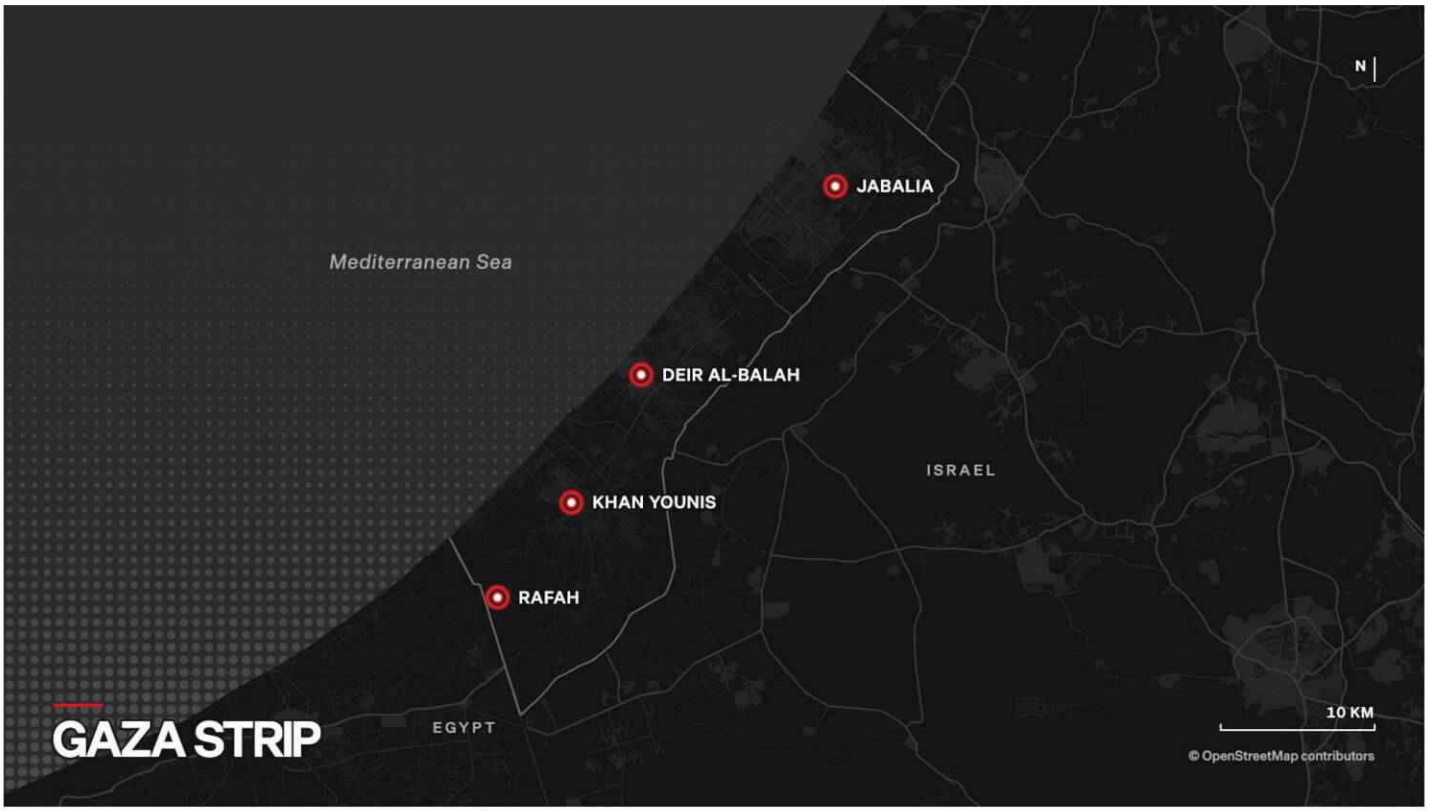
Governance of Gaza

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCE?

The International Stabilization Force in Gaza: what resolution 2803 and the plan provide, its command and contributors, its deployment and the withdrawal terms.

EXPLAINER 23 November 2026

International Stabilization Force | Resolution 2803 | Board of Peace | Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict | Gaza Strip



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Resolution 2803 authorises Member States working with the Board of Peace, and the Board of Peace itself, to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force in Gaza. The UN Security Council adopted the resolution on 17 November 2025 by 13 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, according to the UN. Major General Jasper Jeffers of the United States was appointed Commander of the International Stabilization Force on 16 January 2026. In its report to the Security Council of 17 November 2026, the Board of Peace said that "the ISF has yet to be deployed".

What does resolution 2803 say about the International Stabilization Force?

Resolution 2803 authorises Member States working with the Board of Peace, and the Board of Peace itself, to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force in Gaza. The resolution provides that the force will deploy under unified command acceptable to the Board of Peace, with forces contributed by participating States, in close consultation and cooperation with Egypt and Israel.

The resolution's seventh paragraph reads in full that the Council "Authorizes Member States working with the BoP and the BoP to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza to deploy under unified command acceptable to the BoP, with forces contributed by participating States, in close consultation and cooperation with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel, and to use all necessary measures to carry out its mandate consistent with international law, including international humanitarian law."

Resolution 2803 provides that the International Stabilization Force will work with Israel and Egypt, along with the newly trained and vetted Palestinian police force, to help secure border areas. The same paragraph of the resolution states the force's tasks: "The ISF shall work with Israel and Egypt, without prejudice to their existing agreements, along with the newly trained and vetted Palestinian police force, to help secure border areas; stabilize the security environment in Gaza by ensuring the process of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip, including the

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destruction and prevention of rebuilding of the military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, as well as the permanent decommissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups; protect civilians, including humanitarian operations; train and provide support to the vetted Palestinian police forces; coordinate with relevant States to secure humanitarian corridors; and undertake such additional tasks as may be necessary in support of the Comprehensive Plan."

The paragraph ends with the force's chain of guidance and its funding: "The ISF shall, (A) assist the BoP in monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire in Gaza, and enter into such arrangements as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan; and (B) operate under the strategic guidance of the BoP and will be funded through voluntary contributions from donors and BoP funding vehicles and governments".

Resolution 2803 provides that the international civil and security presences it authorises remain authorised until 31 December 2027, subject to further action by the Council, and that any further reauthorisation of the International Stabilization Force be in full cooperation and coordination with Egypt and Israel. The resolution calls upon Member States and international organisations to work with the Board of Peace to contribute personnel, equipment and financial resources to the force.

At the meeting of 17 November 2025, Pakistan said after the vote that "the establishment of the temporary International Stabilization Force could truly be stabilizing if guided by a clear peacekeeping mandate consistent with United Nations norms." The Russian Federation, which abstained, said: "What also raises questions is the mandate of the international stabilization force." The United States said before the vote that "The draft resolution authorizes the international stabilization force, a strong coalition of peacekeepers, many from Muslim-majority nations like Indonesia, Azerbaijan and others, to deploy under a unified command."

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What does the Comprehensive Plan say about the stabilization force?

The Comprehensive Plan provides that the United States will work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilization Force to deploy immediately in Gaza. The plan provides that the force will train and support vetted Palestinian police forces in Gaza, consulting Jordan and Egypt, and that the force will be the long-term internal security solution.

The plan's point on the force, as annexed to resolution 2803, reads: "The United States will work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) to immediately deploy in Gaza. The ISF will train and provide support to vetted Palestinian police forces in Gaza, and will consult with Jordan and Egypt who have extensive experience in this field. This force will be the long-term internal security solution. The ISF will work with Israel and Egypt to help secure border areas, along with newly trained Palestinian police forces. It is critical to prevent munitions from entering Gaza and to facilitate the rapid and secure flow of goods to rebuild and revitalize Gaza. A deconfliction mechanism will be agreed upon by the parties."

The plan provides that if Hamas delays or rejects the proposal, its terms will proceed in areas handed over from the Israel Defense Forces to the force. In the plan's words: "In the event Hamas delays or rejects this proposal, the above, including the scaled-up aid operation, will proceed in the terror-free areas handed over from the IDF to the ISF."

The guarantors of the ceasefire, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States, and the High Representative for Gaza developed and presented a road map to complete implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Peace's first report says that the decommissioning process is sequenced to proceed in phases matched with commensurate implementation steps by Israel and other stakeholders. An International Stabilisation Force would be deployed to serve as a buffer, support the chain of custody for weapons, and protect humanitarian operations, according to the report.

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Nickolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, said at the Security Council on 21 May 2026 that the road map's twelfth principle "places the International Stabilization Force (ISF) between Israeli forces and NCAG-controlled areas. It is a buffer. It does not police Gaza. The Palestinian police police Gaza. It supports decommissioning, and it protects humanitarian operations." The Board of Peace said in its report of 17 November 2026 that under the road map, "At the end of the process only the NCAG will hold, store and render unusable weapons in Gaza, under ISF supervision."

Who commands and staffs the International Stabilization Force?

Major General Jasper Jeffers of the United States was appointed Commander of the International Stabilization Force on 16 January 2026. The White House said on 16 January 2026 that he "will lead security operations, support comprehensive demilitarization, and enable the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials."

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on 5 January 2026 that Azerbaijan does not intend to participate in the force. "I have always maintained that the affairs of Arab countries should be resolved by the Arab countries themselves," he said. He said that Azerbaijan had been in contact with the US administration with a list of more than 20 questions about the operation of the force and had not received any clarification.

Indonesia's military said on 15 February 2026 that up to 8,000 troops were expected to be ready by the end of June for a potential deployment to Gaza. "Our troops are fully prepared and can be dispatched at short notice once the government gives formal approval," the military's spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Donny Pramono, said.

A Declaration of Founding Contributors to the International Stabilization Force was signed at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace in Washington on 19

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February 2026. Jeffers said at the meeting that "The ISF will do two things: stabilize the security environment in Gaza and enable civilian governance," and that Indonesia had agreed to fill the position of deputy commander of the force. Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said at the same meeting that Morocco would deploy "high-level military officers to the joint military command of the ISF."

The Board of Peace said in its report of 15 May 2026 that the declaration was signed by "the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kosovo and the Kingdom of Morocco", "expressing their intention to contribute troops to the ISF." The same report says: "The ISF operates under the unified command of the United States through Major General Jasper Jeffers, and in close consultation and cooperation with the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel." Indonesia's Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin said to parliament in May 2026 that "we have not yet received any implementation guidelines." "Since the BoP has been left behind, the ISF has also been left behind," he said.

The United States said at the Security Council on 28 July 2026 that "Morocco officially signed up as a troop contributor to the International Stabilization Force (ISF) on 15 July, the first country to do so." On 26 August 2026, the United States said: "Countries as far as Uganda, Morocco and Kazakhstan have offered thousands of troops to this effort." Morocco said at the Council on 15 October 2026 that it had announced its willingness "to deploy officers from the Royal Armed Forces to take part in the international stabilization force".

The Board of Peace said in a post on X on 23 October 2026: "Important agreement between the International Stabilization Force and Albania that provides additional security operations support and operations planning capabilities for the mission in Gaza." Kosovo's Ministry of Defence said in a written response published on 26 October 2026: "Kosovo's EOD team is ready and will deploy once ISF is prepared to receive it." The Board of Peace said in its report of 17 November 2026 that "Morocco was the first country to conclude the Agreement on 17 July to provide support to humanitarian delivery in Gaza and

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training of the NCAG-led police through its contribution to the ISF." The same report says: "Representatives of Kosovo and the Board of Peace subsequently signed an agreement on 7 September in Pristina, followed by a signing ceremony in Albania on 21 October, concluding the country's operational planning and support contribution to the ISF."

The figures below are the planned strengths and readiness each body stated.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
20,000	ISF Commander Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers	19 February 2026	soldiers, the force's planned strength
12,000	ISF Commander Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers	19 February 2026	police officers, in the force's planned strength
8,000	Indonesian National Armed Forces	15 February 2026	troops expected to be ready by the end of June, "up to"
1,000	Indonesian National Armed Forces	15 February 2026	personnel expected to be ready to deploy as an advance team by April, "about"

Has the International Stabilization Force deployed in Gaza?

The Board of Peace said in its report to the Security Council of 17 November 2026 that "the ISF has yet to be deployed." Resolution 2803 requests the Board of Peace to provide a written report to the Security Council every six months.

The Board of Peace said in its first report, of 15 May 2026: "Preparations for deployment are well advanced." The report added: "Deployments are anticipated in phases, aligned to conditions on the ground and the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, including decommissioning."

Israel's delegation said at the Security Council on 28 July 2026 that "the Israeli security cabinet approved the initial entry of the International Stabilization

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Force into Gaza so that we can start a pilot reconstruction project in Rafah, creating a humanitarian zone without Hamas control." Ramiz Alakbarov, the UN's Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, said at the same meeting: "I take note of the steps taken by the Israeli authorities on 26 July to enable the deployment of the ISF to Gaza."

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 20 August 2026: "Contrary to media reports, the political echelon has not approved the entry of the international force to the Gaza Strip." Mladenov said at the Security Council on 26 August 2026 that "The International Stabilization Force continues also to generate under the command of United States Major General Jasper Jeffers." He said: "Three things must be in place for the process to move forward: the ISF needs to be able to deploy; Israel's undertakings under the Sharm el-Sheikh protocol need to be implemented; and Hamas must adhere to its commitments." The United States said at the same meeting: "Tactical vehicles are already at the International Stabilization Force logistics base."

At the Security Council on 15 October 2026, the United States said: "The International Stabilization Force troops are preparing to deploy." The Russian Federation said at the same meeting: "Unresolved issues include the access of the International Stabilization Force to the Gaza Strip and their operations". Alakbarov, the UN's Acting Special Coordinator, said that the Comprehensive Plan "must be implemented in full", including "the deployment of the international stabilization force."

In its report of 17 November 2026, the Board of Peace said: "Preparations for deployment also continued with completion of the ISF logistics support area and advancement in the preparation of mission support sites and equipment contributions." The report calls on the Government of Israel "to take without delay the decisions required for the training, deployment and return of the civilian police and for the entry of the NCAG and the ISF".

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How is the stabilization force tied to Israel's withdrawal from Gaza?

Resolution 2803 provides that, as the International Stabilization Force establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces will withdraw from the Gaza Strip based on standards, milestones and timeframes linked to demilitarisation, save for a security perimeter presence. The resolution's words are: "As the ISF establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will withdraw from the Gaza Strip based on standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization that will be agreed between the IDF, ISF, the guarantors, and the United States, save for a security perimeter presence that will remain until Gaza is properly secure from any resurgent terror threat."

The plan provides that the Israel Defense Forces will progressively hand over territory to the force until they are withdrawn completely from Gaza, save for a security perimeter presence. The plan says that "As the ISF establishes control and stability, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will withdraw based on standards, milestones, and timeframes linked to demilitarization that will be agreed upon between the IDF, ISF, the guarantors, and the United States, with the objective of a secure Gaza that no longer poses a threat to Israel, Egypt, or its citizens." Under the road map, the Israel Defense Forces would withdraw in phases to the Gaza perimeter, contingent upon verified progress in decommissioning.

Pakistan said at the Security Council on 17 November 2025: "The ISF mandate will be effective only once there is a complete Israeli withdrawal." Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said at the Council on 18 February 2026 that "Palestinian police officers must also be deployed to carry out their tasks in maintaining security, leading to Israel's full withdrawal from the Gaza Strip." Mladenov said on 21 May 2026 that the road map's thirteenth principle "commits Israel to a phased withdrawal of its forces to Gaza's perimeter, on an agreed timetable, tied to verified progress on decommissioning and the deployment of the ISF."

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Egypt said at the Council on 15 October 2026 that it emphasised "deploying the international stabilization force and the Palestinian police, in parallel with the Israeli withdrawal". The Board of Peace said in its report of 17 November 2026: "The Roadmap defines the role of the ISF, provides for the phased withdrawal of Israeli forces in step with decommissioning". Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on 18 November 2026 that any drawdown or redeployment of Israeli forces within the buffer zones would take place only after "Hamas is dismantled and Gaza is demilitarized".

What has been said about the International Stabilization Force's mandate?

Hamas said on 17 November 2025, before the vote on resolution 2803, that "Any international force must be directly subordinate to the UN". The Russian Federation said after the vote on 17 November 2025 that the Council was "leaving the Gaza Strip at the mercy of the Board of Peace and the international stabilization force, the working methods of which are still unknown to us."

Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official, said to the Associated Press on 7 December 2025: "We are welcoming a UN force to be near the borders, supervising the ceasefire agreement, reporting about violations, preventing any kind of escalations." He said: "But we don't accept that these forces have any kind of mandates authorizing them to do or to be implemented inside the Palestinian territories." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the same day: "We know that there are certain missions that this force could do." He continued: "There are certain things they can't do, maybe the main task they can't do, but we will see."

US President Donald Trump said in a post on 15 February 2026: "Very importantly, Hamas must uphold its commitment to full and immediate demilitarization." Egypt's Foreign Minister said at the Security Council on 18 February 2026 that "the formation and deployment of the international stabilization force must be expedited to monitor the ceasefire and ensure the

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continued flow of humanitarian aid." The United States said at the same meeting that the force, "for which we have seen thousands of soldiers pledged, will create security, preserve peace and establish a durable terror-free environment."

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said to AFP on 20 February 2026: "we want peacekeeping forces that monitor the ceasefire, ensure its implementation, and act as a buffer." He said that the forces should act "without interfering in Gaza's internal affairs".

Frequently asked questions

Who authorised the International Stabilization Force?

Resolution 2803 authorises Member States working with the Board of Peace, and the Board of Peace itself, to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force in Gaza. The UN Security Council adopted the resolution on 17 November 2025 by 13 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, according to the UN.

How long is the International Stabilization Force authorised for?

Resolution 2803 provides that the international civil and security presences it authorises remain authorised until 31 December 2027, subject to further action by the Council, and that any further reauthorisation of the International Stabilization Force be in full cooperation and coordination with Egypt and Israel.

Which countries has the Board of Peace thanked for supporting the force?

The Board of Peace said in its report to the Security Council of 17 November 2026: "The Board of Peace thanks and expresses its sincere appreciation to

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Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Albania, Kosovo and Kazakhstan for their contributions and support to the ISF."

Is Indonesia sending troops to the International Stabilization Force?

Indonesia's military said on 15 February 2026 that up to 8,000 troops were expected to be ready by the end of June for a potential deployment to Gaza. Indonesia's Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin said to parliament in May 2026 that "we have not yet received any implementation guidelines."

Did Azerbaijan join the International Stabilization Force?

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on 5 January 2026 that Azerbaijan does not intend to participate in the force. The United States had said on 17 November 2025 that the force would include peacekeepers "from Muslim-majority nations like Indonesia, Azerbaijan and others".

Where is the International Stabilization Force's headquarters?

ISF Commander Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers said on 19 February 2026 that the US had established a joint operation center that would be the headquarters of the force. The United States said at the Security Council on 26 August 2026: "Tactical vehicles are already at the International Stabilization Force logistics base."

Who does the International Stabilization Force report to?

Under the resolution, the force operates under the strategic guidance of the Board of Peace and is funded through voluntary contributions from donors, Board of Peace funding vehicles and governments. Resolution 2803 requests the

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Board of Peace to provide a written report to the Security Council every six months.

What role does the International Stabilization Force have in decommissioning weapons?

The Board of Peace said in its report of 15 May 2026 that the force "supports ceasefire monitoring and has a critical role in supporting decommissioning". The Board said in its report of 17 November 2026 that under the road map, "At the end of the process only the NCAG will hold, store and render unusable weapons in Gaza, under ISF supervision."

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Food, Health and Water

WHAT IS THE IPC?

The IPC: what it is, its phases and Famine review, how it is governed, its Gaza analyses since December 2023, and dated statements on its role.

PROFILE 23 November 2026

IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification | Famine Review Committee | Gaza Strip | food insecurity



The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) describes itself as a multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and

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nutrition analysis to inform decisions. Its global partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. At the global level, the IPC is governed by the IPC Global Steering Committee, composed of senior officers representing its partner organisations.

What is the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification?

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) describes itself as a multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions. The IPC was created in 2004.

Its global partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Oxfam, Save the Children and CARE International. Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders use the IPC classification to determine the severity and extent of acute and chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition situations within countries.

The IPC uses three scales: Acute Food Insecurity, Chronic Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition. An IPC analysis gives a snapshot of the current severity of acute food insecurity and a projection of future conditions.

What are the IPC's five phases of acute food insecurity?

The IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale classifies areas in five phases: Minimal/None (Phase 1), Stressed (Phase 2), Crisis (Phase 3), Emergency (Phase 4) and Catastrophe/Famine (Phase 5). The IPC says in its brochure on its scales

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that Phase 5 is “Catastrophe (household classification) / Famine (area classification).”

The IPC describes Phase 1 (Minimal/None) as households that are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income. It describes Phase 2 (Stressed) as households that have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.

The IPC says in its brochure on its scales that in Phase 3 (Crisis), households either “Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition” or “Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.”

The IPC describes Phase 4 (Emergency) as households that either have large food consumption gaps reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality, or are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.

For Phase 5 (Catastrophe/Famine), the IPC says in the same brochure: “Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.”

The IPC’s Acute Malnutrition scale has five phases: Acceptable, Alert, Serious, Critical and Extremely Critical.

How does the IPC classify an area in Famine?

The IPC said on 30 August 2025 that acute malnutrition reaches famine levels when at least 30% of children aged 6 to 59 months have a weight-for-height Z-score (WHZ) below minus 2 standard deviations or oedema. The IPC said on 30 August 2025 that, measured by mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), the

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threshold is at least 15% of children aged 6 to 59 months with a MUAC below 125 mm or oedema, where evidence shows a rapid deterioration of underlying drivers of acute malnutrition.

The IPC said on 30 August 2025 that its mortality threshold for Famine "requires a crude death rate of 2 deaths per 10,000 people per day." It said in the same response: "The key principle is the convergence of evidence: famine is not classified based on MUAC alone, but when food deprivation, malnutrition, and mortality all indicate catastrophic conditions."

The Famine Review Committee (FRC) is an ad hoc committee of international technical experts in food security, livelihoods, nutrition and health. A Famine review is mandatory for any Famine classification and is conducted before the analysis team releases its findings.

The FRC report is made publicly available on the IPC website along with the analysis team's report. The FRC was established in 2014 and was originally called the Emergency Review Committee. The FRC has conducted Famine reviews for Ethiopia, the Gaza Strip, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen.

How is the IPC governed?

At the global level, the IPC is governed by the IPC Global Steering Committee, composed of senior officers representing its partner organisations. At the country level, IPC implementation is led by the IPC Technical Working Group, hosted by the government and composed of representatives of the government, United Nations agencies, specialised agencies and NGOs.

The IPC Global Support Unit activates the Famine Review Committee when an IPC analysis shows a potential or already identified Famine classification, or when technical consensus on a potential Famine classification breaks down, and serves as its chair and secretariat.

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What has the IPC published on the Gaza Strip since December 2023?

On 21 December 2023, the IPC released its analysis of the Gaza Strip for 24 November to 7 December 2023, with a projection for 8 December 2023 to 7 February 2024, and the Famine Review Committee reviewed its classifications.

