



رابطة برلمانيون لأجل القدس
Parliamentarians for Al Quds

ISRAELI WAR ON GAZA

THE HORRIFYING GENOCIDE





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Introduction

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation announced the initiation of a genocidal war against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. During this war, they committed horrifying massacres against civilians, accompanied by tightening the siege on Gaza and cutting off electricity, water, food, and fuel supplies completely. The objective was to destroy the basic components of life in the region, force Palestinians to leave their lands, and kill as many of them as possible.

Since the beginning of the genocide war and up until the writing of this report, the Israeli occupation has killed approximately 34,000 Palestinians and injured over 76,000, with more than 70% of the casualties being children and women. Additionally, there are thousands of missing and detained individuals. The Israeli occupation targeted the Palestinian Legislative Council, its members, hospitals, healthcare institutions, civilian and governmental establishments, schools, universities, industrial facilities, and more. They destroyed buildings and residential homes with inhabitants inside, without any prior warning, resulting in the killing of entire families. The Israeli occupation also targeted international press, medical, and relief crews.

International institutions, human rights organizations, and journalists have documented the occupation's commission of massacres against civilians, as well as the execution of hundreds of extrajudicial killings targeting women, children, patients, and displaced individuals during the war. There