The IPC said on 21 December 2023: "There is a risk of Famine and it is increasing each day that the current situation of intense hostilities and restricted humanitarian access persists or worsens." The IPC said on 21 December 2023 that, between 8 December 2023 and 7 February 2024, "the entire population in the Gaza Strip (about 2.2 million people) is classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse)."

On 18 March 2024, the IPC released its analysis for 15 February to 15 March 2024, with a projection for 16 March to 15 July 2024, with a Famine Review Committee report.

The IPC said on 18 March 2024: "The latest evidence confirms that Famine is imminent in the northern governorates of the Gaza Strip and projected to occur anytime between mid-March and May 2024." It said that, in its most likely scenario for the projection period, "both North Gaza and Gaza Governorates are classified in IPC Phase 5 (Famine) with reasonable evidence."

On 25 June 2024, the IPC released its analysis for 1 May to 15 June 2024, with a projection for 16 June to 30 September 2024.

The IPC said on 25 June 2024: "A high risk of Famine persists across the whole Gaza Strip as long as conflict continues and humanitarian access is restricted." The IPC said on 25 June 2024 that the whole territory was classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and that over 495,000 people were "still facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5)."

On 17 October 2024, the IPC released its analysis for September to October 2024, with a projection for November 2024 to April 2025.

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The IPC said on 17 October 2024: “One year into the conflict, the risk of Famine persists across the whole Gaza Strip.” The IPC said on 17 October 2024 that, between September and October 2024, “the whole territory is classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency),” with nearly 133,000 people “facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5).”

On 8 November 2024, the Famine Review Committee published an alert on the Gaza Strip. The IPC’s Famine Review Committee said on 8 November 2024: “There is a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in areas within the northern Gaza Strip.”

On 12 May 2025, the IPC released its analysis for 1 April to 10 May 2025, with a projection for 11 May to 30 September 2025.

The IPC said on 12 May 2025: “Nineteen months into the conflict, the Gaza Strip is still confronted with a critical risk of Famine.” The IPC said on 12 May 2025 that, from 11 May to the end of September 2025, “the whole territory is classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4),” including 470,000 people “in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).”

On 29 July 2025, the IPC issued an alert on the Gaza Strip, based on evidence available until 25 July 2025.

The IPC said on 29 July 2025: “The worst-case scenario of Famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip.” It said in the alert that an alert “does not classify areas or provide population estimates and does not constitute a Famine classification.”

The IPC published an analysis of the Gaza Strip on 22 August 2025, covering 1 July to 15 August 2025 with a projection for 16 August to 30 September 2025. The analysis was conducted remotely from 30 July to 4 August 2025, and its conclusions were reviewed by the Famine Review Committee.

The IPC said on 22 August 2025 that, as of 15 August 2025 and with reasonable evidence, Famine (IPC Phase 5) “is confirmed in Gaza Governorate.” It said that

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between mid-August and the end of September 2025, “conditions are expected to further worsen with Famine projected to expand to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis.”

The IPC said on 22 August 2025 that 641,000 people were “expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5)” by the end of September 2025. It said: “Against this backdrop, mortality among the population in Gaza Governorate is assessed to have reached the famine threshold.” It also said: “In the absence of reliable mortality data, data on public health and other contextual information were used to assess mortality trends for each area analysed, in accordance with the IPC protocols.”

On 30 August 2025, the IPC published a response to issues raised following its Famine classification in the Gaza Strip.

On 19 December 2025, the IPC released its analysis for 16 October to 30 November 2025, with a projection for 1 December 2025 to 15 April 2026, with a Famine Review Committee statement.

The IPC said on 19 December 2025: “Following a significant reduction in conflict, a proposed peace plan, and improved access for both humanitarian and commercial food deliveries, food security conditions have improved in the Gaza Strip. However, the situation remains critical.” The IPC said on 19 December 2025 that, from 1 December 2025 to 15 April 2026, about 1,900 people would be “in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), reflecting a reduction in the most extreme conditions.”

On 23 July 2026, the IPC released its analysis for 16 April to 30 June 2026, with a projection for 1 July to 31 December 2026.

The IPC said on 23 July 2026: “The entire Gaza Strip is classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).” The IPC said on 23 July 2026 that between mid-April and 30 June 2026, 212,000 people were “in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).”

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
about 2.2 million	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	21 December 2023	people in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse), 8 December 2023 to 7 February 2024
1.11 million	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	18 March 2024	people expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5), mid-March to mid-July 2024, in the most likely scenario
over 495,000	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	25 June 2024	people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5)
nearly 133,000	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	17 October 2024	people facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5), September to October 2024
470,000	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	12 May 2025	people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), 11 May to the end of September 2025
641,000	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	22 August 2025	people expected to face catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5), to the end of September 2025
about 1,900	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	19 December 2025	people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), 1 December 2025 to 15 April 2026
212,000	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	23 July 2026	people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), mid-April to 30 June 2026

What has been said about the IPC's role in Gaza?

COGAT said on 22 August 2025 that it "firmly rejects the findings of the latest IPC report published on August 22, specifically the claim of famine in Gaza city." COGAT head Maj. Gen. Ghassan Alian also said on 22 August 2025: "Instead of providing a professional, neutral and responsible assessment, the report adopts

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a biased approach riddled with severe methodological flaws, thereby undermining its credibility and the trust the international community is able to place in it."

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 22 August 2025 that the IPC "bent its own rules to fit Hamas's campaign. They lowered famine thresholds, ignored criteria and laundered Hamas lies." It also said: "The IPC could not find famine, so they forged one."

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 22 August 2025: "The IPC report is an outright lie."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 22 August 2025, of the results of the IPC's analysis: "It is a man-made disaster, a moral indictment." He also said: "Famine is not about food; it is the deliberate collapse of the systems needed for human survival."

Algeria, China, Denmark, France, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia and the United Kingdom, members of the UN Security Council, said in a joint statement on 27 August 2025: "We trust the IPC's work and methodology." They said of the IPC data on Gaza: "It clearly and unequivocally confirms Famine in the Gaza Governorate."

US acting Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea said at the Security Council on 27 August 2025: "We can only solve problems with credibility and integrity. Unfortunately, the recent report from the IPC doesn't pass the test either."

The IPC said on 30 August 2025: "The IPC has not changed its standards for famine classification in Gaza." It said in the same response: "These issues should not divert attention from the most critical matter of stopping the Famine, preventing it from spreading further, and averting further loss of life and catastrophic suffering in the Gaza Strip."

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COGAT and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a joint paper on 11 September 2025: “Famine classification requires clear evidence of excess deaths.” They said that “Gaza Ministry of Health figures were not only almost two orders of magnitude lower than the IPC protocol threshold, but also flat over time.”

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 30 September 2025, in Arabic, that “since the IPC’s announcement of famine in Gaza, 175 deaths have been registered, among them 35 children, to date.”

COGAT said on 23 July 2026 that the IPC’s analysis had overlooked Israeli data on the number of trucks entering Gaza.

Frequently asked questions

When was the IPC created?

The IPC was created in 2004. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) describes itself as a multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions.

Which organisations are partners in the IPC?

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification’s global partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Oxfam, Save the Children and CARE International.

What is the difference between Famine and Catastrophe in the IPC scale?

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The IPC says in its brochure on its scales that Phase 5 of its Acute Food Insecurity scale is “Catastrophe (household classification) / Famine (area classification).” The IPC Acute Food Insecurity scale classifies areas in five phases: Minimal/None (Phase 1), Stressed (Phase 2), Crisis (Phase 3), Emergency (Phase 4) and Catastrophe/Famine (Phase 5).

What is the IPC’s Famine Review Committee?

The Famine Review Committee (FRC) is an ad hoc committee of international technical experts in food security, livelihoods, nutrition and health. A Famine review is mandatory for any Famine classification and is conducted before the analysis team releases its findings.

When did the IPC classify Famine in Gaza Governorate?

The IPC said on 22 August 2025 that, as of 15 August 2025 and with reasonable evidence, Famine (IPC Phase 5) “is confirmed in Gaza Governorate.” Its analysis covered 1 July to 15 August 2025 with a projection for 16 August to 30 September 2025.

Which governorates did the IPC project Famine would spread to in 2025?

The IPC said on 22 August 2025 that between mid-August and the end of September 2025, “conditions are expected to further worsen with Famine projected to expand to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis.”

Does an IPC alert classify Famine?

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The IPC said on 29 July 2025, in its alert on the Gaza Strip, that an alert "does not classify areas or provide population estimates and does not constitute a Famine classification."

What did the IPC say about Gaza in December 2025?

The IPC said on 19 December 2025: "Following a significant reduction in conflict, a proposed peace plan, and improved access for both humanitarian and commercial food deliveries, food security conditions have improved in the Gaza Strip. However, the situation remains critical."

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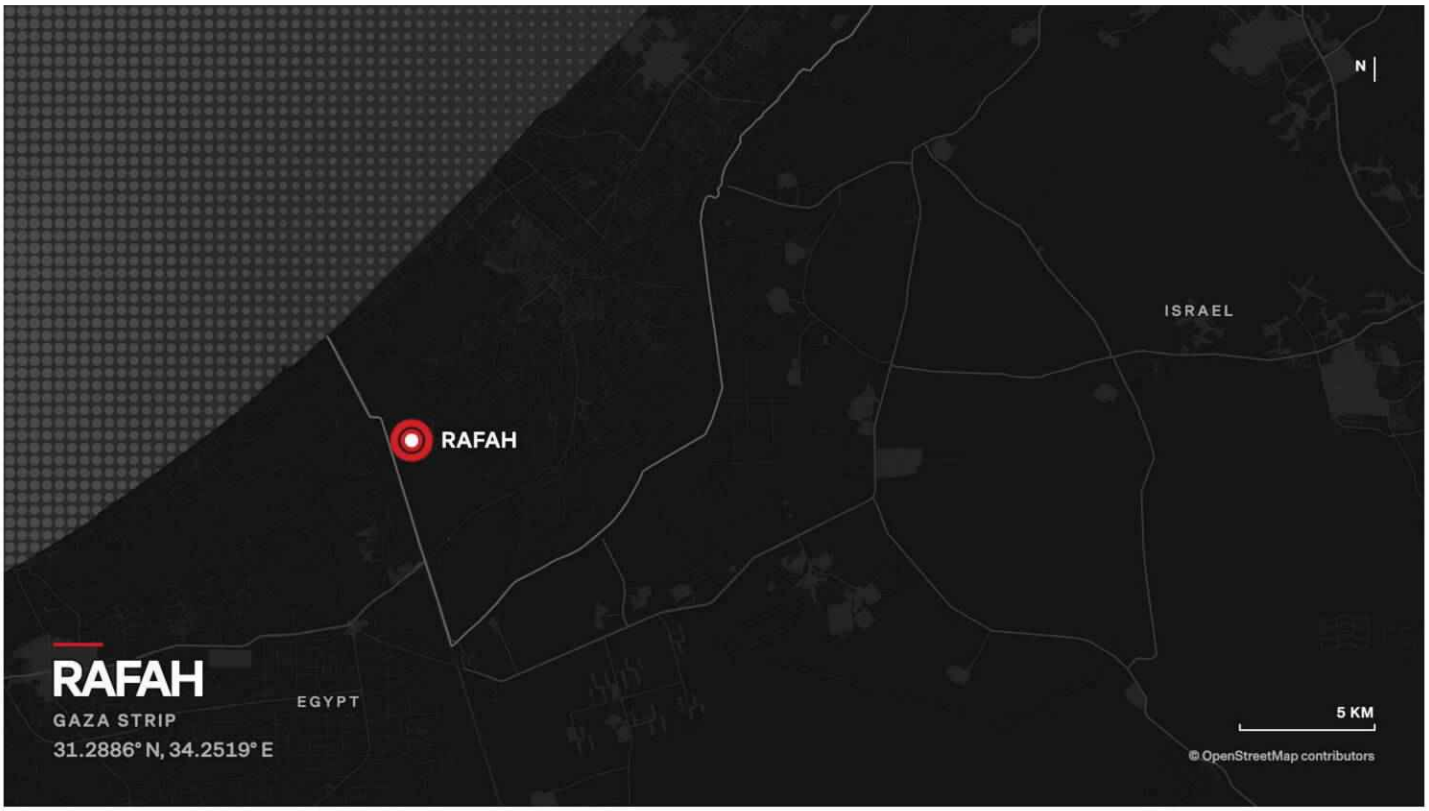
Aid and Crossings

WHAT IS THE RAFAH CROSSING?

The Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt: where it is, how it is run, its dated history, and dated statements on its role.

PROFILE 23 November 2026

Rafah crossing | Rafah | Gaza Strip | Egypt | EUBAM Rafah | crossings



The Rafah crossing is on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, and it is the Gaza Strip's only connection to Egypt. The Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing of 15 November 2005 provide that Rafah will be operated by the Palestinian Authority on its side and Egypt on its side, and name the European

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Union as the third party. The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions.

Where is the Rafah crossing?

The Rafah crossing is on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Rafah crossing is the Gaza Strip's only connection to Egypt, and the only crossing of the Gaza Strip not shared with Israel.

The Rafah crossing is the southernmost exit from the Gaza Strip. It is the only exit from the Gaza Strip that does not lead to Israeli territory.

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

The Gaza Strip is a territory between Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. The Gaza Strip is divided into five governorates: North Gaza, Gaza, Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah.

The Rafah refugee camp, established in 1949, is in the south of the Gaza Strip near the Egyptian border.

Who runs the Rafah crossing under the Agreement on Movement and Access?

On 15 November 2005, negotiators from Israel and the Palestinian Authority reached an agreement on movement and access from and to Gaza, set out in two documents: the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, European Union High Representative Javier Solana and James Wolfensohn, the international community's envoy for the Israeli disengagement from Gaza, facilitated the negotiations.

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The Agreement on Movement and Access states: “It represents the commitments of the Government of Israel (GoI) and the Palestinian Authority (PA).” The Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing state: “Rafah will be operated by the Palestinian Authority on its side, and Egypt on its side, according to international standards, in accordance with Palestinian law and subject to the terms of this agreement.”

On who may cross, the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing state: “Use of the Rafah crossing will be restricted to Palestinian ID card holders and others by exception in agreed categories with prior notification to the GoI and approval of senior PA leadership.” The text provides that “The PA will notify the GoI 48 hours in advance of the crossing of a person in the excepted categories- diplomats, foreign investors, foreign representatives of recognized international organizations and humanitarian cases.” It adds: “The GoI will respond within 24 hours with any objections and will include the reasons for the objections”.

On security, the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing state: “The PA will act to prevent the movement of weapons and explosives at the Rafah crossing.” The text also states: “Security services from Israel, PA, the U.S., and Egypt will continue to coordinate on security issues and will participate in the security working group.”

On the third party, the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing state: “The 3rd party will have the authority to ensure that the PA complies with all applicable rules and regulations concerning the Rafah crossing point and the terms of this agreement.” The text names it: “The 3rd party will be the European Union.” It also provides: “Rafah will be the only crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Egypt (with the exception of Kerem Shalom for the agreed period).”

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

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What does EUBAM Rafah do at the Rafah crossing?

EUBAM Rafah is a civilian mission of the European Union, established in 2005. EUBAM Rafah was established to support the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

On 3 November 2026, EUBAM Rafah said of its mandate: "EUBAM Rafah is mandated to monitor and support the Palestinian border officials' operations of the Rafah Crossing Point."

EU High Representative Kaja Kallas said on 31 January 2025 that the European Union had deployed a monitoring mission at the Rafah crossing. Kaja Kallas said of the mission: "It will support Palestinian border personnel and allow the transfer of individuals out of Gaza, including those who need medical care."

The European External Action Service said on 2 February 2026: "At the request of the parties EUBAM Rafah is there to facilitate the traffic of a controlled number of passengers, and to monitor and support the Palestinian border personnel in carrying out operations at the Rafah Crossing Point".

The World Health Organization said on 10 April 2026: "Patients are received at the Rafah crossing by the PA, which verifies identities alongside the European Union Border Assistance Mission, before the patients cross to the Egyptian side."

On its crossing data page, with figures running to 5 September 2026, EUBAM Rafah said: "The border crossing is functional from Sundays to Thursdays with Fridays and Saturdays being closed."

How have Egypt and Israel described their roles at the Rafah crossing?

Egypt's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 7 May 2024 that more than a million people depended on the Rafah crossing as the main lifeline of the Gaza Strip, as

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the safe outlet for the wounded and sick to leave for treatment, and for the entry of humanitarian and relief aid. The ministry called on all international parties to intervene and exert pressure to defuse the crisis and allow diplomatic efforts to succeed.

Israel's military said on 7 May 2024 that its troops had established control of the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on 3 June 2024 that it was difficult for the Rafah crossing to continue operating without a Palestinian administration. He said that the crossing could not operate again unless Israel relinquished control and handed it back to Palestinians on the Gaza side.

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 25 January 2026 that, as part of President Trump's 20-point plan, Israel had agreed to a limited reopening of the Rafah Crossing for pedestrian passage only, subject to a full Israeli inspection mechanism. The office said that the reopening was conditioned upon the return of all living hostages and a 100% effort by Hamas to locate and return all deceased hostages.

COGAT is the Israeli unit that implements the government's civilian policy in regard to the Gaza Strip. COGAT said on 13 August 2026 that it coordinates medical evacuations with the World Health Organization, and that people leaving Gaza need a valid request from a receiving country and the required security screening. It said that medical evacuations were in no sense restricted by Israel and were wholly dependent on the receiving country's request.

What has happened at the Rafah crossing since 2005?

The Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing were reached on 15 November 2005. EUBAM Rafah's mission started on 25 November 2005.

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EUBAM Rafah suspended its operations at the Rafah Crossing Point on 13 June 2007.

The first humanitarian aid convoy since the war began arrived in the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing on 21 October 2023.

Israeli forces took control of the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing on 7 May 2024.

The Rafah crossing was closed from May 2024 until it reopened on 1 February 2025. EUBAM Rafah redeployed to the Rafah Crossing Point alongside the Palestinian Authority in January 2025, for the first time since 2007.

EUBAM Rafah's operations paused in March 2025.

EUBAM Rafah deployed to the Rafah Crossing Point on 1 February 2026, at the request of the parties. The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions.

COGAT said on 28 February 2026 that the crossings into the Gaza Strip were closed, the Rafah crossing among them. COGAT said on 15 March 2026 that the Rafah crossing would open on 18 March for limited movement of people in both directions.

The World Health Organization said on 26 March 2026 that the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt re-opened on 18 March 2026. The World Health Organization said that it suspended medical evacuations via the Rafah crossing from 23 to 25 March 2026, and that they resumed on 26 March 2026.

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 8 October 2026 that the Rafah crossing remained closed to the evacuation of patients who met the conditions and were on the approved travel lists.

What has been said about the Rafah crossing's role since 2009?

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The UN Security Council adopted resolution 1860 on 8 January 2009. The resolution calls upon member states to intensify efforts to ensure the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Egypt said on 19 October 2023 that the roads across the border at the Rafah crossing needed to be repaired after they were hit by Israeli airstrikes.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 20 October 2023, at the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing, that it was impossible to be in Rafah and not to feel a broken heart. He said that the UN was engaging with Egypt, Israel and the United States to have the waiting aid trucks moving to where they were needed, in a sustained effort.

Hamas said on 7 May 2024 that Israel's seizure of the Rafah crossing aimed to undermine ceasefire efforts.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 7 May 2024 that the closure of both the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings was especially damaging to an already dire humanitarian situation. He said that both crossings had to be reopened immediately.

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on 14 May 2024 that he had told the UK and Germany about the need to persuade Egypt to reopen the Rafah crossing. He said that the key to preventing a humanitarian crisis in Gaza was now in the hands of Egypt.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said on 14 May 2024, replying to Israel Katz, that Israel was trying to shift the blame for blocked aid.

The International Court of Justice ordered Israel on 24 May 2024, by thirteen votes to two, to maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance.

Israel's National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 24 May 2024 that Israel would continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for

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the entry of humanitarian assistance from the Egyptian side of the border.

On 1 February 2025, the World Health Organization said that 34 children and three adults, along with 39 companions, had crossed out of Gaza to receive treatment in Egypt.

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 18 October 2025 that the Rafah crossing would remain closed until further notice. The office said that its opening would be considered based on the manner in which Hamas fulfils its part in returning the deceased hostages and implementing the agreed framework.

EU High Representative Kaja Kallas said on 2 February 2026 that the opening of the Rafah crossing marked a concrete and positive step in the peace plan.

The National Committee for the Administration of Gaza said on 2 February 2026 that the reopening of the Rafah crossing was the beginning of a long process to reconnect what had been torn apart.

The World Health Organization said on 3 February 2026 that on 2 February it had supported the medical evacuation of five patients and seven companions to Egypt via the Rafah crossing, the first medical evacuation through that route since 2025.

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

The Gaza Health Ministry said on 15 February 2026 that, although the partial operation of the Rafah land crossing was announced on 2 February 2026, the numbers allowed to travel remained very limited. The Gaza Health Ministry called for the Rafah land crossing to be opened permanently and regularly.

In figures running to 5 September 2026, EUBAM Rafah said that 11,684 people had crossed the Rafah Crossing Point, including 5,707 entries, 5,977 exits and 2,224 medical cases.

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On 29 October 2026, the Gaza Health Ministry said that 2,614 patients and wounded had been evacuated for treatment abroad through the Rafah crossing since February. The Gaza Health Ministry renewed its call to open the Rafah land crossing.

On 3 November 2026, EUBAM Rafah said that from 25 November 2005 until 9 June 2007, a total of 443,975 passengers crossed the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt at the Rafah Crossing Point. On 3 November 2026, EUBAM Rafah said that in that period 229,429 persons left Gaza to enter Egypt and 214,117 entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt.

On 13 November 2026, UN OCHA said that the cumulative number of returnees since the opening of the Rafah crossing in February was over 7,000 people.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
34	World Health Organization	1 February 2025	children who crossed out of Gaza to receive treatment in Egypt
39	World Health Organization	1 February 2025	companions
11,684	EUBAM Rafah	5 September 2026	people who had crossed the Rafah Crossing Point, as of 5 September
5,707	EUBAM Rafah	5 September 2026	entries, as of 5 September
5,977	EUBAM Rafah	5 September 2026	exits, as of 5 September
2,224	EUBAM Rafah	5 September 2026	medical cases, as of 5 September
2,614	Gaza Health Ministry	29 October 2026	patients and wounded evacuated for treatment abroad through the Rafah crossing since February
443,975	EUBAM Rafah	3 November 2026	passengers who crossed at the Rafah Crossing Point, 25 November 2005 to 9 June 2007

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
229,429	EUBAM Rafah	3 November 2026	persons who left Gaza to enter Egypt, 25 November 2005 to 9 June 2007
214,117	EUBAM Rafah	3 November 2026	persons who entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt, 25 November 2005 to 9 June 2007
7,000	UN OCHA	13 November 2026	people, cumulative returnees since the opening of the Rafah crossing in February, over

Frequently asked questions

Who controls the Rafah crossing?

Israel's military said on 7 May 2024 that its troops had established control of the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing. The World Health Organization said on 10 April 2026 that patients are received at the Rafah crossing by the Palestinian Authority, which verifies identities alongside the European Union Border Assistance Mission, before they cross to the Egyptian side.

When did the Rafah crossing reopen in 2026?

The Rafah Crossing Point reopened on 2 February 2026 for a controlled number of passengers in both directions. COGAT said on 28 February 2026 that the crossings into the Gaza Strip, Rafah among them, were closed. The World Health Organization said on 26 March 2026 that the Rafah crossing re-opened on 18 March 2026.

What is the Agreement on Movement and Access?

On 15 November 2005, negotiators from Israel and the Palestinian Authority reached an agreement on movement and access from and to Gaza, set out in two

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documents: the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing. The Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing provide that Rafah will be operated by the Palestinian Authority on its side and Egypt on its side.

Who may use the Rafah crossing under the 2005 agreement?

The Agreed Principles for Rafah Crossing of 15 November 2005 state: "Use of the Rafah crossing will be restricted to Palestinian ID card holders and others by exception in agreed categories with prior notification to the GoI and approval of senior PA leadership."

When did EUBAM Rafah first work at the Rafah crossing?

EUBAM Rafah's mission started on 25 November 2005. EUBAM Rafah suspended its operations at the Rafah Crossing Point on 13 June 2007, and redeployed to the Rafah Crossing Point alongside the Palestinian Authority in January 2025, for the first time since 2007.

What did the International Court of Justice order about the Rafah crossing?

The International Court of Justice ordered Israel on 24 May 2024, by thirteen votes to two, to maintain open the Rafah crossing for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance. Israel's National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 24 May 2024 that Israel would continue to enable the Rafah crossing to remain open for the entry of humanitarian assistance from the Egyptian side of the border.

How many people have crossed at Rafah since February 2026?

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In figures running to 5 September 2026, EUBAM Rafah said that 11,684 people had crossed the Rafah Crossing Point, including 5,707 entries, 5,977 exits and 2,224 medical cases. On 13 November 2026, UN OCHA said that the cumulative number of returnees since the opening of the Rafah crossing in February was over 7,000 people.

Is the Rafah crossing open every day?

On its crossing data page, with figures running to 5 September 2026, EUBAM Rafah said: "The border crossing is functional from Sundays to Thursdays with Fridays and Saturdays being closed."

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Aid and Crossings

WHAT IS UNRWA?

UNRWA: its founding resolution and mandate renewals, its work in Gaza, the 2024 reviews, the Knesset laws, the ICJ opinion and dated statements on its role.

PROFILE 23 November 2026

UNRWA | Gaza Strip | United Nations | General Assembly | International Court of Justice



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established by the UN General Assembly in resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949. Resolution 302 (IV) established the Agency to carry out, in collaboration with local governments, the direct relief and works programmes

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recommended by the Economic Survey Mission. On 5 December 2025, in resolution 80/78, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2029.

Which UN resolution created UNRWA?

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, was established by the UN General Assembly in resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949. UNRWA began its operations on 1 May 1950.

Resolution 302 (IV) says, in its paragraph 7, that the General Assembly "Establishes the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: (a) To carry out in collaboration with local governments the direct relief and works programmes as recommended by the Economic Survey Mission; (b) To consult with the interested Near Eastern Governments concerning measures to be taken by them preparatory to the time when international assistance for relief and works projects is no longer available".

Under resolution 302 (IV), the Secretary-General appoints the Agency's Director, who is the chief executive officer of the Agency and responsible to the General Assembly for the operation of the programme. Resolution 302 (IV) requests the Director to submit an annual report on the work of the Agency to the General Assembly.

On 13 December 2019, in resolution 74/83, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2023. On 12 December 2022, in resolution 77/123, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2026. On 5 December 2025, in resolution 80/78, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2029.

Each of the three resolutions extends the mandate without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

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Resolution 80/78 states that the General Assembly "Affirms the necessity for the continuation of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the importance of its unimpeded operation and its provision of services, including emergency assistance, for the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees and for the stability of the region, pending the just resolution of the question of the Palestine refugees". The same resolution says that the Agency has played an essential role "in ameliorating the plight of the Palestine refugees through the provision of education, health, relief and social services".

How does UNRWA operate in the Gaza Strip?

The UN Secretary-General said on 9 December 2024, in a letter to the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council: "In Gaza specifically, UNRWA has been the main provider of basic and essential services, providing education to approximately 300,000 children in 288 schools and 2 training centres, healthcare services to around 900,000 patients and around 3.5 million patient consultations annually in 22 primary health clinics, and emergency assistance to approximately 1.1 million people." He said in the same letter: "Under the current crisis in Gaza, UNRWA is the backbone of the United Nations humanitarian relief operations".

UNRWA said on 31 January 2025 that its staff were still providing aid to people in Gaza who depend on them "for their sheer survival".

UNRWA said in its situation report of 4 November 2026: "Around 10,500 Palestinian UNRWA personnel continue to provide services and assistance to people in the Gaza Strip." It said in the same report: "A total of 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters host approximately 60,000 internally displaced persons."

UNRWA also said in the report of 4 November 2026: "Additional classrooms at the Rehabilitation Centre for the Visually Impaired in Gaza City are being

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established to increase education capacity. Rehabilitation work is also ongoing to establish a health facility at the Gaza Training Centre to enhance and consolidate health service delivery in Northern Gaza."

UNRWA said in the same report: "The Israeli authorities have not granted the Agency's international staff visas or permits to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza, since the end of January 2025."

What happened after the allegations against UNRWA staff in January 2024?

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on 26 January 2024: "To protect the agency's ability to deliver humanitarian assistance, I have taken the decision to immediately terminate the contracts of these staff members and launch an investigation in order to establish the truth without delay." The UN Secretary-General's spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, said the same day: "The Secretary-General is horrified by this news."

After the allegations of January 2024 against UNRWA staff, the UN Secretary-General ordered the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to investigate, and appointed an independent review panel, headed by former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, to assess whether the agency was doing everything it could to ensure neutrality. The panel published its report in April 2024.

The United Nations in Palestine said on 23 April 2024 that the panel's report reads: "Israel made public claims that a significant number of UNRWA employees are members of terrorist organisations. However, Israel has yet to provide supporting evidence of this." Catherine Colonna, head of the review group, said at UN Headquarters: "The set of rules and the mechanisms and procedures in place [at UNRWA] are the most elaborate within the UN system, precisely because it is such a difficult issue to work in such a complex and sensitive environment."

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Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Oren Marmorstein, said on 22 April 2024: "The Colonna report ignores the severity of the problem, and offers cosmetic solutions that do not deal with the enormous scope of Hamas' infiltration of Unrwa." He said that the review was an "effort to avoid the problem and not address it head on".

The UN Secretary-General "accepts the recommendations" contained in the panel's report, his spokesperson said on 22 April 2024. UNRWA's Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, said of the report: "UNRWA is firmly dedicated to applying UN values and humanitarian principles."

The UN said on 5 August 2024 that OIOS investigators had made findings in relation to 19 UNRWA staff. UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said: "In one case, no evidence was obtained by OIOS to support the allegations of the staff member's involvement, while in nine other cases, the evidence obtained by OIOS was insufficient to support the staff members' involvement."

According to the UN, the evidence obtained by OIOS in the remaining nine cases "indicated that the UNRWA staff members may have been involved in the 7 October attacks." Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on 5 August 2024: "I have decided that in the case of these remaining nine staff members, they cannot work for UNRWA. All contracts of these staff members will be terminated in the interest of the Agency."

Farhan Haq said on 5 August 2024: "However, one thing I'd like to point out is that since information used by Israeli officials to support the allegations have remained in Israeli custody, OIOS was not able to independently authenticate most of the information provided to it." He said that, in the Secretary-General's view, "any involvement in these attacks would constitute a major betrayal of trust".

What do the Knesset's October 2024 laws on UNRWA provide?

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On 28 October 2024, the Knesset enacted two laws concerning UNRWA: the Law to Cease UNRWA Operations and the Law to Cease UNRWA Operations in the Territory of the State of Israel. Each law provides that it comes into force three months from the date of its publication. The two laws came into effect on 30 January 2025.

The Law to Cease UNRWA Operations provides that the invitation to UNRWA based on an exchange of letters between Israel and UNRWA of 14 June 1967 expires on 7 October 2024. It provides that a government authority shall not have any contact with UNRWA or anyone acting on its behalf.

In Israel's unofficial translation, which the UN Secretary-General sent to the General Assembly and the Security Council on 9 December 2024, the Law to Cease UNRWA Operations reads: "The invitation to UNRWA, based on an exchange of letters between Israel and UNRWA from 6 Sivan 5727 (14 June A.D. 1967), will expire on 5 Tishrei 5785 (7 October A.D. 2024)."

The Law to Cease UNRWA Operations in the Territory of the State of Israel provides that UNRWA shall not operate any representative office, provide any services or carry out any activities, directly or indirectly, within the sovereign territory of the State of Israel. In the same translation, that law reads: "UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) shall not operate any representative office, provide any services or carry out any activities, directly or indirectly, within the sovereign territory of the State of Israel."

The UN Secretary-General said in the same letter of 9 December 2024: "I understand that the laws were published on 30 October 2024."

What did the International Court of Justice say about UNRWA in 2025?

By resolution 79/232 of 19 December 2024, the General Assembly requested an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. The Court delivered its advisory opinion on 22 October 2025, in the proceedings entitled Obligations of

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Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The International Court of Justice said in the opinion of 22 October 2025: "The Court considers that, in the current circumstances, it is not possible to replicate the capacity of the United Nations, acting through UNRWA, to ensure that the population of the Gaza Strip is adequately provided for. UNRWA cannot be replaced on short notice and without a proper transition plan." It said: "The Court concludes that, under these circumstances, the United Nations, acting through UNRWA, has been an indispensable provider of humanitarian relief in the Gaza Strip."

The Court said, by ten votes to one, that Israel's obligations include "to agree to and facilitate by all means at its disposal relief schemes on behalf of the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory so long as that population is inadequately supplied, as has been the case in the Gaza Strip, including relief provided by the United Nations and its entities, in particular the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, other international organizations and third States, and not to impede such relief".

The Court also said, by ten votes to one, that "the State of Israel has an obligation to co-operate in good faith with the United Nations by providing every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". Vice-President Sebutinde voted against both paragraphs.

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 22 October 2025 that it categorically rejected the advisory opinion. It said that the opinion was "entirely predictable from the outset regarding Unrwa". The ministry said that Israel would "not co-operate with an organisation that is infested with terror activities".

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on 22 October 2025 that the opinion was "unambiguous".

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What has been said about UNRWA's role since January 2024?

The US Department of State said on 26 January 2024: "The Department of State has temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA while we review these allegations and the steps the United Nations is taking to address them." It said in the same statement: "UNRWA plays a critical role in providing lifesaving assistance to Palestinians, including essential food, medicine, shelter, and other vital humanitarian support."

Germany paused funding to UNRWA on 27 January 2024. Germany's Federal Foreign Office said on X the same day: "We expect Lazzarini to make it clear within UNRWA's workforce that all forms of hatred and violence are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

Hamas said on 27 January 2024 that it condemned the termination of employee contracts "based on information derived from the Zionist enemy".

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X on 27 January 2024: "In Gaza's rebuilding, @UNRWA must be replaced with agencies dedicated to genuine peace and development."

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said on 27 January 2024: "The UK is temporarily pausing any future funding of UNRWA whilst we review these concerning allegations."

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on X on 27 January 2024: "Palestinians in Gaza did not need this additional collective punishment." He said in a statement the same day: "It is shocking to see a suspension of funds to the Agency in reaction to allegations against a small group of staff, especially given the immediate action that UNRWA took by terminating their contracts and asking for a transparent independent investigation."

The UN Secretary-General said on 28 January 2024: "I strongly appeal to the governments that have suspended their contributions to, at least, guarantee the

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continuity of UNRWA's operations." He said in the same statement: "But the tens of thousands of men and women who work for UNRWA, many in some of the most dangerous situations for humanitarian workers, should not be penalized."

Japan's Foreign Minister, Yoko Kamikawa, said on 2 April 2024: "Japan will lift the moratorium on its financial contributions to UNRWA and provide assistance while ensuring and confirming the appropriateness of Japan's funds."

Germany's Federal Foreign Office and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a joint statement on 24 April 2024 that the German government would soon resume cooperation with UNRWA.

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said on 19 July 2024 that "the UK will lift the pause on funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the key aid delivery body operating in Gaza." Foreign Secretary David Lammy told Parliament: "UNRWA is absolutely central to these efforts. No other agency can get aid into Gaza at the scale needed."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on 28 October 2024: "Unrwa workers involved in terrorist activities against Israel must be held accountable. Since avoiding a humanitarian crisis is also essential, sustained humanitarian aid must remain available in Gaza now and in the future." He said the same day that "we stand ready to work with our international partners to ensure Israel continues to facilitate humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not threaten Israel's security".

The UN Secretary-General said on 28 October 2024 that, if implemented, the laws would "likely prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work." He said: "I am bringing this matter to the attention of the UN General Assembly and will keep the Assembly closely informed as the situation develops."

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on X on 28 October 2024: "This is the latest in the ongoing campaign to discredit UNRWA and delegitimize its role towards providing human-development assistance and

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services to Palestine refugees." He said the same day: "These bills increase the suffering of the Palestinians and are nothing less than collective punishment."

The UN Secretary-General said on 9 December 2024 that "there is currently no realistic alternative to UNRWA which could adequately provide the services and assistance required."

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said at the UN on 28 January 2025: "This legislation is about what is happening in Israel; it's not about what's happening in Gaza, in Jordan, in Lebanon. But we will not allow UNRWA to work from Israel." He told reporters the same day: "I think it's going to be a gradual process until other agencies will step in and will take their positions."

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
approximately 300,000	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	children provided with education by UNRWA in Gaza
288	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	schools in which UNRWA provides education in Gaza
2	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	training centres
around 900,000	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	patients provided with healthcare services
around 3.5 million	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	patient consultations annually
22	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	primary health clinics
approximately 1.1 million	UN Secretary-General	9 December 2024	people provided with emergency assistance
19	UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq	5 August 2024	UNRWA staff in relation to whom OIOS investigators made findings

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
9	UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq	5 August 2024	remaining cases in which the evidence obtained by OIOS indicated the staff members may have been involved
around 10,500	UNRWA	4 November 2026	Palestinian UNRWA personnel providing services and assistance in the Gaza Strip
approximately 60,000	UNRWA	4 November 2026	internally displaced persons hosted in 113 UNRWA collective emergency shelters

Frequently asked questions

When was UNRWA created?

UNRWA was established by the UN General Assembly in resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949. UNRWA began its operations on 1 May 1950.

What does UNRWA's founding resolution say the Agency is for?

Resolution 302 (IV) established UNRWA to carry out, in collaboration with local governments, the direct relief and works programmes recommended by the Economic Survey Mission. Under resolution 302 (IV), the Agency's Director is responsible to the General Assembly for the operation of the programme.

How long does UNRWA's mandate run?

On 5 December 2025, in resolution 80/78, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA until 30 June 2029. The previous renewal, resolution 77/123 of 12 December 2022, had extended it until 30 June 2026.

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How many people does UNRWA employ in Gaza?

UNRWA said on 4 November 2026 that "Around 10,500 Palestinian UNRWA personnel continue to provide services and assistance to people in the Gaza Strip."

What did the UN investigation into UNRWA staff conclude?

UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq said on 5 August 2024 that OIOS investigators had made findings in relation to 19 UNRWA staff. According to the UN, in nine of those cases the evidence obtained by OIOS "indicated that the UNRWA staff members may have been involved in the 7 October attacks," and UNRWA's Commissioner-General said that their contracts would be terminated.

What did the Colonna review of UNRWA say?

The United Nations in Palestine said on 23 April 2024 that the panel's report, led by Catherine Colonna, reads: "Israel made public claims that a significant number of UNRWA employees are members of terrorist organisations. However, Israel has yet to provide supporting evidence of this." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said on 22 April 2024 that the report "ignores the severity of the problem".

When did Israel's laws on UNRWA take effect?

The Knesset enacted two laws concerning UNRWA on 28 October 2024: the Law to Cease UNRWA Operations and the Law to Cease UNRWA Operations in the Territory of the State of Israel. The two laws came into effect on 30 January 2025.

What did the ICJ say about UNRWA in October 2025?

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The International Court of Justice said on 22 October 2025 that "the United Nations, acting through UNRWA, has been an indispensable provider of humanitarian relief in the Gaza Strip." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the same day that it categorically rejected the advisory opinion.

Which governments paused funding to UNRWA in January 2024?

The US Department of State said on 26 January 2024 that it had "temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA". The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said on 27 January 2024 that the UK was "temporarily pausing any future funding of UNRWA", and Germany paused funding to UNRWA the same day.

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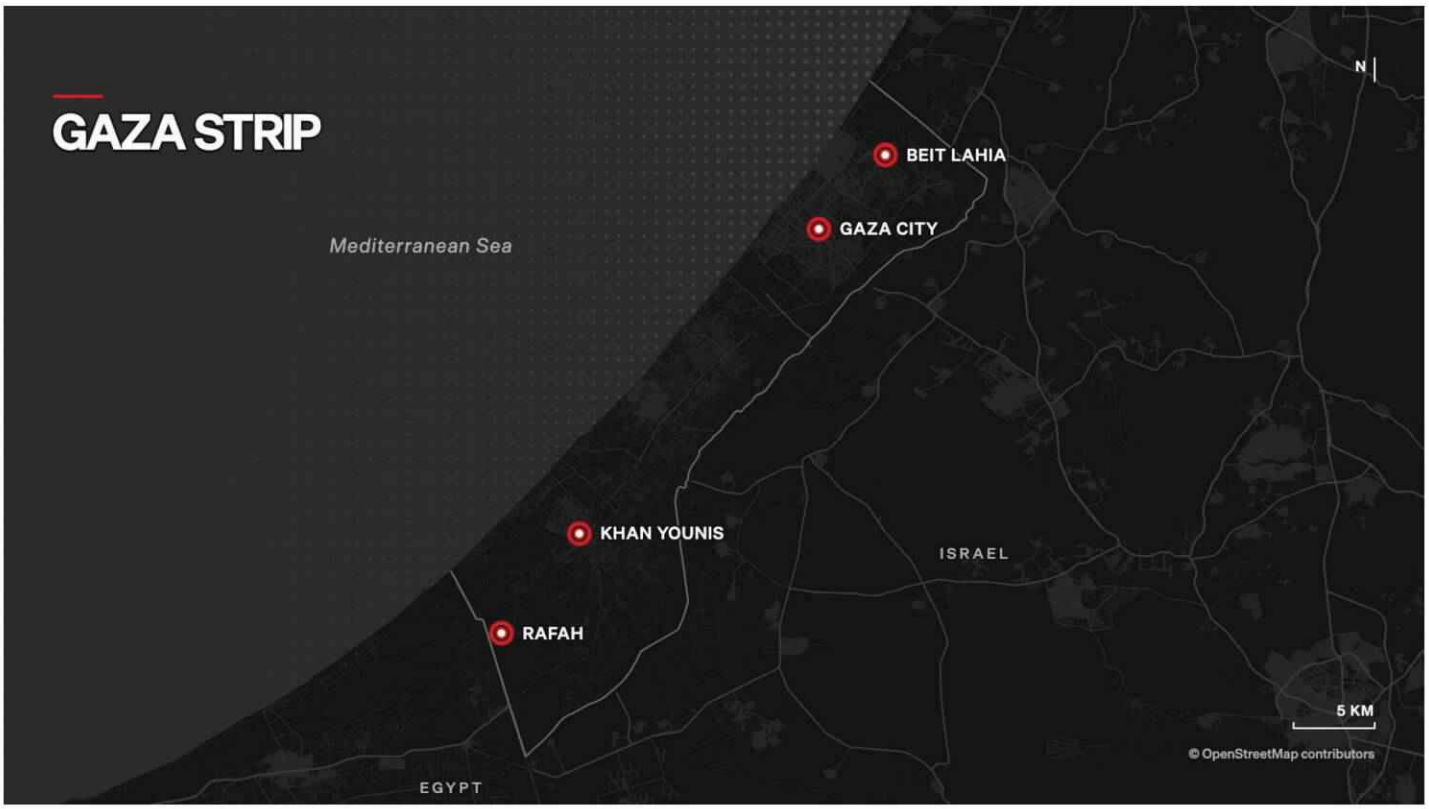
Displacement and Reconstruction

WHAT WILL GAZA'S RECONSTRUCTION COST?

Reconstruction cost and needs figures for Gaza from the World Bank, EU and UN, the Arab plan, the Palestinian Authority and the Board of Peace.

FIGURES 23 November 2026

Reconstruction | Gaza Strip | Board of Peace | World Bank | Palestinian Authority | Arab League



The Board of Peace said in its report to the UN Security Council of 15 May 2026 that it had received USD 17 billion in pledges for reconstruction purposes during

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the reporting period. Egypt's plan, adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit on 4 March 2025, says that the estimated financial requirements for the reconstruction plan total $53 billion. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said on 3 October 2026 that the destruction in the Gaza Strip was estimated to require around $73 billion to rebuild. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their final assessment, released on 20 April 2026, that recovery and reconstruction needs in the Gaza Strip were estimated at around US$71.4 billion.

Which assessments and plans have put a price on rebuilding Gaza?

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations conducted the Gaza Strip Interim Damage Assessment, a summary note dated 29 March 2024 with preliminary estimates for October 2023 to January 2024. The World Bank released the interim damage assessment on 2 April 2024.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations conducted the Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, released on 18 February 2025, which covers damages incurred between 8 October 2023 and 8 October 2024. The European Union and the United Nations released the final Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, jointly conducted with the World Bank, on 20 April 2026. The final assessment covers damages incurred between 8 October 2023 and 9 October 2025, and builds on the interim assessments of April 2024 and February 2025.

Egypt prepared a plan titled Early Recovery, Reconstruction, and Development of Gaza, dated March 2025. The extraordinary Arab summit held in Egypt on 4 March 2025 adopted the plan.

The Palestinian government's Gaza Recovery and Reconstruction Implementation Program (GRRIP) builds on the Arab plan adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo in March 2025. WAFA published the address

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in which Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa presented the program on 16 October 2025.

Resolution 2803 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza.

What reconstruction figures has the Board of Peace given for Gaza?

The Board of Peace held its inaugural meeting in Washington on 19 February 2026. The Board of Peace established the Gaza Reconstruction and Development Fund (GRAD), with the World Bank Group as its limited trustee.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 19 February 2026 that there would be no reconstruction of Gaza before demilitarisation. US President Donald Trump said on 19 February 2026 that nine members of the Board of Peace had agreed to pledge $7 billion toward a Gaza relief package. Trump said on 19 February 2026 that the United States was pledging $10 billion for the Board of Peace.

The Board of Peace said in its report to the UN Security Council of 15 May 2026 that it had received USD 17 billion in pledges for reconstruction purposes during the reporting period. In the same report of 15 May 2026, the Board of Peace said that it was preparing a phased reconstruction plan, and that total reconstruction investments across Gaza were projected to exceed USD 30 billion. According to the report, full reconstruction cannot be unlocked until verified demilitarisation proceeds.

Israel's Prime Minister's Office said on 17 August 2026 that Israel and the Board of Peace had agreed that demilitarisation should be prompt and completed before any reconstruction. US envoy Jared Kushner said on 17 August 2026 that Gaza would not be allowed to be rebuilt until demilitarisation occurs.

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What does Egypt's plan adopted in Cairo say Gaza's reconstruction costs?

The Cairo Statement issued by the summit endorses the plan as a comprehensive Arab initiative and welcomes the convening of an international conference in Cairo to address recovery and reconstruction in the Gaza Strip.

Egypt's plan, adopted on 4 March 2025, says that the estimated financial requirements for the reconstruction plan total $53 billion. An early recovery phase of six months, covering mine and unexploded ordnance removal, debris clearance, temporary housing and the renovation of partially damaged buildings, will cost $3 billion, according to Egypt's plan of 4 March 2025.

Egypt's plan, adopted on 4 March 2025, says that a first stage of reconstruction, extending until 2027, will cost $20 billion. Egypt's plan of 4 March 2025 also says that a second stage of reconstruction, extending until 2030 and covering industrial zones, fishing and commercial ports and an airport, will cost $30 billion. According to the plan, a trust fund will be established under international supervision as a financing mechanism.

Hamas said on 4 March 2025 that it welcomed the summit's outcome and valued Arab leaders' rejection of attempts to transfer Palestinians from their territories in Gaza. Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Oren Marmorstein, said on 4 March 2025 that the Egyptian plan failed to address the realities of the situation and remained rooted in outdated perspectives. The White House National Security Council spokesman, Brian Hughes, said on 4 March 2025 that the proposal did not address the reality that Gaza was uninhabitable, and that President Trump stood by his vision to rebuild Gaza free from Hamas.

What reconstruction figures has the Palestinian Authority given for Gaza?

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said in the address WAFA published on 16 October 2025 that the Gaza Recovery and Reconstruction

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Implementation Program defines a five-year framework valued at US$67 billion.

A six-month emergency phase focused on early recovery is valued at US$3.5 billion, according to Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa on 16 October 2025. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said on 16 October 2025 that a three-year reconstruction and recovery phase is valued at around US$30 billion, and that the third phase will be the reconstruction phase.

The Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing said on 28 October 2025 that its early recovery and reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip had a total estimated value of USD 21 billion.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said on 3 October 2026 that the destruction in the Gaza Strip was estimated to require around $73 billion to rebuild.

What do World Bank, EU and UN assessments put Gaza's needs at?

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations say in their assessments that damage assessment quantifies physical destruction using baseline values and pre-conflict costs. In the same texts, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations say that loss assessment evaluates disruptions in terms of lost income, increased costs, employment losses and displacement-induced costs, and that needs assessment determines the financial resources needed for reconstruction and recovery.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their interim damage assessment of 29 March 2024 that around US$18.5 billion in direct damages had been caused to the built infrastructure of the Gaza Strip by the end of January 2024.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their interim assessment released on 18 February 2025 that recovery and

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reconstruction needs across the Gaza Strip were estimated at US$53.2 billion. In the same assessment of 18 February 2025, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that the short-term needs in the first three years were emerging to be around US$20 billion. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said on 18 February 2025 that total estimated physical damages were around US$29.9 billion. In the assessment of 18 February 2025, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that economic and social losses amounted to US$19.1 billion.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their final assessment, released on 20 April 2026, that recovery and reconstruction needs were estimated at around US$71.4 billion. In the final assessment of 20 April 2026, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that physical damage was estimated at US$35.2 billion. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said on 20 April 2026 that economic losses were estimated at US$22.7 billion.

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said on 20 April 2026 that immediate recovery needs for the first eight months were estimated at US$10.8 billion, short-term recovery needs over 18 months at US$15.5 billion, and medium to long-term needs over three to five years at US$45.1 billion. In the final assessment of 20 April 2026, the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said that the highest recovery and reconstruction needs were in the housing sector, at US$16.2 billion.

The European Union and the United Nations said on 20 April 2026 that recovery and reconstruction needs in Gaza were estimated at $71.4 billion over the next decade, including $26.3 billion required in the first eighteen months. In their joint statement of 20 April 2026, the European Union and the United Nations said that a sustained ceasefire and adequate security are minimum conditions, and that without a set of enabling conditions neither recovery nor reconstruction can succeed.

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What figures have been given for the cost of rebuilding Gaza?

The Board of Peace said on 15 May 2026 that it had received USD 17 billion in pledges for reconstruction purposes. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said on 20 April 2026 that recovery and reconstruction needs were estimated at around US$71.4 billion.

FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
USD 17 billion	Board of Peace	15 May 2026	pledges for reconstruction purposes, received	the reporting period
USD 30 billion	Board of Peace	15 May 2026	total reconstruction investments across Gaza, projected to exceed	not stated
$7 billion	US President Donald Trump	19 February 2026	pledged by nine members toward a Gaza relief package	not stated
$10 billion	US President Donald Trump	19 February 2026	pledged by the United States for the board	not stated
$53 billion	Egypt	4 March 2025	estimated financial requirements for the reconstruction plan	reconstruction plan
around $73 billion	Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa	3 October 2026	destruction estimated to require, to rebuild	not stated
USD 21 billion	Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing	28 October 2025	total estimated value of the ministry's plan	early recovery and development phases

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
US$67 billion	Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa	16 October 2025	five-year framework valued at	five years
US$3.5 billion	Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa	16 October 2025	estimated investment of the Early Recovery Plan	six-month
around US$30 billion	Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa	16 October 2025	three-year reconstruction and recovery phase, valued at	three years
around US$71.4 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	recovery and reconstruction needs	not stated
US$35.2 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	physical damage	damages incurred to 9 October 2025
US$22.7 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	economic losses	not stated
$26.3 billion	European Union and United Nations	20 April 2026	required in the first eighteen months	first eighteen months
US$53.2 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	18 February 2025	total recovery and reconstruction needs	short, medium and long term

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FIGURE	STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED	PERIOD
around US$29.9 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	18 February 2025	total estimated physical damages	damages incurred to 8 October 2024
US$19.1 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	18 February 2025	economic and social losses	not stated
around US$18.5 billion	World Bank, European Union and United Nations	29 March 2024	direct damages to the built infrastructure of the Gaza Strip	by end of January 2024

Frequently asked questions

How much will Gaza's reconstruction cost, according to the World Bank, EU and UN?

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their final assessment, released on 20 April 2026, that recovery and reconstruction needs in the Gaza Strip were estimated at around US$71.4 billion. The European Union and the United Nations said on 20 April 2026 that $26.3 billion of those needs was required in the first eighteen months.

What is the difference between damage, losses and needs in the Gaza assessments?

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations say in their final assessment of April 2026 that damages refers to total or partial physical destruction, monetised based on the cost of replacement at pre-crisis prices. The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations say that losses refers to

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economic flows disrupted by the conflict, and that needs focuses on the financial resources necessary for recovery and reconstruction.

How much money has been pledged to rebuild Gaza?

The Board of Peace said in its report to the UN Security Council of 15 May 2026 that it had received USD 17 billion in pledges for reconstruction purposes during the reporting period. US President Donald Trump said on 19 February 2026 that nine members of the Board of Peace had agreed to pledge $7 billion toward a Gaza relief package.

How long would Gaza's reconstruction take under the Arab plan?

Egypt's plan, adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit on 4 March 2025, says that an early recovery phase will last six months. The plan says that its first stage of reconstruction extends until 2027 and its second stage until 2030.

Who manages the funding for Gaza's reconstruction?

Resolution 2803 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza. The Board of Peace established the Gaza Reconstruction and Development Fund (GRAD), with the World Bank Group as its limited trustee.

What conditions have been set before Gaza is rebuilt?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 19 February 2026 that there would be no reconstruction of Gaza before demilitarisation. In their joint statement of 20 April 2026, the European Union and the United Nations said that a sustained ceasefire and adequate security are minimum conditions for

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recovery and reconstruction. The Board of Peace said in its report of 15 May 2026 that full reconstruction cannot be unlocked until verified demilitarisation proceeds.

How was Egypt's plan for Gaza received in March 2025?

Hamas said on 4 March 2025 that it welcomed the summit's outcome. Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Oren Marmorstein, said on 4 March 2025 that the Egyptian plan failed to address the realities of the situation. The White House National Security Council spokesman, Brian Hughes, said on 4 March 2025 that the proposal did not address the reality that Gaza was uninhabitable.

How much will clearing Gaza's debris cost?

The World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations said in their final assessment of 20 April 2026 that removal and management costs for over 68 million metric tonnes of debris are over US$1.7 billion.

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Strikes and Raids

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN BEING TARGETED IN GAZA?

What UNICEF, the UN Secretary-General, the UN Commission of Inquiry, Save the Children, Israel's government and Palestinian bodies have said, dated.

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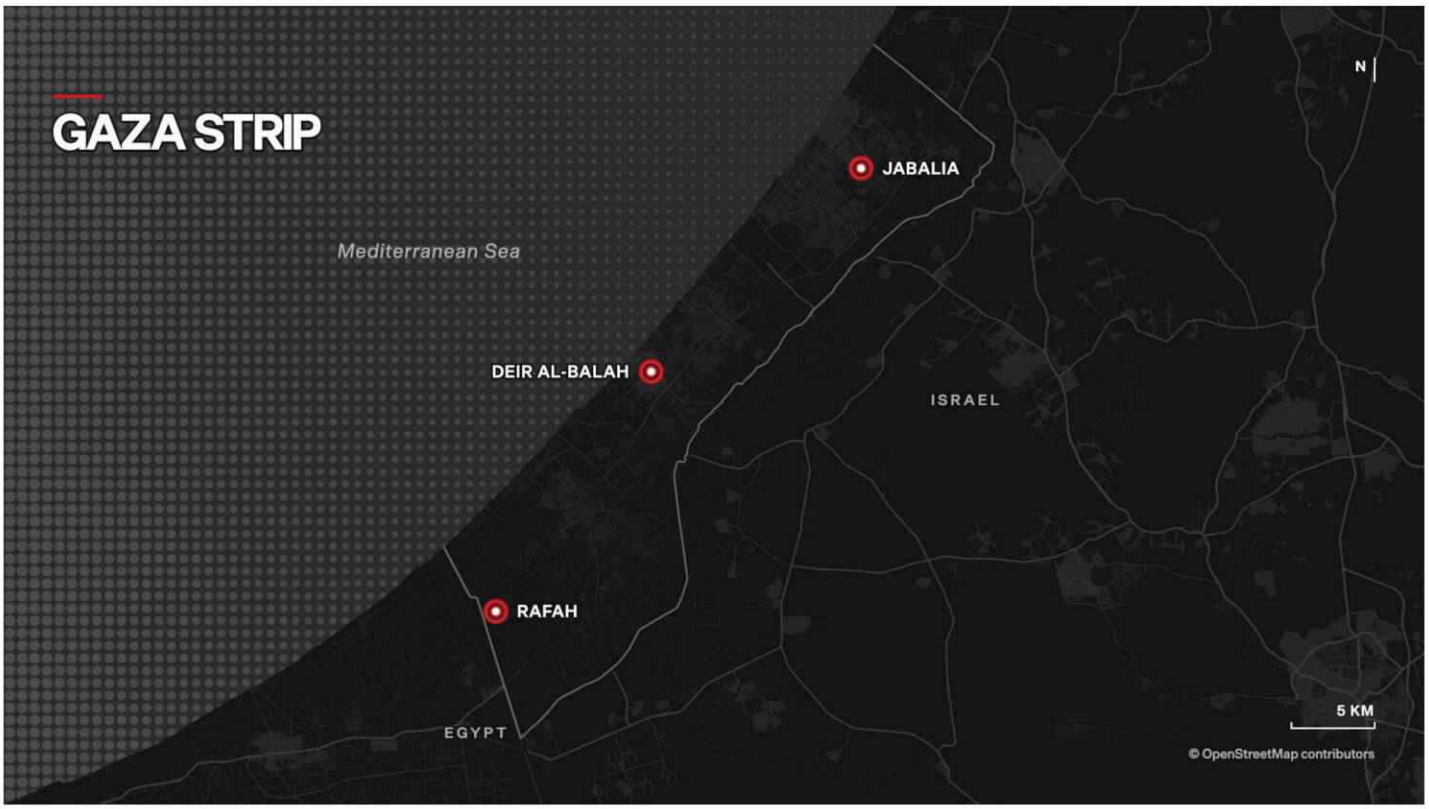
UNICEF | UN Commission of Inquiry | Children and armed conflict | Gaza Strip



UNICEF said on 1 November 2023, of attacks on Jabaliya camp in the Gaza Strip: "Children are not a target." Annex I of the UN Secretary-General's report on

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children and armed conflict dated 3 June 2024 names Israeli armed and security forces as a "Party that kills and maims children" and a "Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals", according to the UN Secretary-General. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said on 23 June 2026 that it had documented "a consistent pattern of children being deliberately targeted by the Israeli security forces in Gaza." Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026 that Israel "consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict" and rejected the suggestion that it deliberately targets children "in the strongest terms".

What have UNICEF and the Secretary-General said about targeting children in Gaza?

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

UNICEF said on 1 November 2023, in a statement on attacks on Jabaliya camp in the Gaza Strip: "Children have endured too much already. The killing and captivity of children must stop. Children are not a target." UNICEF said in the same statement: "Refugee camps, settlements for the internally displaced, and the civilians inhabiting them are all protected under international humanitarian law (IHL). Parties to conflict have an obligation to respect and protect them from attack." The statement said that UNICEF "reiterates its urgent call to all parties to the conflict for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, to ensure the protection of all children".

The UN Secretary-General issued reports on children and armed conflict to the General Assembly and the Security Council dated 3 June 2024, 17 June 2025 and 16 June 2026. The reports cover January to December 2023, January to December 2024 and January to December 2025. Annex I of each report names parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council.

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Annex I of the report dated 3 June 2024 names Israeli armed and security forces, among State actors, as a "Party that kills and maims children" and a "Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals", according to the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General said in the report: "I am appalled by the dramatic increase and unprecedented scale and intensity of grave violations against children in the Gaza Strip, Israel and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem". The Secretary-General said in a later paragraph: "I am shocked by the unprecedented number of children killed and maimed by Israeli armed and security forces in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem." The Secretary-General said in the same paragraph: "I reiterate my calls upon Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and human rights law and ensure that civilians, including children, and civilian infrastructure are not targeted". He added: "I further urge Israel to pursue accountability for violations against children."

Annex I of the report dated 17 June 2025 names Israeli armed and security forces again, for the same two violations, according to the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General said in the report: "I am deeply alarmed by the continued increase in grave violations against children perpetrated by Israeli armed and security forces, notably the high number of children killed and maimed, attacks on schools and hospitals". The Secretary-General said in the same paragraph: "I reiterate my calls upon Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including its obligations to respect the special protections afforded to children, to protect schools and hospitals and to comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attacks". The Secretary-General said in a later paragraph: "I urge Israel to develop and sign an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals".

Annex I of the report dated 16 June 2026 names Israeli armed and security forces as a "Party that kills and maims children" and a "Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals", according to the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General said in the report: "I welcome the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza." The Secretary-General said

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in the next paragraph: “I am gravely alarmed by the staggering increase in grave violations against children perpetrated by Israeli armed and security forces, the high number of children killed and maimed, attacks on schools and hospitals”. He added: “I again urge Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including its obligations to respect the special protections afforded to children”.

What has the Commission of Inquiry said about targeting children in Gaza?

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. The Commission issued a conference room paper dated 18 June 2026 for the Human Rights Council’s sixty-second session. The paper was released on 23 June 2026. Srinivasan Muralidhar chairs the Commission.

The Commission said in the paper’s summary: “The paper describes the deliberate targeting and killing of Palestinian children, including post-ceasefire since the October 2025 Gaza peace plan.” The Commission said in the body of the paper: “The Commission has investigated and documented cases demonstrating a consistent pattern of children being deliberately targeted by the Israeli security forces in Gaza.” It said in the same paragraph: “These include cases of children being shot while trying to evacuate with their families and in places of refuge such as displacement camps, food distribution sites or other locations across Gaza.” The Commission said in a later section that “Palestinian children in Gaza have been directly targeted in various ways by the Israeli security forces since 7 October 2023, including during evacuations, at shelters”.

The Commission said through its chair, Srinivasan Muralidhar, on 23 June 2026: “The evidence shows that Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces.” The Commission said through its chair on the same day: “Even after the October 2025 ceasefire, children continue to be

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killed and seriously injured, with continued disregard by Israel for the ceasefire and for the protection owed to Palestinian children under international law."

Chris Sidoti, a member of the Commission, said at a press conference in Geneva on 23 June 2026: "There can be no doubt in anyone who reads today's report that every international legal norm has been violated by the actions of the Israeli authorities towards Palestinian children and they need to be held accountable."

The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly's eighty-first session a report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, in an advance unedited version dated 14 October 2026. The Commission said in that report: "The Israeli government and security forces have deliberately carried out acts inflicting death and severe bodily and mental harm on Palestinian children, amounting to age-based persecution of children in Gaza." The Commission said in the same paragraph: "The Commission also found that the killing and harming of children and sexual and gender-based violence are included among elements that established specific intent of the Israeli authorities to commit genocide against the Palestinian group in Gaza."

What have organisations said about children being targeted in Gaza?

Human Rights Watch said on 20 June 2025, of the Secretary-General's report of that year and its annex: "The Israeli authorities have starved, killed, and maimed thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza and are responsible for ongoing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide." Human Rights Watch said in the same dispatch: "Russian forces were added to the list in 2023, and Israeli forces were included for the first time in 2024."

Save the Children said on 23 June 2026 that "a UN Commission of Inquiry report saying that children in Gaza and the West Bank were deliberately targeted by Israeli authorities and security forces must mark a turning point". Save the

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Children said through Ahmad Alhendawi, its regional director for the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe, on the same day: "The report clearly reveals the extent of the harm inflicted upon Palestinian children in Gaza and the West Bank. The world can no longer turn a blind eye to this. No child should ever be a target."

Save the Children said through Janti Soeripto, President and CEO of Save the Children US, on 29 October 2026, of the Commission's report to the General Assembly: "The U.N. Commission's report is a disturbing, but not surprising, confirmation of the deliberate violence against children in the occupied Palestinian territory. The harm to Palestinian children is not collateral." Soeripto said in the same statement: "In Gaza and the West Bank, there is no safe place to be a child."

What have Israel, Palestine and Gaza's education ministry said about targeting children?

The UN Secretary-General's office called Israel's mission to the UN on 7 June 2024 to inform it that Israel's military would be named in the annex of the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, said on 7 June 2024 that Israel has "the most moral army in the world." Erdan said on the same day: "The only one who is blacklisted today is the secretary-general, whose decisions since the war started, and even before, are rewarding terrorists and incentivizing them to use children for terror acts". In a statement the same day, the ambassador said: "I am utterly shocked and disgusted by this shameful decision." In a post on X that day, Erdan said that the decision "is simply outrageous and wrong because Hamas has been using children for terrorism and uses schools and hospitals".

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on 7 June 2024 that the decision "will have consequences for Israel's relations with the UN." Katz said on X on the same

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day: “The shameful decision by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to include the IDF in the blacklist is an act of villainy.”

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian envoy to the UN, said on 7 June 2024 that the decision “will not bring back tens of thousands of our children who were killed by Israel over decades and will not restore normal life for the children who were permanently disabled by its actions.” Mansour said on the same day: “But it is an important step in the right direction towards ending the double standards and the culture of impunity Israel has enjoyed for far too long and that left our children vulnerable to its consequences.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 7 June 2024: “The UN has put itself on the blacklist of history today when it joined the supporters of the Hamas murderers. The IDF is the most moral army in the world and no delusional decision by the UN will change that.”

Israel’s Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026 that Israel rejected what it called the Commission’s “second defamatory advocacy report”. The mission said in a statement on the same day: “Israel dismisses this libelous sham.” It said in the same statement that “every child deserves protection”. In a rebuttal, the mission said that Israel “consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict” and that Israel rejected the suggestion it deliberately targets children “in the strongest terms”.

Israel’s Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said on 25 June 2026, of the Commission’s paper: “this is not an investigative report. It is a political blood libel disguised as a U.N. document.” Danon said on the same day that Israel “will continue to defend its citizens and fight terrorism”.

Gaza’s Ministry of Education and Higher Education said on 20 October 2026, in a statement the Gaza Government Media Office posted, that “the continued targeting of school students and children in the Gaza Strip” would have grave consequences (a working translation of the ministry’s Arabic).

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When were the statements on targeting children in Gaza made?

The statements on whether children in Gaza have been targeted run from UNICEF's statement of 1 November 2023 to Save the Children's statement of 29 October 2026. The table gives each body's statement in the page's order, by type and then by date.

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
UNICEF	1 November 2023	"Children are not a target."
UN Secretary-General	3 June 2024	"ensure that civilians, including children, and civilian infrastructure are not targeted"
UN Secretary-General	17 June 2025	"to respect the special protections afforded to children"
UN Secretary-General	16 June 2026	"I again urge Israel to abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law"
UN Commission of Inquiry	23 June 2026	"a consistent pattern of children being deliberately targeted by the Israeli security forces in Gaza"
UN Commission of Inquiry	14 October 2026	"age-based persecution of children in Gaza"
Human Rights Watch	20 June 2025	"responsible for ongoing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide"
Save the Children	23 June 2026	"No child should ever be a target."
Save the Children	29 October 2026	"The harm to Palestinian children is not collateral."

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan	7 June 2024	"the most moral army in the world"
Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz	7 June 2024	"will have consequences for Israel's relations with the UN"
Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour	7 June 2024	"an important step in the right direction"
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	7 June 2024	"no delusional decision by the UN will change that"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	23 June 2026	"consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict"
Israel's Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon	25 June 2026	"a political blood libel disguised as a U.N. document"
Gaza Ministry of Education and Higher Education	20 October 2026	"the continued targeting of school students and children in the Gaza Strip" (working translation)

Frequently asked questions

What did UNICEF say about children in Gaza in November 2023?

UNICEF said on 1 November 2023, in a statement on attacks on Jabaliya camp in the Gaza Strip: "Children are not a target." UNICEF said in the same statement: "Children have endured too much already."

What is the UN Secretary-General's annex on children and armed conflict?

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Annex I of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict names parties that commit grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council. The Secretary-General issued such reports dated 3 June 2024, 17 June 2025 and 16 June 2026.

Has the UN named Israel's military for violations against children?

Annex I of each of the UN Secretary-General's reports on children and armed conflict dated 3 June 2024, 17 June 2025 and 16 June 2026 names Israeli armed and security forces, according to the UN Secretary-General. The key to annex I of the report dated 3 June 2024 describes such a party as a "Party that kills and maims children" and a "Party that engages in attacks on schools and/or hospitals", according to the UN Secretary-General.

When did the UN tell Israel its military would be named in the annex?

The UN Secretary-General's office called Israel's mission to the UN on 7 June 2024 to inform it that Israel's military would be named in the annex of the Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict.

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about children in Gaza in June 2026?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said on 23 June 2026 that it had documented "a consistent pattern of children being deliberately targeted by the Israeli security forces in Gaza." The Commission said through its chair, Srinivasan Muralidhar, on the same day: "The evidence shows that

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Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about children in October 2026?

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel said in its report to the General Assembly dated 14 October 2026 that Israel's government and security forces had carried out acts against Palestinian children "amounting to age-based persecution of children in Gaza."

How has Israel's government responded to UN statements on children in Gaza?

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026: "Israel dismisses this libelous sham." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 7 June 2024, of the Secretary-General's decision on the annex, that "no delusional decision by the UN will change that." Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said on 25 June 2026 that the Commission's paper was "a political blood libel disguised as a U.N. document."

Who said "no child should ever be a target" about Gaza?

Save the Children said on 23 June 2026, through its regional director for the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe, Ahmad Alhendawi: "No child should ever be a target." Save the Children said it in a statement on the UN Commission of Inquiry's paper of the same day.

What did Human Rights Watch say about the UN annex in 2025?

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Human Rights Watch said on 20 June 2025, of the Secretary-General's report of that year: "Russian forces were added to the list in 2023, and Israeli forces were included for the first time in 2024." Human Rights Watch said in the same dispatch that "the Israeli authorities have starved, killed, and maimed thousands of Palestinian children in Gaza".

What did the Palestinian envoy to the UN say about the 2024 annex?

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian envoy to the UN, said on 7 June 2024 that the decision "is an important step in the right direction towards ending the double standards and the culture of impunity Israel has enjoyed for far too long".

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Wider Region

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT ISRAELI FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND SYRIA?

What UN bodies, governments, Hezbollah and Israel's government have said about Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and in Syria since late 2024, dated.

POSITIONS 23 November 2026 Lebanon Syria UNIFIL UNDOF Golan Heights



The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) said on 13 December 2024 of Israeli military activity in the area of separation in the Golan:

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"UNDOF has informed its Israeli counterparts that these actions constitute a violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement." The spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General said on 17 December 2024: "The presence of the Israeli Defense Forces in the buffer zone is a violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement." The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon and UNIFIL's Head of Mission said on 18 February 2025 that another delay in the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon "continues a violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 8 December 2024 that Israel's takeover of Syrian army positions was "a temporary defensive position until a suitable arrangement is found".

What do the 2024 ceasefire and 1974 agreement say about Israeli forces?

The United States and France announced a cessation of hostilities between Lebanon and Israel on 26 November 2024. The announcement provides that Israel and Lebanon will implement a cessation of hostilities beginning at 04:00 on 27 November 2024. It provides that from that hour the Government of Lebanon will prevent Hezbollah and all other armed groups in Lebanon from carrying out any operations against Israel, and "Israel will not carry out any offensive military operations against Lebanese targets".

The announcement provides that Israel will withdraw its forces in a phased manner south of the Blue Line, and that in parallel the Lebanese Armed Forces will deploy to positions in the Southern Litani Area. It provides that a Mechanism hosted by UNIFIL, chaired by the United States and including France, will coordinate the plan for the phased withdrawal and deployment. The Permanent Representatives of France and the United States sent the announcement to the President of the Security Council with a letter dated 29 November 2024, issued as document S/2024/870.

The Blue Line is a line mapped by the United Nations separating Lebanon from Israel. It was delineated in 2000. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

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(UNIFIL) is a peacekeeping mission in south Lebanon, established by the Security Council in 1978. Security Council resolution 2790 of 28 August 2025 extended UNIFIL's mandate for a final time until 31 December 2026, and requested UNIFIL to cease its operations on that date.

The Golan Heights is a plateau south-west of Damascus. Israel seized the Golan from Syria in 1967. The UN Secretary-General transmitted the text of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces to the Security Council in a report dated 30 May 1974, document S/11302/Add.1.

The 1974 agreement provides that all Israeli military forces will be west of the line designated Line A, and all Syrian military forces east of the line designated Line B. It provides that the area between Line A and Line B will be an area of separation, in which the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force will be stationed. The agreement states that it is not a peace agreement. The Security Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by resolution 350 (1974) to supervise the agreement's implementation, and resolution 2824 of 25 June 2026 renewed UNDOF's mandate until 31 December 2026.

What have UN bodies said about Israeli forces in southern Lebanon?

The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon and UNIFIL's Head of Mission said in a joint statement on 18 February 2025: "Today marks the end of the period set for the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces south of the Blue Line and the parallel Lebanese Armed Forces deployment to positions in southern Lebanon." They said: "Another delay in this process is not what we hoped would happen, not least because it continues a violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)." The joint statement said that "The Israel Defense Forces have withdrawn from population centres in southern Lebanon", and called on both parties "to meet their obligations."

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The UN Secretary-General said in a report dated 12 March 2025 that by 18 February the Israel Defense Forces had "retained a presence in five locations along the Blue Line, in the vicinity of Aytarun, Hula, Labbunah, Marwahin and Sarda." He said in the same report: "The presence of the Israel Defense Forces north of the Blue Line is a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity and resolution 1701 (2006), and undermines the efforts of the Lebanese authorities to extend State authority throughout all of its territory."

The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2790 on 28 August 2025. The resolution "Calls on the Government of Israel to withdraw its forces north of the Blue Line, including from the five positions held in Lebanese territory, and to lift the designated buffer zones north of the Blue Line". It also notes "with grave concerns the continuous violations" of the cessation of hostilities arrangement of 26 November 2024.

UNIFIL said on 14 November 2025 that a concrete wall built by the Israel Defense Forces southwest of Yaroun "crossed the Blue Line". UNIFIL said in the same statement: "Israeli presence and construction in Lebanese territory are violations of Security Council resolution 1701 and of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We again call on the IDF to respect the Blue Line in its full length and withdraw from all areas north of it."

UNIFIL said on 3 March 2026 that its peacekeepers had observed Israeli soldiers "crossing into Lebanese areas near Markaba, Al Adeisse, Kfar Kela and Ramyah before returning south of the Blue Line." UNIFIL said in its statement of 3 March 2026 that since the cessation of hostilities understanding, "the IDF has maintained five positions" inside Lebanon, "in violation of resolution 1701."

The UN Secretary-General said in a report dated 11 March 2026 that "the Israel Defense Forces remained present in five positions and maintained two "buffer zones" north of the Blue Line." He said: "I urge the Israeli authorities to fulfil their obligations under resolution 1701 (2006) to withdraw from all areas north of the Blue Line and to cease violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon."

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The Secretary-General said in a report dated 9 July 2026 that the Israel Defense Forces had intensified operations in Lebanon from March 2026, "expanding its ground presence north of the Blue Line, unilaterally declaring a "forward defence line" several kilometres north of the Blue Line and advancing north of the Litani River." He said in the same report: "The unilateral declaration by the Israel Defense Forces of a "forward defence line" north of the Blue Line is in direct violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and resolution 1701 (2006)."

What have UN bodies said about Israeli forces in Syria?

The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force said on 13 December 2024 that it had observed "a significant increase in Israel Defense Forces (IDF) movements within the area of separation and along the ceasefire line" since 7 December. UNDOF said: "UNDOF has informed its Israeli counterparts that these actions constitute a violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement." It urged all parties to "cease all military activities in the area of separation, and uphold the terms of the 1974 agreement to preserve stability in the Golan."

The spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, said on 17 December 2024 that the Israel Defense Forces had deployed in the area of separation at key locations, "including Mount Hermon". He said: "The presence of the Israeli Defense Forces in the buffer zone is a violation of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement." Dujarric said: "There is an agreement. It needs to be respected."

The UN Secretary-General said in a report dated 3 June 2025 that the situation in the Golan "continued to be characterized by the presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation, affecting the operations of UNDOF". He said: "All actions that are inconsistent with the Agreement are unacceptable and must cease." He also said: "There should be no military forces and activities in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF."

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The spokesperson for the Secretary-General said on 19 November 2025, of a visit by Israel's Prime Minister to troops in the area: "This very public visit is concerning to say the least." He said: "We call on Israel to respect the 1974 disengagement agreement."

The Secretary-General said in a report dated 2 June 2026 that he was "deeply concerned about the continued violations of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, including breaches of the ceasefire, as well as the continued presence and activities of the Israel Defense Forces in the area of separation and beyond, in violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic." He said in the same report: "I welcome that both parties to the 1974 Disengagement Agreement continue to express commitment to the terms of the Agreement."

The Secretary-General said in Damascus on 25 July 2026: "Violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity are unacceptable and must cease." He said: "What is happening in the region around the Golan Heights is totally unacceptable." Asked about Israel's actions in Syria, he said: "We consider that the present situation is intolerable and that that situation needs to stop."

What have governments said about Israeli forces in southern Lebanon?

US President Joe Biden said on 26 November 2024, announcing the cessation of hostilities, that "Israel will gradually withdraw its remaining forces". He said that "the Lebanese Army and the State Security Forces will deploy and take control of their own territory once again."

French President Emmanuel Macron said in Beirut on 17 January 2025: "We need a total withdrawal of the Israeli army."

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said on 7 February 2025 that "permanent stability in the South is closely linked to the completion of Israel's withdrawal".

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Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in identical letters dated 25 November 2025, written "On instructions from the Government of Lebanon", that "Lebanon calls upon the Security Council" to compel Israel "to withdraw immediately south of the Blue Line from all areas in Lebanon", "including the five border posts", and "to allow Lebanese civilians to return to their villages on the border."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on 24 March 2026, of Israeli plans for southern Lebanon: "We urge the Israeli authorities to refrain from such ground operations, which would have major humanitarian consequences and would exacerbate the country's already dire situation."

Lebanon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in identical letters dated 30 March 2026 that the Government of Lebanon "calls upon the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council" to compel Israel to "withdraw its forces to the internationally recognized borders". The letter said: "The Government of Lebanon reiterates that it was not its choice to involve Lebanon in this war."

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said on 3 September 2026: "We will continue working until all our prisoners are released, the fate of the missing is revealed, and a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory is achieved."

What have governments said about Israeli forces in Syria?

Ahmad al-Sharaa, then leader of Syria's new administration, said at a press conference in Damascus on 16 January 2025: "Israel advanced into the buffer zone under the pretext of the presence of Iranian militias, but this excuse no longer holds after Damascus was liberated."

Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani said in an interview broadcast on 16 January 2025: "Israel must respect Syria's sovereignty just as they seek security for their own borders and homes."

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Syria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said on 19 November 2025 that the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to southern Syria was "a serious violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity". The ministry called on the international community to push for a total Israeli withdrawal and a return to the 1974 Disengagement Agreement, according to The Jerusalem Post.

Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani said in Damascus on 25 July 2026 that Israeli military operations in Syria formed a "direct threat to the security of the region".

How have Hezbollah and Israel described Israel's troops in Lebanon and Syria?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said from the Golan Heights on 8 December 2024 of the 1974 agreement: "Last night, it collapsed. The Syrian army abandoned its positions." He said: "We gave the Israeli army the order to take over these positions to ensure that no hostile force embeds itself right next to the border of Israel. This is a temporary defensive position until a suitable arrangement is found."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the United Nations told the Security Council in a letter on 9 December 2024 that Israel had taken "limited and temporary measures" in the area. Ambassador Danny Danon wrote: "Our actions are solely focused on safeguarding our security."

Hezbollah's Secretary-General, Naim Qassem, said in a televised address on 27 January 2025: "We do not accept any justification to extend for one moment or one day."

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Mount Hermon on 28 January 2025: "The IDF will remain at the summit of the Hermon and the security zone indefinitely to ensure the security of the communities of the Golan Heights and the north, and all the residents of Israel." He said: "We will not be dependent on others for our security."

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Qassem said in a televised speech on 16 February 2025: “Israel must withdraw completely on Feb. 18, it has no pretext, no five points or other details... this is the agreement.”

Israel’s military spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani, said on 17 February 2025: “We need to remain at those points at the moment to defend Israeli citizens, to make sure this process is complete and eventually hand it over to the Lebanese armed forces.” He said: “Basically the security situation is very, very complex.”

Netanyahu said on 23 February 2025 that Israeli forces would remain on the “Syrian side of Mt. Hermon and the buffer zone in the Golan Heights for an unlimited period of time”.

Katz’s office said on 14 March 2025 that he had “clarified that the IDF will remain at the five points that control the buffer zone in Lebanon, indefinitely, for the sake of protecting the residents of the north”.

Israel’s military said on 14 November 2025, after UNIFIL’s statement on the wall near Yaroun: “The wall does not cross the Blue Line.”

Netanyahu said to troops in the buffer zone in Syria on 19 November 2025: “We attach immense importance to our capability here.” He said: “This is a mission that can develop at any moment, but we are counting on you.”

The Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, Eyal Zamir, said on 14 December 2025: “Our presence at these points enables better security for residents alongside freedom of operation for the troops.”

Netanyahu said on 19 February 2026: “Buffer zones or demilitarized zones, several kilometres wide along the borders of the State, are a necessary requirement.” He said: “In light of the above, the IDF remains in the buffer zones in Lebanon and Syria.”

Katz said on 3 March 2026: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have authorized the [Israel Defense Forces] to advance and seize additional

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controlling areas in Lebanon to prevent firing on Israeli border settlements."

Netanyahu said on 16 April 2026: "We are remaining in Lebanon in a reinforced security buffer zone." He said on 15 June 2026 that "we will remain in the security zones for as long as it is required to defend our country".

Qassem said on 4 June 2026 that any ceasefire "must be comprehensive" and include "Israel's withdrawal".

Frequently asked questions

What does the November 2024 Israel-Lebanon ceasefire say about Israeli troops?

The cessation of hostilities that the United States and France announced on 26 November 2024 provides that Israel will withdraw its forces in a phased manner south of the Blue Line, and that in parallel the Lebanese Armed Forces will deploy to positions in the Southern Litani Area. It provides that a Mechanism hosted by UNIFIL, chaired by the United States and including France, will coordinate the plan for the phased withdrawal and deployment.

Where are the five Israeli positions in southern Lebanon?

The UN Secretary-General said in a report dated 12 March 2025 that the Israel Defense Forces had retained "a presence in five locations along the Blue Line, in the vicinity of Aytarun, Hula, Labbunah, Marwahin and Sarda." Israel's military spokesperson said on 17 February 2025 that Israel needed "to remain at those points at the moment to defend Israeli citizens".

What did the UN Security Council say about Israel's positions in Lebanon?

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The UN Security Council adopted resolution 2790 on 28 August 2025, which "Calls on the Government of Israel to withdraw its forces north of the Blue Line, including from the five positions held in Lebanese territory". The same resolution extended UNIFIL's mandate for a final time until 31 December 2026.

What is the area of separation in the Golan Heights?

The 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces provides that the area between Line A and Line B will be an area of separation, in which the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force will be stationed. The agreement provides that all Israeli military forces will be west of Line A, and all Syrian military forces east of Line B.

Why did Israel say its forces entered the buffer zone in Syria?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 8 December 2024 that the 1974 agreement had collapsed and that he gave the army the order to take over Syrian army positions "to ensure that no hostile force embeds itself right next to the border of Israel." He said on that date: "This is a temporary defensive position until a suitable arrangement is found."

Has Israel said how long its troops will stay in Syria?

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on 28 January 2025: "The IDF will remain at the summit of the Hermon and the security zone indefinitely". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 19 February 2026: "In light of the above, the IDF remains in the buffer zones in Lebanon and Syria."

What did UNIFIL say about the Israeli wall near Yaroun?

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UNIFIL said on 14 November 2025 that a concrete wall built by the Israel Defense Forces southwest of Yaroun "crossed the Blue Line", and called on the IDF to "withdraw from all areas north of it." Israel's military said on 14 November 2025: "The wall does not cross the Blue Line."

What has Hezbollah said about Israeli troops in southern Lebanon?

Hezbollah's Secretary-General, Naim Qassem, said on 16 February 2025: "Israel must withdraw completely on Feb. 18, it has no pretext, no five points or other details... this is the agreement." He said on 4 June 2026 that any ceasefire must include "Israel's withdrawal".

What did the UN Secretary-General say on his visit to Syria in July 2026?

The UN Secretary-General said in Damascus on 25 July 2026: "Violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity are unacceptable and must cease." He said there: "What is happening in the region around the Golan Heights is totally unacceptable."

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Diplomacy and Negotiations

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT OBSTACLES TO A GAZA CEASEFIRE?

What the Board of Peace, Egypt, Qatar, the United States, Israel's government and Hamas have said is holding up the Gaza ceasefire's next phase, dated.

POSITIONS 23 November 2026 Board of Peace Hamas Gaza ceasefire Gaza Strip



The Board of Peace said in its report to the UN Security Council dated 15 May 2026 that "the principal obstacle to full implementation remains Hamas' refusal to accept verified decommissioning, relinquish coercive control, and permit a

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genuine civilian transition in Gaza." The Board said in its second report, delivered on 17 November 2026, that the absence of decisions by Israel's government on the return of civilian police to Gaza "continues to impede full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan." Hamas said on 19 May 2026 that the Board's first report ignored Israel's "failure to uphold the majority of its commitments". Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 21 May 2026 that the ceasefire framework was in deadlock because of "one central obstacle: Hamas refuses to disarm."

What does the Gaza peace plan say happens after the ceasefire?

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

UN Security Council resolution 2803 of 17 November 2025 refers to the role of the United States, Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye "in having facilitated the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip". The Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict is annexed to UN Security Council resolution 2803, which endorsed the plan on 17 November 2025.

The plan provides that Gaza will be demilitarised under the supervision of independent monitors. Resolution 2803 welcomed the establishment of the Board of Peace as a transitional administration to coordinate funding for the redevelopment of Gaza, and authorised a temporary International Stabilization Force in Gaza, both until 31 December 2027, subject to further action by the Council.

The Comprehensive Plan provides that Israeli forces will withdraw to an agreed line to prepare for a hostage release, and that battle lines will remain frozen until conditions are met for a complete staged withdrawal. Resolution 2803 provides that, as the International Stabilization Force establishes control and stability, the

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Israel Defense Forces will withdraw from the Gaza Strip based on standards, milestones and timeframes linked to demilitarisation, save for a security perimeter presence.

A committee of Palestinian technocrats, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, was appointed in January 2026.

What is the Board of Peace's road map for Gaza?

The guarantors of the ceasefire, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States, and the High Representative for Gaza developed and presented a road map to complete implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The road map establishes the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza as the sole legitimate transitional authority, responsible for civilian governance and security.

The core security obligation under the road map is the complete decommissioning of weapons, subject to international verification. Under the road map, the Israel Defense Forces would withdraw in phases to the Gaza perimeter, contingent upon verified progress in decommissioning.

The Board of Peace's first report says that the decommissioning process is sequenced to proceed in phases matched with commensurate implementation steps by Israel and other stakeholders. An International Stabilisation Force would be deployed to serve as a buffer, support the chain of custody for weapons, and protect humanitarian operations, according to the report. Reconstruction would begin under the authority of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza in certified decommissioned areas, according to the report.

Hamas agreed in July 2026 to the road map.

What has the Board of Peace said about Gaza ceasefire obstacles?

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Resolution 2803 requests the Board of Peace to provide a written report to the Security Council every six months. The Board of Peace's first report, dated 15 May 2026, covers developments from 17 November 2025 to 14 May 2026 and was circulated as Security Council document S/2026/418.

The Board of Peace said in that report: "At this stage, the principal obstacle to full implementation remains Hamas' refusal to accept verified decommissioning, relinquish coercive control, and permit a genuine civilian transition in Gaza." The Board said in the same report that ceasefire violations "continue to occur on a near daily basis, some of which are serious". It also said: "Reconstruction cannot commence where weapons have not been laid down."

The Security Council met on 21 May, 28 July, 26 August and 28 September 2026 on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Nickolay Mladenov, High Representative for Gaza of the Board of Peace, briefed the Council on 21 May and 26 August 2026.

Nickolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, said to the Security Council on 21 May 2026 that "implementation cannot advance through Palestinian obligations alone." He said in the same briefing: "The continued killings, Israeli restrictions and delays affecting humanitarian flows are not abstract issues." He asked the Council "to urge Hamas to accept the road map without further delay and to urge Israel to uphold its obligations under the ceasefire."

Mladenov said to the Council on 26 August 2026: "The first risk is the distance between what has been agreed and what is happening on the ground." Mladenov said in the same briefing: "Israeli strikes have continued since the road map was accepted, and Palestinian civilians are still being killed." Of a further strike on a munitions depot, he said: "It only delays the demilitarization that would happen, and it obstructs the civilian transition that should take place to ensure that remilitarization will not be possible in the future."

Mladenov said in the same briefing of 26 August 2026: "The second risk runs in the opposite direction. Hamas has committed to ceasing all military activities.

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That commitment is still to be met in full." He said that "three things must be in place for the process to move forward: the ISF needs to be able to deploy; Israel's undertakings under the Sharm el-Sheikh protocol need to be implemented; and Hamas must adhere to its commitments."

The Board of Peace delivered its second report to the Security Council on 17 November 2026. The Board of Peace said in that report: "The distance between what has been agreed and what is happening on the ground nonetheless remains the principal risk to the process." The Board said in the report: "The absence of decisions by the government of Israel on the necessary conditions and arrangements for the training, deployment and return of civilian police to Gaza continues to impede full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan."

The Board of Peace said in the same report: "Every day that Israel continues strikes against Hamas targets, it delays putting Hamas' agreement to the roadmap to the test." It said: "Neither party may treat the other's delay as license for its own inaction, and together these obligations are the only route to Israeli withdrawal and reconstruction at scale."

What have governments said about Gaza ceasefire obstacles?

Egypt's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 28 July 2026 that Egypt, "in coordination with the United States, Qatar and Türkiye, is working to support the full implementation of all phases" of the Comprehensive Plan. The delegation said in the same statement that Israel continued to take "unilateral escalatory measures" in the Palestinian territories, "thereby undermining the opportunity to end the conflict". It said: "Israel must refrain from obstructing prompt recovery and reconstruction efforts throughout the Gaza Strip, and Israel must ultimately withdraw fully from the Strip."

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia and the ceasefire mediators said in a joint statement on 16

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August 2026 on Israel's rejection of the road map that Israel "now bears responsibility for obstructing the efforts to bring peace in Gaza."

US envoy Jared Kushner said in an interview with Fox News on 17 August 2026: "We will not allow Gaza to be rebuilt until demilitarization occurs."

Qatar's delegation to the UN Security Council, speaking for the Arab Group, said on 26 August 2026 that the Group "condemns Israel's declared rejection of the road map" for implementing the Comprehensive Plan. It said: "These positions constitute a direct rejection of the Comprehensive Plan, jeopardize its implementation and gravely undermine collective efforts for a just and lasting peace."

The United States' delegation to the UN Security Council said on 26 August 2026, through Ambassador Michael Waltz: "Once Hamas demonstrates full compliance with their commitments, Israel will begin its phased, and eventually complete, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip." Waltz said in the same statement: "We will be frozen in a cycle of humanitarian aid rather than rebuilding, until Hamas disarms and demilitarizes." He also said: "Therefore, believe me when I say that we will judge Hamas by what it does, not only by what it says."

The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Libya, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia and Sudan said in a joint statement on 14 November 2026 that continued Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians "undermine the ceasefire agreement and efforts to restore security and stability in the Gaza Strip". WAFA's list of the same statement's signatories does not include Palestine.

What have Israel's government and Hamas said about Gaza ceasefire obstacles?

Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's chief negotiator, said on 24 December 2025 that Israeli violations of the ceasefire were aimed at hindering the move to the next phase of

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the ceasefire deal.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 24 December 2025 that Hamas had made clear it had no plan to disarm as foreseen under the October truce deal.

Hamas said on 19 May 2026 that the Board of Peace's first report ignored Israel's "failure to uphold the majority of its commitments" in the ceasefire deal, including restrictions on crossings and on the entry of material for infrastructure and shelter. Hamas asked the Security Council and Nickolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, to compel Israel to fulfil its commitments under the deal's first phase, "foremost among them the cessation of the daily aggression against our Palestinian people in Gaza."

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 21 May 2026: "For months, the ceasefire framework has remained trapped in deadlock, not because there is no path forward, no international plan or no humanitarian mechanism, but because there is one central obstacle: Hamas refuses to disarm." The delegation said in the same statement: "Disarmament cannot be treated as a secondary or symbolic issue, because it is the very condition on which any sustainable future in Gaza depends."

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 28 July 2026, through Ambassador Danny Danon: "But while Israel upholds its end of the deal, the main problem remains: Hamas has refused to disarm."

Doron Spielman, a spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office, said on 2 August 2026: "The most important concern for Israel is that nothing can happen before Hamas completely and truly disarms". He said to the Associated Press the same day: "Disarming means physically giving up the weapons. Nothing less."

Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official, said on 9 August 2026 that Hamas expected the mediators and the United States to "press Netanyahu and his government to adhere to the roadmap." Hamas said in a statement after Netanyahu's remarks: "We will continue to engage positively and responsibly with efforts aimed at completing the implementation of the roadmap."

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the cabinet meeting on 9 August 2026 that Israel rejected the Board of Peace's road map. He said: "The IDF will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed." He also said that it would need to be "genuine disarmament, not fictitious disarmament."

The Prime Minister's Office said on 17 August 2026, after a meeting with US envoy Jared Kushner and the Board of Peace, that Israel and the Board agreed that the demilitarisation "should be prompt and completed before any reconstruction."

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 26 August 2026: "But the Plan cannot succeed while Hamas remains armed." The delegation said in the same statement: "Disarmament must come first." It also said: "That is why Hamas' disarmament cannot rest on promises. It must be complete, verifiable and irreversible."

Hamas said on 1 September 2026 that Israeli attacks were undermining the ceasefire agreement, and that it had asked the mediators and the Board of Peace envoy, Nickolay Mladenov, to press Israel.

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 28 September 2026: "When the Council debates the obstacles to peace, it must confront the entire picture. Hamas must disarm in Gaza."

Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official, said on 18 November 2026 that the Board of Peace's second report was "pure disinformation", and that the Board was providing cover to Israel to evade its commitments under the plan.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a statement on 18 November 2026 that any drawdown or redeployment of Israeli forces would take place only after "Hamas is dismantled and Gaza is demilitarized".

Frequently asked questions

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What did the Board of Peace say was the main obstacle in Gaza in May 2026?

The Board of Peace said in its report to the UN Security Council dated 15 May 2026 that "the principal obstacle to full implementation remains Hamas' refusal to accept verified decommissioning, relinquish coercive control, and permit a genuine civilian transition in Gaza." Hamas said on 19 May 2026 that the report ignored Israel's "failure to uphold the majority of its commitments".

What did the Board of Peace say about Israel in its November 2026 report?

The Board of Peace said in its second report, delivered on 17 November 2026, that the absence of decisions by Israel's government on the return of civilian police to Gaza "continues to impede full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan." The Board said in the same report, that every day of Israeli strikes on Hamas targets "delays putting Hamas' agreement to the roadmap to the test."

Did Israel reject the Board of Peace's road map for Gaza?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the cabinet meeting on 9 August 2026 that Israel rejected the Board of Peace's road map, and that "the IDF will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed." Basem Naim of Hamas said the same day that Hamas expected the mediators and the United States to "press Netanyahu and his government to adhere to the roadmap."

When did Hamas agree to the Board of Peace's road map?

Hamas agreed in July 2026 to the Board of Peace's road map. Nickolay Mladenov, the Board's High Representative for Gaza, said to the UN Security Council on 26 August 2026 that Hamas "has committed to ceasing all military activities" and that "that commitment is still to be met in full."

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What has been said about Hamas disarmament and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza?

Israel's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 26 August 2026 that the Comprehensive Plan "cannot succeed while Hamas remains armed" and that "disarmament must come first." The United States' delegation said on 26 August 2026: "Once Hamas demonstrates full compliance with their commitments, Israel will begin its phased, and eventually complete, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip." Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on 18 November 2026 that a drawdown of Israeli forces would come only after "Hamas is dismantled and Gaza is demilitarized".

What have Egypt and Qatar said about obstacles to the Gaza ceasefire?

Egypt's delegation to the UN Security Council said on 28 July 2026 that Israel's "unilateral escalatory measures" were "undermining the opportunity to end the conflict". Qatar's delegation, speaking for the Arab Group, said on 26 August 2026 that Israel's declared rejection of the road map would "jeopardize its implementation".

What has been said about Israeli strikes and the Gaza ceasefire's next phase?

Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's chief negotiator, said on 24 December 2025 that Israeli violations of the ceasefire were aimed at hindering the move to the next phase of the ceasefire deal. Nickolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza, said on 26 August 2026 that a further Israeli strike on a munitions depot "obstructs the civilian transition that should take place". Hamas said on 1 September 2026 that Israeli attacks were undermining the ceasefire agreement.

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Who drew up the Board of Peace's road map for Gaza?

The guarantors of the ceasefire, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye and the United States, and the High Representative for Gaza developed and presented a road map to complete implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. UN Security Council resolution 2803 of 17 November 2025 refers to the role of the United States, Qatar, Egypt and Türkiye "in having facilitated the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip".

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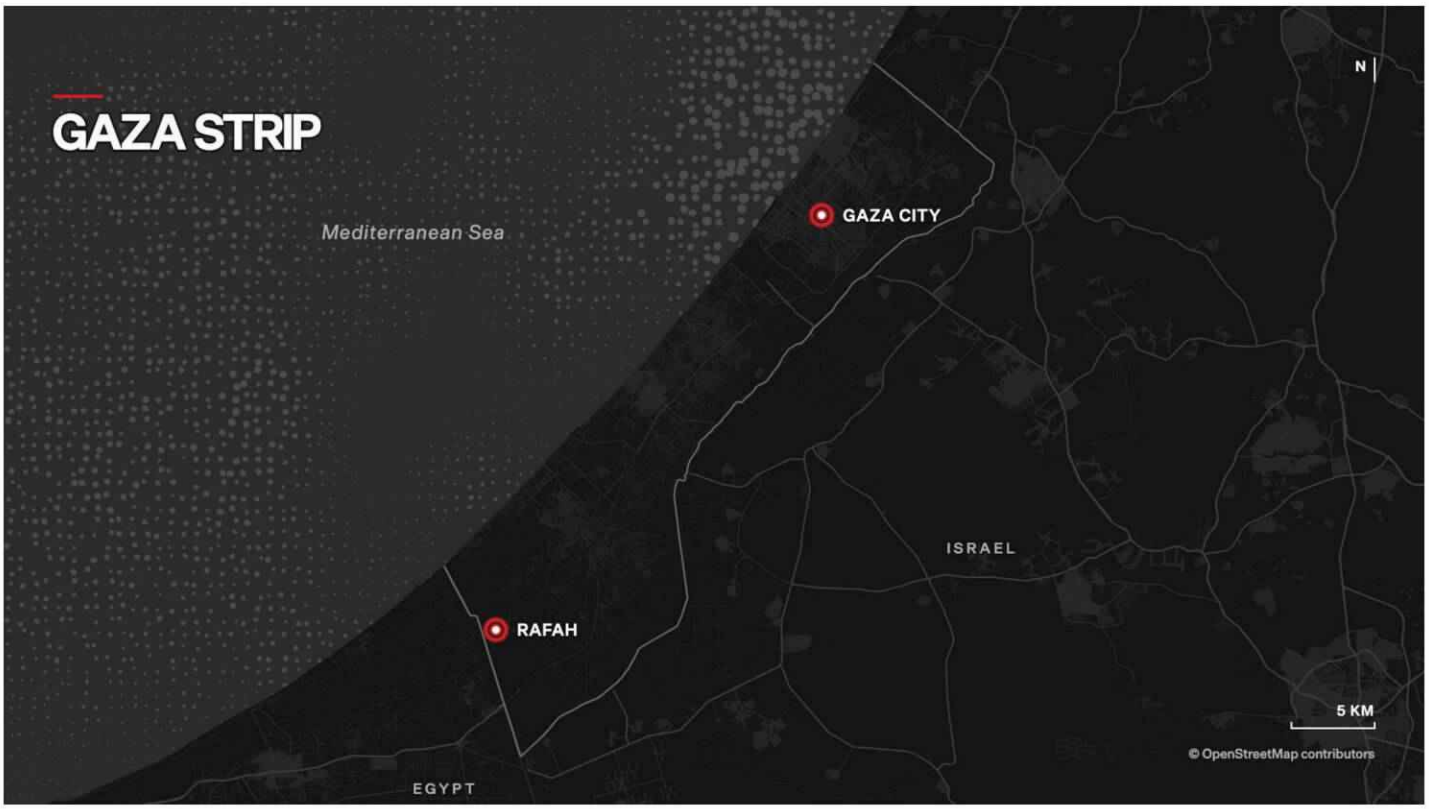
Strikes and Raids

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE IDF'S CODE OF ETHICS?

What the IDF's code of ethics, the Spirit of the IDF, says, and what the UN Commission of Inquiry, Human Rights Watch and Israeli officials have said about it.

POSITIONS 23 November 2026

IDF | Spirit of the IDF | UN Commission of Inquiry | Gaza Strip



Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and

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Israel, said on 19 June 2024: "I don't know whether it's one of the most moral armies in the world or not, but what I do have expertise in and what I do have authority to do is make assessments of criminal conduct." The Commission said in a paper it issued on 23 June 2026 that "Israeli soldiers in Gaza filming themselves destroying and mocking children's toys raise serious ethical, disciplinary, and legal concerns". Eyal Zamir, the IDF's Chief of the General Staff, said on 27 April 2026: "There is erosion, but we must not give up on our values or compromise on our norms."

What values does the IDF's code of ethics set out?

The Spirit of the IDF is the IDF's code of ethics. The IDF publishes the Spirit of the IDF in English on its website, on a page titled "The Spirit of the Israel Defense Forces: What Guides Us".

The page lists four fundamental values: defense of the State of Israel and its residents, patriotism and loyalty to Israel, human dignity, and statehood. The page lists ten further values derived from them, among them human life, purity of arms and discipline.

The IDF's page says that the Spirit of the IDF "outlines our values and, together with the practical rules derived from, constitutes our ethical code, guiding our soldiers and commanders in their day-to-day and operational activities." On the defense of the State, the code says: "The purpose of the IDF is to protect Israel and its independence and ensure the security of its residents." On patriotism and loyalty, it says that "patriotism and commitment and devotion to the State of Israel and its people are at the very core of service in the IDF."

The value of human dignity reads, in the IDF's words: "The IDF and our soldiers are obligated to protect human dignity. Every individual is of inherent value, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender or status." Under statehood, the code says: "The IDF is the people's army, the State of Israel's military, subject to the law and government of the State of Israel." The same

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value says: “IDF soldiers will operate with their mission, the IDF’s values and the security of Israel as their priority.”

The IDF’s code says, under purity of arms: “An IDF soldier will only exercise their power or use their weapon in order to fulfill their mission and only when necessary. They will maintain their humanity during combat and routine times. The soldier will not use their weapon or power to harm uninvolved civilians and prisoners and will do everything in their power to prevent harm to their lives, bodies, dignity and property.”

The code’s value of human life says: “An IDF soldier will recognize the critical importance of human life and behave in a safe and measured manner at all times. During combat, the soldier will put themselves and their fellow soldiers at risk only to the extent required to fulfill their mission.”

Under discipline, the IDF’s code says: “An IDF soldier will operate to the best of their ability to fulfill what is required of them in a complete and successful manner and in accordance with the orders they were given and the values of the IDF. The soldier will ensure they are only giving out legal orders, and do not follow illegal orders.”

The value of perseverance in the mission and pursuit of victory says that an IDF soldier will act and operate with courage in the face of every danger and challenge presented, and will persevere in their mission with determination and wisdom, even if it means risking their life. Under reliability and trustworthiness, the code says: “An IDF soldier will present things entirely and precisely as they are.”

Under responsibility, the IDF’s code says that a soldier will see themselves as an active partner in ensuring the security of the State of Israel and its residents. The code says that the soldier will show continuous involvement, initiative and diligence, will operate within the framework of their authority, and will be willing to accept consequences for their actions if need be.

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Under personal example, the code says that an IDF soldier will conduct themselves in the manner that is required of them and in the manner they expect their fellow soldiers to act. Its value of professionalism says that a soldier will aspire to gain the professional knowledge, skills and expertise required to fulfill their position in the IDF.

The code's value of camaraderie says that an IDF soldier will operate out of commitment and devotion to their fellow soldiers, and will always extend other servicemembers a helping hand when they are in need of assistance, despite any difficulty or risk. Under a sense of mission, the code says that a soldier will see their service as a vocation and will be intent on contributing as much as possible to defend the State of Israel and its residents.

What have UN bodies said about the IDF's code of ethics?

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. Chris Sidoti was a member of the commission.

Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Commission of Inquiry, said at a press conference on 19 June 2024, as UN News published his words: "I don't know whether it's one of the most moral armies in the world or not, but what I do have expertise in and what I do have authority to do is make assessments of criminal conduct." He said in the same remarks that the Commission had made assessments of criminal conduct in relation to the recent events, that these could be seen in its report, and that "the only conclusion you can draw is that the Israeli army is one of the most criminal armies in the world".

The UN Commission of Inquiry issued a report on 23 June 2026. Srinivasan Muralidhar was the Commission's chair when the report was issued. The paper was prepared for the Human Rights Council's sixty-second session.

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In that paper of 23 June 2026, the UN Commission of Inquiry said that it "examines how Israeli soldiers mock and weaponize symbols of childhood in Gaza, raising ethical, disciplinary and legal questions about the conduct of the Israeli security forces during the ground invasion of Gaza."

The Commission said that the IDF's Chief of Staff had urged Israeli soldiers in a letter of February 2024 "not to take anything that is not ours." It said: "The Commission has not found any evidence that the letter made any difference in the conduct of Israeli soldiers in Gaza who continued misusing and damaging children's toys through October 2025, including after the ceasefire agreement."

The paper says: "However, the Commission is not aware of the Israeli security forces opening any investigation into such incidents." The Commission said that it "concludes that they are not isolated or personally motivated acts", citing "the number of examples documented by the Commission, across different geographical locations and during different time periods".

The Commission said in the same paper that the acts were "conducted by different units of the Israeli security forces with no disciplinary consequences against the Israeli soldiers". In its conclusions, the Commission said that "Israeli soldiers in Gaza filming themselves destroying and mocking children's toys raise serious ethical, disciplinary, and legal concerns".

What have organisations said about the IDF's code of ethics?

Human Rights Watch said on 24 September 2010, in a commentary titled "Yes, War Does Have Rules": "The military brass repeatedly points to the 'Spirit of the IDF' as evidence that it provides its soldiers with ethical training."

The organisation said in the same commentary that the Spirit of the IDF is both an "ethical code to which we all aspire", a phrase it attributed to an Israeli military spokesman, and a guide to conduct, and that the mixture may confuse soldiers and commanders alike. It said that Israel's army "is accountable to

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universal standards of behavior under the laws of war", and "not just a set of unenforceable ideals".

The organisation said: "It is essential for the Israeli military to teach its soldiers and commanders to reject behavior that is not just embarrassing to Israel and harmful to civilians, but illegal."

What have Israel's military and government said about the IDF's code?

The IDF's military justice system is headed by the Military Advocate General. Criminal investigations are conducted by a department of the IDF Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, and the unit's work is directed by the Military Advocate General. Major General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, the former Military Advocate General, resigned on 31 October 2025. Major General Itay Offir assumed office as Military Advocate General in November 2025.

IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi said in a letter to troops on 20 February 2024, as The Times of Israel reported: "We act like human beings and, unlike our enemy, maintain our humanity." He said in the same letter: "We must be careful not to use force where it is not required." He said in the letter that troops were "not to take anything that is not ours".

The Military Advocate General, Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, said in a letter to commanders on 21 February 2024: "We have encountered cases of unacceptable conduct that deviate from IDF values and protocols." She said that the cases included inappropriate statements that encourage unacceptable phenomena, unjustified use of force, including against detainees, looting, and destruction of civilian property contrary to protocols.

Tomer-Yerushalmi said in the letter: "Some incidents go beyond the disciplinary domain, and cross the criminal threshold." She said that these acts and statements "are contrary to the IDF as a professional, moral, and dignified army, and they have no place in the IDF". Cases were being investigated, after which

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the Military Advocate General Corps would decide if criminal or disciplinary measures need to be taken, according to Tomer-Yerushalmi.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2025, replying to remarks by the chairman of the Democrats Party, as The Jerusalem Post reported: "The IDF is the most moral army in the world, and our soldiers are fighting a battle for our very existence."

The IDF said of a soldier's video, in a statement The Times of Israel reported on 8 January 2026, that it represented "a grave incident that does not accord with the values of the IDF and with the standards expected of combat soldiers and their commanders." The army said that it would weigh whether the soldier could return to combat after his prison sentence.

IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said to the IDF's senior command staff on 27 April 2026, as Ynetnews reported: "There is erosion, but we must not give up on our values or compromise on our norms." Of a patch he showed commanders, he said: "This is a rebellion against IDF values." On reports of looting in combat areas, Zamir said: "If there were such incidents, we will investigate them."

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said in a statement on 15 October 2026 that he would change the IDF's code of ethics if he is named defense minister. His proposal says: "The purpose of the IDF is to achieve victory and decisively defeat the enemies of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, while safeguarding the security of the state, its citizens, and its residents."

According to Ben-Gvir's plan, the principle of "Purity of Arms" would be replaced with "Righteousness of Arms". The plan says that "the IDF and its soldiers are committed to preserving human dignity". National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said on 15 October 2026 that the revised code would establish the principle "If someone comes to kill you, rise early and kill him first" as a moral guideline for soldiers carrying out their missions.

The statements on the IDF's code of ethics, in the order of this page:

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
UN Commission of Inquiry, Commissioner Chris Sidoti	19 June 2024	"I don't know whether it's one of the most moral armies in the world or not"
UN Commission of Inquiry	23 June 2026	"raising ethical, disciplinary and legal questions about the conduct of the Israeli security forces"
Human Rights Watch	24 September 2010	"not just a set of unenforceable ideals"
IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi	20 February 2024	"unlike our enemy, maintain our humanity"
Military Advocate General Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi	21 February 2024	"unacceptable conduct that deviate from IDF values and protocols"
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	20 May 2025	"The IDF is the most moral army in the world"
IDF	8 January 2026	"a grave incident that does not accord with the values of the IDF"
IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir	27 April 2026	"we must not give up on our values or compromise on our norms"
National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir	15 October 2026	"the IDF and its soldiers are committed to preserving human dignity"

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Frequently asked questions

What is the Spirit of the IDF?

The Spirit of the IDF is the IDF's code of ethics. The IDF publishes the Spirit of the IDF in English on its website, on a page titled "The Spirit of the Israel Defense Forces: What Guides Us".

What does the IDF's code of ethics say about purity of arms?

The IDF's code of ethics, the Spirit of the IDF, says under purity of arms: "An IDF soldier will only exercise their power or use their weapon in order to fulfill their mission and only when necessary. They will maintain their humanity during combat and routine times."

What does the Spirit of the IDF say about human dignity?

The Spirit of the IDF, the IDF's code of ethics, says that the IDF and its soldiers are obligated to protect human dignity. The code says that every individual is of inherent value, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, nationality, gender or status.

Who has called the IDF "the most moral army in the world"?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 20 May 2025: "The IDF is the most moral army in the world, and our soldiers are fighting a battle for our very existence."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about the IDF as a moral army?

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Chris Sidoti, a member of the UN Commission of Inquiry, said on 19 June 2024: "I don't know whether it's one of the most moral armies in the world or not, but what I do have expertise in and what I do have authority to do is make assessments of criminal conduct."

What did Human Rights Watch say about the Spirit of the IDF?

Human Rights Watch said on 24 September 2010 that Israel's military brass repeatedly points to the Spirit of the IDF as evidence that it provides its soldiers with ethical training. It said that Israel's army "is accountable to universal standards of behavior under the laws of war", and "not just a set of unenforceable ideals".

What did the IDF's Military Advocate General say about troops' conduct in Gaza in 2024?

The Military Advocate General, Maj. Gen. Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, said in a letter to commanders on 21 February 2024: "We have encountered cases of unacceptable conduct that deviate from IDF values and protocols."

What did the IDF say about a soldier's video in January 2026?

The IDF said of a soldier's video, in a statement The Times of Israel reported on 8 January 2026, that it represented "a grave incident that does not accord with the values of the IDF and with the standards expected of combat soldiers and their commanders."

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about the Chief of Staff's letter of February 2024?

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The UN Commission of Inquiry said on 23 June 2026: "The Commission has not found any evidence that the letter made any difference in the conduct of Israeli soldiers in Gaza who continued misusing and damaging children's toys through October 2025, including after the ceasefire agreement."

What did the Chief of Staff tell troops about conduct in February 2024?

IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi said in a letter to troops on 20 February 2024: "We must be careful not to use force where it is not required." He said in the letter that troops were "not to take anything that is not ours".

What has the IDF Chief of Staff said about IDF values in 2026?

IDF Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said on 27 April 2026: "There is erosion, but we must not give up on our values or compromise on our norms."

What change to the IDF's code of ethics has Itamar Ben-Gvir proposed?

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said on 15 October 2026 that he would change the IDF's code of ethics if he is named defense minister. According to his plan, the principle of "Purity of Arms" would be replaced with "Righteousness of Arms".

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Strikes and Raids

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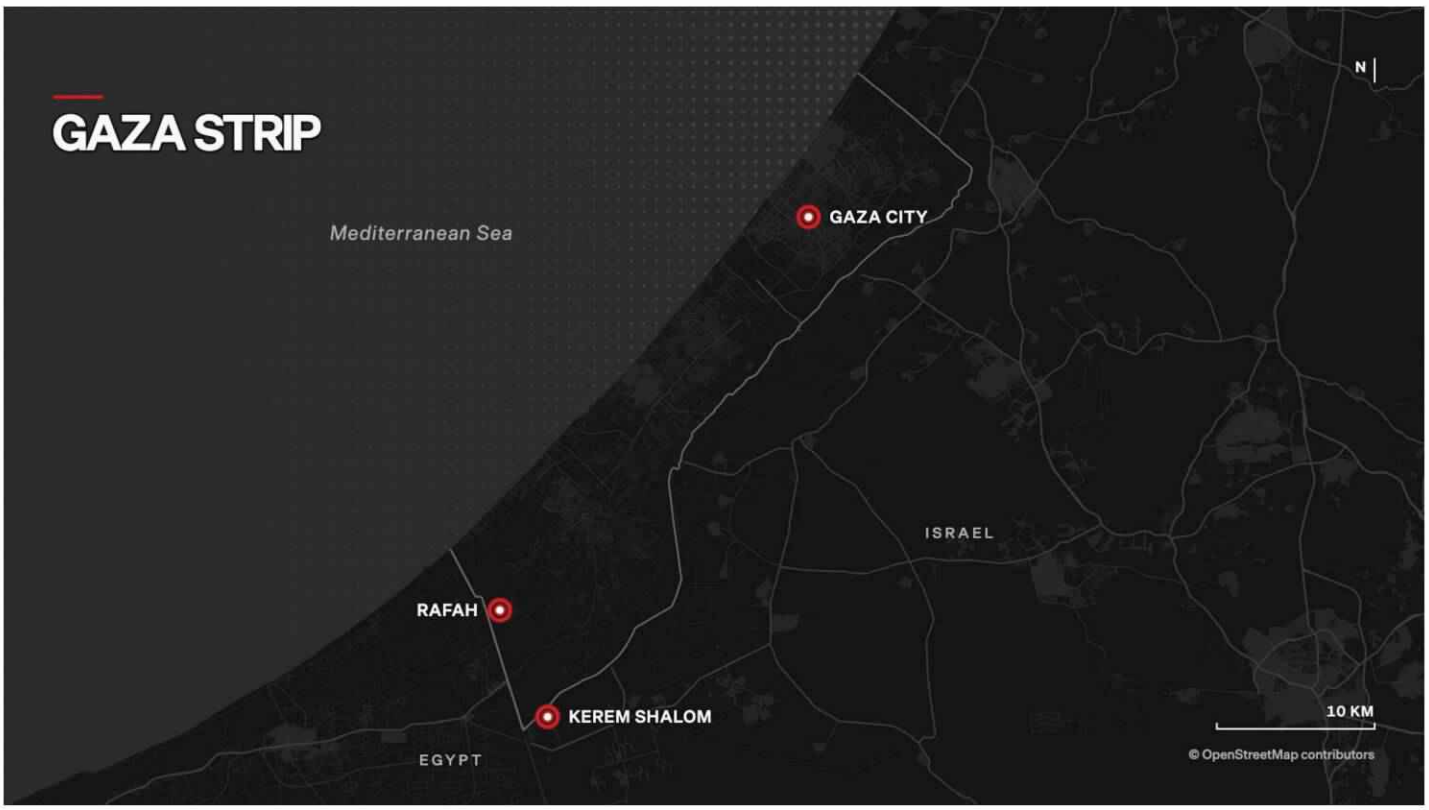
Courts and Law

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF THE GAZA BLOCKADE?

What Israel's Supreme Court, UN bodies, Turkey, the ICRC, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Israel's government have said about the Gaza blockade.

POSITIONS 23 November 2026 Supreme Court of Israel Palmer report ICRC Gaza Strip



The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, ruled on 30 January 2008 on a petition against the reduction of fuel and electricity supplies to the Gaza Strip, and said that it had "been persuaded that this reduction does

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not breach the State of Israel's humanitarian duties within the context of the armed conflict". The Court's judgment ended: "Therefore, for the reasons set out above, the petition is denied." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 8 December 2023: "Moreover, Hamas's consistent use of the maritime areas to conduct attacks and smuggle arms necessitated a naval blockade imposed by Israel in 2009 in accordance with international law."

What has Israel's Supreme Court ruled on the Gaza blockade?

The petition in HCJ 9132/07, Jaber Al-Bassiouni Ahmed and others v. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, was directed against the decision to reduce or limit the supply of fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip. The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, gave judgment on 30 January 2008. President D. Beinisch wrote the judgment, and Justices E. Hayut and J. Elon agreed.

The Supreme Court said in its judgment of 30 January 2008: "The petition before us is directed against the respondents' decision to reduce or limit the supply of fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip." The Court said that "The respondents' decision to limit the supply of fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip was made as a part of the State of Israel's operations against the continuous terrorism." The Court said that it had already ruled on the fuel supply: "We were therefore not persuaded at that stage, on the basis of the data presented to us, that the respondents' decision to reduce the amount of fuel allowed into the Gaza Strip through the border crossings with Israel currently violates the basic humanitarian needs of the Gaza Strip."

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

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The Supreme Court said that "The question before us is whether the various restrictions upon the supply of fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip harm the essential humanitarian needs of the residents of the Gaza Strip." It said in the same paragraph: "The respondents are required to discharge their duties under international humanitarian law, which requires them to allow the Gaza Strip to receive only what is needed in order to provide the essential humanitarian needs of the civilian population."

On the reduction of electricity, the Court said that "we have been persuaded that this reduction does not breach the State of Israel's humanitarian duties within the context of the armed conflict taking place between it and the Hamas organization that controls the Gaza Strip." It described its own role: "We have said, on more than one occasion, that we do not intervene in the question of the effectiveness or the wisdom of the security measures adopted by those responsible for security, but only in the question of their legality."

In its conclusion, the Supreme Court said that the industrial diesel to be supplied and the electricity supplied through the power lines from Israel "are capable of satisfying the essential humanitarian needs of the Gaza Strip at the present." The judgment ended: "Therefore, for the reasons set out above, the petition is denied."

What have UN bodies said about the legality of the Gaza blockade?

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said on 18 November 2008, of the Israeli blockade of Gaza: "This is in direct contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law. It must end now." The High Commissioner's release said that she "recalled the Occupying Power's obligation to fully cease all measures that are inconsistent with its obligations under international law." She said in the same release that "a full lifting of the blockade followed by a strong humanitarian response will be adequate to relieve the massive humanitarian suffering evident in Gaza today."

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UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said on 31 May 2010 that there was an "almost unanimous international view that the continued blockade of Gaza is both inhumane and illegal." Pillay said in the same release: "The blockade lies at the heart of so many of the problems plaguing the Israel-Palestine situation, as does the impression that the Israeli Government treats international law with perpetual disdain." She also said: "If the blockade had been lifted, there would be no need for flotillas like this."

On 31 May 2010, Israeli forces intercepted a convoy of six vessels bound for Gaza, which had departed from Turkey. The UN Secretary-General established the Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 Flotilla Incident on 2 August 2010. Sir Geoffrey Palmer chaired the Panel, with Alvaro Uribe as Vice-Chair, and its other members were Joseph Ciechanover of Israel and Özdem Sanberk of Turkey.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received the Panel's report on 2 September 2011. The report was adopted on the agreement of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The UN Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 Flotilla Incident said in the report: "Israel faces a real threat to its security from militant groups in Gaza. The naval blockade was imposed as a legitimate security measure in order to prevent weapons from entering Gaza by sea and its implementation complied with the requirements of international law."

The Panel said in the same report: "We therefore treat the naval blockade as separate and distinct from the controls at the land crossings." It said: "[A] blockade in those circumstances is a legitimate exercise of the right of self-defence." It said: "While we are unable to conclude that the combined effects of the naval blockade and the crossings policy rendered the naval blockade disproportionate, we can make the policy judgment that the procedures applied by Israel in relation to land access to Gaza are unsustainable and need to be changed." It said: "For one, it would be illegal if its imposition was intended to starve or to collectively punish the civilian population." It said: "The Panel therefore concludes that Israel's naval blockade was legal."

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The Panel said in the same report: “As a final point, the Panel emphasizes that if necessary, the civilian population in Gaza must be allowed to receive food and other objects essential to its survival.”

The Panel of Inquiry recommended in the report that “Israel should continue with its efforts to ease its restrictions on movement of goods and persons to and from Gaza with a view to lifting its closure and to alleviate the unsustainable humanitarian and economic situation of the civilian population.” It also recommended: “Bearing in mind its consequences and the fundamental importance of the freedom of navigation on the high seas, Israel should keep the naval blockade under regular review, in order to assess whether it continues to be necessary.”

Special Rapporteurs are part of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. The UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to food, on health, on water and sanitation, on extreme poverty, and on the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 said in a joint statement on 13 September 2011: “In pronouncing itself on the legality of the naval blockade, the Palmer Report does not recognize the naval blockade as an integral part of Israel’s closure policy towards Gaza which has a disproportionate impact on the human rights of civilians.” The special rapporteurs said in the same statement: “The Israeli blockade of Gaza must end immediately and the people of Gaza must be afforded protection in line with international law.” They also said: “Israel’s siege of Gaza is extracting a human price that disproportionately harms Palestinian civilians.” They said in the closing paragraph: “It is not the Hamas Government that is being punished, but ordinary Gazans.”

What has Turkey’s government said about the legality of the Gaza blockade?

Turkey’s Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on 2 September 2011, at a news conference in Ankara on the Panel of Inquiry’s report: “Turkey does not

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recognize Israel's blockade of Gaza. It will secure the study of this blockade at the International Court of Justice."

Davutoglu said on 2 September 2011 that some of the report's findings were questionable and that Turkey did not recognize the legitimacy of the blockade of Gaza. He said that Palmer and the deputy of the panel had exceeded their authority in including views which were more political than legal.

Turkey's Foreign Minister said at the same news conference: "Turkey does not accept this... We are determined to bring the matter to international legal forums."

What have organisations said about the legality of the Gaza blockade?

Human Rights Watch said on 22 January 2008: "Of particular concern is Israel's economic blockade of Gaza, which under the current occupation amounts to collective punishment against civilians." Juliette de Rivero, Geneva director at Human Rights Watch, said the same day: "Palestinian rocket fire into civilian areas can't justify the Israeli blockade against Gaza's civilians." Human Rights Watch said in the same release: "Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel is obliged to ensure the provision of food and medical supplies to the civilian population to the fullest extent possible."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 14 June 2010: "The whole of Gaza's civilian population is being punished for acts for which they bear no responsibility. The closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law." Béatrice Mégevand-Roggo, the ICRC's head of operations for the Middle East, said in the same release: "Israel's right to deal with its legitimate security concerns must be balanced against the Palestinians' right to live normal, dignified lives." The ICRC said in the same release: "Under international

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humanitarian law, Israel must ensure that the basic needs of Gazans, including adequate health care, are met."

Human Rights Watch said on 21 June 2010 that the Israeli Cabinet decision to ease the blockade of Gaza "is a step toward ending a policy that amounts to unlawful collective punishment of Gaza's civilians, but fails to address severe Israeli restrictions on exports and freedom of movement". Human Rights Watch said in the same release that it "called on the international community to press Israel to meet its international obligations to remove unlawful restrictions on the flow of goods into Gaza, and to lift unnecessary restrictions on exports and the free movement of people."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 13 October 2023: "The instructions issued by the Israeli authorities for the population of Gaza City to immediately leave their homes, coupled with the complete siege explicitly denying them food, water and electricity, are not compatible with international humanitarian law."

Human Rights Watch said on 18 October 2023: "The collective punishment of the population is a war crime." It said in the same release that the total blockade had worsened the crisis resulting from "Israel's unlawful 16-year closure of Gaza", and that "The laws of war do not prohibit sieges or blockades of enemy forces, but they may not include tactics that prevent civilians' access to items essential for their survival, such as water, food, and medicine."

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said on 2 October 2025, of Israel's interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla: "This interception is not just about blocking aid; it is a calculated act of intimidation intended to punish and silence critics of Israel's genocide and its unlawful blockade on Gaza." She said in the same statement: "They must also press Israel to lift its suffocating 18-year blockade and allow humanitarian aid to be delivered through all crossings into and throughout Gaza now."

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What has Israel's government said about the legality of the Gaza blockade?

Israel declared a formal end to military rule in the Gaza Strip on 11 September 2005. The last Israeli troops left the Gaza Strip at dawn on 12 September 2005, when the last officer shut the Kissufim border.

Israel's Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs said in its decision of 19 September 2007, as the Supreme Court quoted it: "Additional restrictions will also be placed upon the Hamas regime, so that the passage of goods to the Gaza Strip will be limited, the supply of fuel and electricity will be reduced and restrictions will be imposed upon the movement of persons to and from the Strip." The Committee said in the same decision: "The restrictions will be implemented after considering the legal ramifications of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis."

According to the Supreme Court's judgment of 30 January 2008, the State of Israel said before the Court that it conducts itself in accordance with the rules of international law and respects its humanitarian obligations under the laws of war. The judgment says that counsel for the State "told the court that the state recognizes that it has a duty not to prevent the supply of basic humanitarian needs to the Gaza Strip". According to the same judgment, the State said that this duty does not require it "to allow the passage of unessential goods or amounts of goods that exceed what is required for basic humanitarian needs".

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a paper updated to 2 November 2023: "As Israel does not exercise effective control over the Gaza Strip, the legal framework governing the present hostilities is not the law of belligerent occupation, but rather the rules of LOAC, in particular those governing the conduct of hostilities." The Ministry said in the same paper that "The powers exercised by Israel with respect to Gaza since its Disengagement from this territory in 2005, when its military and civilian presence was entirely removed, derive primarily from LOAC and Israel's sovereign rights under international law more broadly, as well as Israeli-Palestinian agreements where applicable." The

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Ministry said in the same paper that "there is no 'siege' on Gaza (even though a siege on enemy forces is not unlawful under international law subject to certain safeguards, as is also evident from the military manuals of various states)."

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 8 December 2023: "Moreover, Hamas's consistent use of the maritime areas to conduct attacks and smuggle arms necessitated a naval blockade imposed by Israel in 2009 in accordance with international law." The Ministry said in the same paper: "Over the years, Israel has eased the restrictions in the use of the maritime zone by Gazans when the security situation so allowed."

The Israeli Navy said in a radio message to vessels of the Global Sumud Flotilla on 29 April 2026: "This is the Israeli Navy. Attempts to breach the lawful maritime security blockade of the Gaza Strip constitute a violation of international law." The Navy said in the same message: "If you wish to legally transfer aid to Gaza, you may do so through established and recognized channels."

When did each body speak about the Gaza blockade?

Israel's Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs issued its decision on the Gaza Strip on 19 September 2007, and the Supreme Court of Israel gave judgment on the challenge to it on 30 January 2008. The Israeli Navy's radio message to the Global Sumud Flotilla is dated 29 April 2026.

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UN Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 Flotilla Incident

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Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu

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Israeli Navy

Frequently asked questions

Who set up the Palmer panel on the Gaza flotilla?

The UN Secretary-General established the Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 Flotilla Incident on 2 August 2010. Sir Geoffrey Palmer chaired the Panel, with Alvaro Uribe as Vice-Chair, and its other members were Joseph Ciechanover of

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Israel and Özdem Sanberk of Turkey. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon received the Panel's report on 2 September 2011.

What did the Palmer report say about the naval blockade of Gaza?

The UN Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry said in its report, received on 2 September 2011: "The Panel therefore concludes that Israel's naval blockade was legal." The Panel said in the same report: "We therefore treat the naval blockade as separate and distinct from the controls at the land crossings."

What did the Palmer report say about the land crossings into Gaza?

The UN Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry said in its report of September 2011 that "the procedures applied by Israel in relation to land access to Gaza are unsustainable and need to be changed." It recommended that Israel "continue with its efforts to ease its restrictions on movement of goods and persons to and from Gaza with a view to lifting its closure".

When does Israel say it imposed the naval blockade of Gaza?

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 8 December 2023 that Hamas's use of the sea "necessitated a naval blockade imposed by Israel in 2009 in accordance with international law." The Ministry said in the same paper that Israel has eased the restrictions in the maritime zone "when the security situation so allowed."

What was the Al-Bassiouni case before Israel's Supreme Court?

The petition in HCJ 9132/07, Jaber Al-Bassiouni Ahmed and others v. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, was directed against the decision to reduce or

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limit the supply of fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip. The Supreme Court of Israel, sitting as the High Court of Justice, gave judgment on 30 January 2008, and said: "Therefore, for the reasons set out above, the petition is denied."

What did the ICRC say about the Gaza closure in 2010?

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on 14 June 2010 that "The closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law." The ICRC said in the same release: "The only sustainable solution is to lift the closure."

Does Turkey recognise Israel's naval blockade of Gaza?

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on 2 September 2011: "Turkey does not recognize Israel's blockade of Gaza. It will secure the study of this blockade at the International Court of Justice." He said at the same news conference that Turkey was "determined to bring the matter to international legal forums."

What did UN special rapporteurs say about the Palmer report?

UN special rapporteurs on food, health, water and sanitation, extreme poverty and the Palestinian territories said on 13 September 2011 that the Palmer report "does not recognize the naval blockade as an integral part of Israel's closure policy towards Gaza". They said in the same statement: "Israel's siege of Gaza is extracting a human price that disproportionately harms Palestinian civilians."

What did the Israeli Navy tell the Gaza flotilla in April 2026?

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The Israeli Navy said in a radio message to vessels of the Global Sumud Flotilla on 29 April 2026: "Attempts to breach the lawful maritime security blockade of the Gaza Strip constitute a violation of international law." The Navy said in the same message: "If you wish to legally transfer aid to Gaza, you may do so through established and recognized channels."

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Strikes and Raids

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE TARGETING OF CIVILIANS IN GAZA?

What the ICC, UN bodies, governments, Amnesty, Human Rights Watch, MSF, Israel's government and Hamas have said about the targeting of civilians in Gaza.

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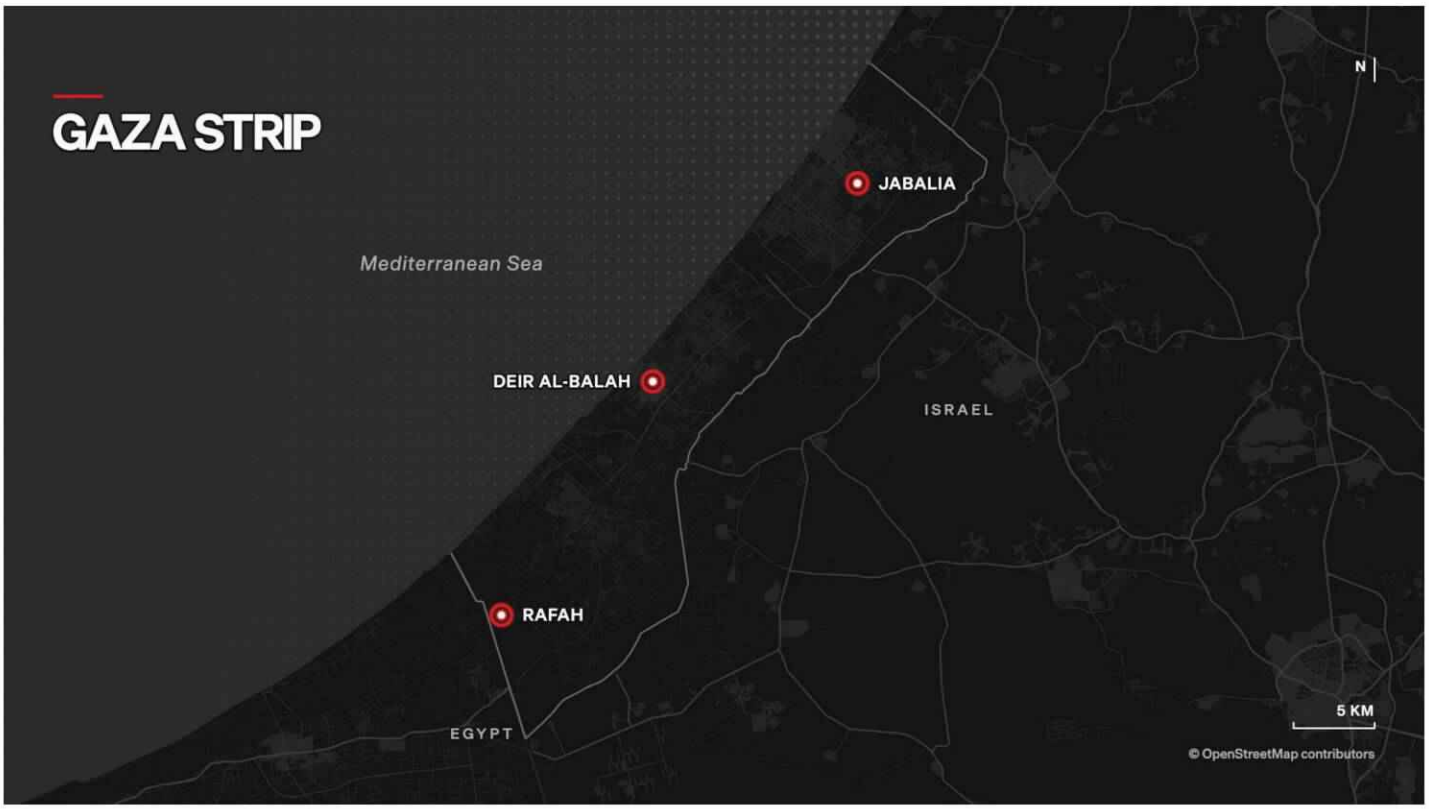

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied on 20 May 2024 for warrants of arrest for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence of Israel,

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over crimes he said included “Intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as a war crime”. Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that there were “reasonable grounds to believe” that both men bear criminal responsibility “as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population of Gaza”. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024 that the Court was “falsely accusing” him and the former defence minister “of deliberately targeting civilians, this when we do everything in our power to avoid civilian casualties.” Hamas said on 12 November 2026 that it had not used Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis as a base for operations.

What has the International Criminal Court said about targeting civilians in Gaza?

Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court lists, among the war crimes in international armed conflict, intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities. The Rome Statute lists the same act among the war crimes in armed conflicts not of an international character.

The State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 2 January 2015, and the Statute entered into force for it on 1 April 2015. The Prosecutor announced the opening of the investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine on 3 March 2021.

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said on 20 May 2024 that the crimes for which it sought warrants against the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence of Israel included “Intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population as a war crime contrary to articles 8(2)(b)(i), or 8(2)(e)(i)”. The Prosecutor said in the same statement: “Nothing can justify the taking of hostages or the targeting of civilians.”

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Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court issued warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant on 21 November 2024. The Chamber said: “Finally, the Chamber assessed that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gallant bear criminal responsibility as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population of Gaza.”

The Chamber said in the same release: “In this regard, the Chamber found that the material provided by the Prosecution only allowed it to make findings on two incidents that qualified as attacks that were intentionally directed against civilians.” It also said: “The Chamber also found that the alleged crimes against humanity were part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza.”

What have UN bodies said about the targeting of civilians in Gaza?

Report A/HRC/56/26 of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023. The report went to the Human Rights Council’s fifty-sixth session, which ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024.

The Commission said in that report, dated 14 June 2024, that “the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare; murder or wilful killing; intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects; forcible transfer” and other crimes “had been committed”.

The UN Human Rights Office published a thematic report on attacks in Gaza from October to December 2023, dated 19 June 2024. The report details six incidents from 7 October to 2 December 2023.

The UN Human Rights Office said in that report: “The requirement to select means and methods of warfare that minimize or avoid civilian harm appears to

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have been systematically violated in Israel's bombing campaign." The Office said of three of the strikes it examined that "the IDF has not specified publicly what the military objective was, raising serious concerns over targeting." It also said: "Furthermore, under IHL the presence of PAGs within the civilian population does not deprive the population in the Gaza Strip of its civilian character." The Office said in its conclusion: "When committed intentionally, such violations may amount to war crimes."

Srinivasan Muralidhar, chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, said on 23 June 2026, in a statement accompanying its report on children: "The evidence shows that Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces."

What have governments said about the targeting of civilians in Gaza?

US President Joe Biden said on 12 December 2023, at a campaign reception in Washington, of Israel's support abroad: "But they're starting to lose that support by the indiscriminate bombing that takes place."

The US Department of State said on 16 September 2025, through a spokesperson, of the Commission of Inquiry's report: "Israel went to war in self-defense and has consistently taken steps to minimize civilian casualties."

The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Libya, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia and Sudan said in a joint statement on 14 November 2026 that they condemned "continued Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians, including the targeting of tents and other sites sheltering displaced persons".

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What have organisations said about the targeting of civilians in Gaza?

Amnesty International published, on 20 October 2023, its investigation of air strikes in Gaza between 7 and 12 October 2023. The investigation presents five attacks, which struck residential buildings, a refugee camp, a family home and a public market.

Amnesty International said on 20 October 2023: "In each of these cases, Israeli attacks violated international humanitarian law, including by failing to take feasible precautions to spare civilians, or by carrying out indiscriminate attacks that failed to distinguish between civilians and military objectives, or by carrying out attacks that may have been directed against civilian objects." Amnesty said of one strike on a house that "this may be a direct attack on civilians or on a civilian object". It said that "in a number of cases Amnesty International found no evidence of the presence of fighters or other military objectives in the vicinity at the time of the attacks."

Human Rights Watch said on 4 April 2024 that an "airstrike on a six-story apartment building sheltering hundreds of people in central Gaza on October 31, 2023, is an apparent war crime". It said: "The absence of a military objective would render the attack on the Engineers' Building unlawfully deliberate or indiscriminate". It also said that it "found no evidence of a military target in the vicinity of the building at the time of the Israeli attack".

Médecins Sans Frontières released a report on Gaza on 19 December 2024. MSF said on 19 December 2024 that its report "highlights how repeated Israeli military attacks on civilians in Gaza, and the systematic denial of humanitarian assistance are destroying the conditions of life."

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 7 August 2025 that the GHF-run food distributions in Gaza had become sites of "orchestrated killing and dehumanisation", not humanitarian aid.

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What have Israel's government and Hamas said about targeting civilians in Gaza?

The IDF said on 13 October 2023, in an announcement to civilians of Gaza City: "Civilians of Gaza City, evacuate south for your own safety and the safety of your families and distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields." It said in the same announcement: "In the following days, the IDF will continue to operate significantly in Gaza City and make extensive efforts to avoid harming civilians."

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a paper updated to 8 December 2023: "In order to provide effective advance warning and mitigate civilian harm, the IDF has also encouraged civilians to temporarily evacuate from areas of intensive hostilities and from individual targets." The ministry said in the same paper of Hamas: "It has openly called on the civilian population to ignore IDF warnings and recommendations to temporarily evacuate, it has set up roadblocks to stop people from leaving dangerous areas, threatened individuals not to leave, and, according to some reports, shot civilians trying to leave so as to deter others."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on 21 November 2024, of the Court in The Hague, that it was "falsely accusing" him and Israel's former defence minister "of deliberately targeting civilians, this when we do everything in our power to avoid civilian casualties."

Oren Marmorstein, spokesman of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 19 December 2024, of the MSF report of that day: "Israel does not target medical teams or individuals uninvolved in terrorist activities".

The IDF said on 1 June 2025: "Findings from an initial inquiry indicate that the IDF did not fire at civilians while they were near or within the humanitarian aid distribution site and that reports to this effect are false." The IDF said on 27 June 2025, replying to a press report, that it "did not instruct the forces to deliberately shoot at civilians, including those approaching the distribution centers."

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Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN said on 15 September 2025, of remarks by the UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese: "According to her, Hamas doesn't embed itself in civilian infrastructure, doesn't cynically use civilians as human shields, and generally doesn't really exist".

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 16 September 2025, of the Commission of Inquiry's report of that day, that Israel "invests many efforts and resources in minimizing harm to the civilian population, as well as in allowing and facilitating many humanitarian efforts."

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

The IDF said on 9 June 2026, of strikes in the southern Gaza Strip: "Prior to the strikes, steps were taken to mitigate harm to civilians, including the issuing of advance warnings to the population, the use of precise munitions, and aerial surveillance."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026, in a rebuttal of the Commission of Inquiry's report on children, that Israel "consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict". The mission said that Israel rejected the suggestion that it deliberately targets children "in the strongest terms".

The IDF published its page on its use of data technologies in intelligence processing on 18 June 2024. The page says that it was last updated on 19 October 2026.

The IDF said on that page, in its version of 19 October 2026: "In each attack, IDF procedures require conducting an individual assessment of the anticipated military advantage and the incidental damage expected to civilians and civilian objects." It said that one of its tools "complements existing processes for identifying terror operatives and distinguishing them from civilians during

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military operations." It said that Hamas "holds numerous military assets which it tries to embed and conceal within the civilian environment".

Hamas said on 12 November 2026 that it had not used Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis as a base for operations. A Hamas spokesperson said that day that the strike on the hospital was a "full-fledged war crime."

The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that the second floor of Nasser Hospital "serves as a Hamas military headquarters, where civilians are not permitted to enter and which is under strict security". It said: "Prior to the strike, precautionary measures were taken to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, damage to the hospital building and harm to uninvolved civilians." It also said that it "strikes military targets only".

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Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court

UN Commission of Inquiry

UN Human Rights Office

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US Department of State
Foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Leban
Amnesty International
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Frequently asked questions

What crime did the ICC say Netanyahu and Gallant may bear responsibility for over attacks on civilians?

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Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that there were "reasonable grounds to believe" that Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant bear criminal responsibility "as civilian superiors for the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population of Gaza."

What did the ICC judges say about incidents of attacks on civilians in Gaza?

Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court said on 21 November 2024 that "the material provided by the Prosecution only allowed it to make findings on two incidents that qualified as attacks that were intentionally directed against civilians."

What does the Rome Statute say about attacks on civilians?

Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court lists, among the war crimes in international armed conflict, intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities. The Rome Statute lists the same act among the war crimes in armed conflicts not of an international character.

What did the UN Human Rights Office say about Israel's bombing in Gaza in June 2024?

The UN Human Rights Office said in its thematic report dated 19 June 2024: "The requirement to select means and methods of warfare that minimize or avoid civilian harm appears to have been systematically violated in Israel's bombing campaign." The report details six incidents from 7 October to 2 December 2023.

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What did Joe Biden say about Israel's bombing of Gaza?

US President Joe Biden said on 12 December 2023, at a campaign reception in Washington: "But they're starting to lose that support by the indiscriminate bombing that takes place."

What does the IDF say about whether it strikes civilians in Gaza?

The IDF said on 12 November 2026 that it "strikes military targets only". The IDF said on 27 June 2025 that it "did not instruct the forces to deliberately shoot at civilians, including those approaching the distribution centers."

How does the IDF say it approves strikes in Gaza?

The IDF said on its page on data technologies, in its version of 19 October 2026: "In each attack, IDF procedures require conducting an individual assessment of the anticipated military advantage and the incidental damage expected to civilians and civilian objects."

What has Israel said about Hamas and civilians in Gaza?

The IDF said on 13 October 2023, in an announcement to civilians of Gaza City, that they should "distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields." Hamas said on 12 November 2026 that it had not used Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis as a base for operations.

What did Amnesty International say about Israeli air strikes in October 2023?

Amnesty International said on 20 October 2023 that "in a number of cases Amnesty International found no evidence of the presence of fighters or other

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military objectives in the vicinity at the time of the attacks." Its investigation covered air strikes in Gaza between 7 and 12 October 2023.

What did MSF say about attacks on civilians in Gaza?

Médecins Sans Frontières said on 19 December 2024 that its report "highlights how repeated Israeli military attacks on civilians in Gaza, and the systematic denial of humanitarian assistance are destroying the conditions of life." Oren Marmorstein, spokesman of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the same day: "Israel does not target medical teams or individuals uninvolved in terrorist activities".

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Who has said what about the IDF's code of ethics?



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Courts and Law

WHO HAS SAID WHAT ABOUT THE UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY'S FINDINGS ON GAZA?

What the UN Secretary-General, governments, organisations, Israel's government and Hamas have said about the UN Commission of Inquiry's findings on Gaza.

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The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, said on 13 March 2025 that the Commission "is an independent body mandated by the Human Rights Council, over which the secretary-general has no authority". UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 16 September 2025 that "the report is a serious report that I believe should be carefully read, and namely by the Israeli authorities." Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 16 September 2025: "Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report and calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry."

What has the UN Commission of Inquiry concluded about Gaza?

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. The Commission's reports are submitted under Human Rights Council resolution S-30/1. The Secretary-General transmitted an earlier report of the Commission to the General Assembly's seventy-seventh session as document A/77/328, dated 14 September 2022.

The Commission submitted report A/HRC/56/26 to the Human Rights Council's fifty-sixth session, which ran from 18 June to 12 July 2024. The report covers the period between 7 October and 31 December 2023. The Commission also issued a conference room paper dated 10 June 2024, "Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel", submitted to the same session as information complementary to the Commission's official report.

The Commission said in the report, dated 14 June 2024: "In relation to Israeli military operations in Gaza from 7 October, the Commission concludes that Israel has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law." It said in

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the same report: “Members of the military wing of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups abducted people, primarily Israelis, as hostages to Gaza, without regard to age or gender, in order to use them in negotiations with Israeli authorities.” The Commission said in the same report that “the war crime of taking hostages had been committed”, including against “women abducted in Israel and taken to Gaza.”

The Commission said in the report, of Israeli attacks and operations: “The Commission found that the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare; murder or wilful killing; intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects; forcible transfer; sexual violence; outrages upon personal dignity; and sexual and gender-based violence amounting to torture or inhuman and cruel treatment had been committed.”

The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the Commission dated 11 September 2024. It examines the treatment of detainees and hostages and attacks on medical facilities and personnel from 7 October 2023 to August 2024.

The Commission said in that report that “Israeli security forces have deliberately killed, wounded, arrested, detained, mistreated and tortured medical personnel and targeted medical vehicles, constituting the war crimes of wilful killing and mistreatment and the crime against humanity of extermination.” It said in the same report, of the hostages held by Palestinian armed groups, that “Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed the war crimes of torture, inhuman or cruel treatment, rape and sexual violence”. The Commission said in the same report: “Israeli security forces used detainees as human shields in several instances in the West Bank and Gaza, which constitutes a war crime.”

The Commission issued a report on 13 March 2025, titled “More than a human can bear”: Israel’s systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since October 2023.

The Commission said on 13 March 2025: “The Commission found that Israeli forces have systematically destroyed sexual and reproductive healthcare

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facilities across Gaza." It said in the same release that the destruction amounted "to two categories of genocidal acts in the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention, including deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians and imposing measures intended to prevent births." It said in the same release that "Israeli authorities have destroyed in part the reproductive capacity of Palestinians in Gaza as a group through the systematic destruction of sexual and reproductive healthcare".

The Human Rights Council announced on 14 July 2025 the resignations of the three members of the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel. Navi Pillay, who had led the commission for four years, resigned effective 3 November 2025. Miloon Kothari resigned effective 31 October 2025, and Chris Sidoti was also a member of the commission.

The Commission published a report on 16 September 2025. The report is based on the Commission's prior investigations and covers the period from 7 October 2023 until 31 July 2025. Navi Pillay was the Commission's Chair when the report was published.

The Commission said on 16 September 2025 that "Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip". Navi Pillay, Chair of the Commission, said: "The Commission finds that Israel is responsible for the commission of genocide in Gaza." The Commission said in the same release that it "concluded that Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, have incited the commission of genocide". The Commission said in the same release that Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces "committed four of the five genocidal acts defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, namely killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the Palestinians in whole or in part, and imposing measures intended to prevent births."

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The UN Commission of Inquiry issued a report on 23 June 2026. Srinivasan Muralidhar was the Commission's chair when the report was issued.

The Commission said on 23 June 2026 that Israeli authorities and security forces had deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in "genocide" in Gaza. The Commission said that this was a key element establishing "genocidal intent" by Israeli authorities and security forces. The Commission said in a statement of 23 June 2026 by its chair, Srinivasan Muralidhar: "The evidence shows that Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by the Israeli security forces."

What has the UN Secretary-General said about the Commission's findings on Gaza?

Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres, said on 13 March 2025, of the Commission's report of that day: "The Independent International Commission of Inquiry is an independent body mandated by the Human Rights Council, over which the secretary-general has no authority."

Dujarric said in the same statement: "The secretary-general has spoken out repeatedly at the horrors we have seen in this conflict." He said in the same statement that the Secretary-General "continues to be deeply alarmed by the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reiterates his call for all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law." Dujarric said of the Secretary-General: "He underlines that there needs to be accountability."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 16 September 2025, asked about the Commission's conclusion of that day: "it is not in the attributions of the Secretary-General to do the legal determination of genocide. That belongs to the [appropriate] judicial entities, namely the International Court of Justice (ICJ)."

Asked at the same press conference about Israel's rejection of the report, Guterres said: "Well, the report is a report of an independent inquiry committee.

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And I think that Israel should take it into account, and everybody should take the report into account." He said in the same answer that "the report is a serious report that I believe should be carefully read, and namely by the Israeli authorities."

Guterres said in the same answer: "And obviously, these are serious questions."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 16 September 2025, asked about the Commission Chair's call for the UN's leadership to use the term the report used: "The United Nations has several bodies, and the role of the Secretary-General is to be aligned with the bodies of the United Nations. So, obviously, if that is decided by the Security Council or by the General assembly, the Secretary-General will be abiding by those resolutions." He said: "But until now, those resolutions were not made."

Guterres said later at the same press conference, asked about the Commission's recommendations: "I think that, as I said, this is an independent committee. The independent committee made the report. I think that report must be seen with attention and with adequate engagement by every state."

What have governments said about the Commission of Inquiry's Gaza findings?

The European Union said on 17 June 2025, in the Human Rights Council's interactive dialogue with the Commission: "The EU takes note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry and thanks the Commissioners for their presentation." The EU said in the same statement: "The EU recalls the need for Israel and all other countries to cooperate with relevant HRC mechanisms and mandate holders and fully respect their mandate and independence." It said in the same statement: "There must be accountability for violations of international law."

The US Department of State said on 16 September 2025, of the Commission's report of that day: "Israel went to war in self-defense and has consistently taken

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steps to minimize civilian casualties. That is not a genocide." A department spokesperson said in the same statement: "This kind of equivocation by the UN is further evidence of its moral bankruptcy."

What have organisations said about the Commission of Inquiry's Gaza findings?

Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said on 16 September 2025 that "the UN Commission of Inquiry's damning report provides further confirmation of what Amnesty International and others have been concluding for months: that the Israeli authorities and Israeli forces have committed and are continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians in Gaza." She said in the same statement: "This report must compel states to take immediate action and fulfill their legal and moral obligation to halt Israel's genocide." Callamard said of the Commission's report: "Crucially, the report also concludes that the Israeli authorities and Israeli forces have had and continue to have the genocidal intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip."

B'nai B'rith International said, in a statement JNS published on 17 September 2025: "Predictably, the commission parrots the propaganda libel that the democratic Jewish state commits 'genocide'". It said in the same statement: "This big lie will undermine the global human rights system more than it tarnishes Israel, but we will combat it unceasingly."

UN Watch said, in a statement JNS published on 17 September 2025, of the Commission's report: "A reader would come away believing the war has the IDF deployed against only women and children, with Hamas erased from the narrative."

What have Israel's government and Hamas said about the Commission's findings?

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Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 12 June 2024, of the Commission's report A/HRC/56/26: "The reports disregard the abhorrent use of human shields by Hamas, the deliberate Hamas strategy of placing civilians in the line of fire." Meirav Eilon Shahar, Israel's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, said on 12 June 2024 that the Commission "has once again proven that its actions are all in the service of a narrow-led political agenda against Israel." The mission said in its statement of 12 June 2024: "Regarding Israel however, the report has no problem placing blame for supposedly not defending its population on Oct. 7."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 10 October 2024, of the Commission's report on health care, detainees and hostages, that it was "another blatant attempt by the CoI to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel and obstruct its right to protect its population".

Hamas said in a statement on 13 March 2025, of the Commission's report of that day: "We call on the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, alongside all international and national judicial bodies around the world, to seriously follow up the findings of this report." Hamas said in the same statement that the international community needed to "take practical measures" to put an end to Israeli violations against Palestinians. Hamas said that the report showed "the unprecedented violations of international law and humanitarian norms against defenceless civilians", and that the international community had been in a "state of disregard and negligence".

Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, said on 13 March 2025 that the Commission's report was "another vile and distorted document from the UN." He said in the same statement: "This report is not even worth the paper it was printed on. Anyone who supported this false publication is complicit in whitewashing Hamas' war crimes and trampling on the truth."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on 13 March 2025 that "the UN once again chooses to attack the State of Israel with false accusations, including outrageous and baseless allegations of sexual violence". Netanyahu

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said that the UN had acted "Instead of focusing on crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed by the Hamas terrorist organization". He said in the same statement that the Human Rights Council was "an antisemitic, corrupt, terrorist-supporting and irrelevant body."

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 16 September 2025: "Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report and calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 16 September 2025: "Israel categorically rejects the libelous rant published today by the Commission of Inquiry, spreading the malicious 'genocide' narrative, in attempt to delegitimize and demonize the State of Israel." The mission said in the same statement: "The current COI report relies entirely on Hamas falsehoods, laundered and repeated by others." It said: "The COI report falsely accuses Israel of allegations it cannot substantiate even by its cherry-picked data." The mission said in the same statement: "Israel remains committed to international law, and as stated many times, aims to dismantle Hamas, and invests many efforts and resources in minimizing harm to the civilian population, as well as in allowing and facilitating many humanitarian efforts."

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026, of the Commission's report of that day: "Israel dismisses this libelous sham." The mission said that Israel rejected what it called the Commission's "second defamatory advocacy report". The mission said in a rebuttal of the same day that Israel "consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict".

The statements on this page, in the page's order:

STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General	13 March 2025	"an independent body mandated by the Human Rights Council, over which

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
		the secretary-general has no authority"
UN Secretary-General António Guterres	16 September 2025	"the report is a serious report that I believe should be carefully read, and namely by the Israeli authorities"
European Union	17 June 2025	"The EU takes note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry and thanks the Commissioners for their presentation."
US Department of State	16 September 2025	"That is not a genocide"
Amnesty International	16 September 2025	"This report must compel states to take immediate action"
B'nai B'rith International	17 September 2025	"This big lie will undermine the global human rights system more than it tarnishes Israel"
UN Watch	17 September 2025	"with Hamas erased from the narrative"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	12 June 2024	"The reports disregard the abhorrent use of

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STATED BY	DATE	AS STATED
		human shields by Hamas"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	10 October 2024	"another blatant attempt by the CoI to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel"
Hamas	13 March 2025	"to seriously follow up the findings of this report"
Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN	13 March 2025	"another vile and distorted document from the UN"
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	13 March 2025	"false accusations, including outrageous and baseless allegations of sexual violence"
Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs	16 September 2025	"calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry"
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	16 September 2025	"The current COI report relies entirely on Hamas falsehoods, laundered and repeated by others."
Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva	23 June 2026	"Israel dismisses this libelous sham."

Frequently asked questions

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Who set up the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Palestinian territory and Israel?

The UN Human Rights Council established the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel on 27 May 2021. The Commission's reports are submitted under Human Rights Council resolution S-30/1.

What did the UN Commission of Inquiry say about hostages held in Gaza?

The Commission said in its report dated 14 June 2024 that "Members of the military wing of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups abducted people, primarily Israelis, as hostages to Gaza, without regard to age or gender, in order to use them in negotiations with Israeli authorities." It said in its report dated 11 September 2024 that "Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups committed the war crimes of torture, inhuman or cruel treatment, rape and sexual violence".

Who resigned from the UN Commission of Inquiry in 2025?

The Human Rights Council announced on 14 July 2025 the resignations of the three members of the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel. Navi Pillay resigned effective 3 November 2025, and Miloon Kothari effective 31 October 2025; Chris Sidoti was also a member of the commission.

What did António Guterres say about the Commission's September 2025 report?

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on 16 September 2025: "it is not in the attributions of the Secretary-General to do the legal determination of

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genocide." He said at the same press conference that "the report is a serious report that I believe should be carefully read, and namely by the Israeli authorities."

Did Israel call for the UN Commission of Inquiry to be abolished?

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on 16 September 2025: "Israel categorically rejects the distorted and false report and calls for the immediate abolition of the Commission of Inquiry."

What did the European Union say about the Commission of Inquiry's report?

The European Union said on 17 June 2025, in the Human Rights Council's interactive dialogue with the Commission: "The EU takes note of the report of the Commission of Inquiry and thanks the Commissioners for their presentation." It said in the same statement: "There must be accountability for violations of international law."

What did the United States say about the Commission of Inquiry's report?

The US Department of State said on 16 September 2025, of the Commission's report of that day: "Israel went to war in self-defense and has consistently taken steps to minimize civilian casualties. That is not a genocide."

What did Hamas say about the Commission of Inquiry's report of March 2025?

Hamas said in a statement on 13 March 2025: "We call on the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, alongside all international and

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national judicial bodies around the world, to seriously follow up the findings of this report."

What did Amnesty International say about the Commission's September 2025 report?

Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, said on 16 September 2025: "This report must compel states to take immediate action and fulfill their legal and moral obligation to halt Israel's genocide."

What did Israel's mission in Geneva say about the Commission's report on children?

Israel's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva said on 23 June 2026, of the Commission's report of that day: "Israel dismisses this libelous sham." The mission said in a rebuttal of the same day that Israel "consistently strives to minimize harm to children even in situations of conflict".

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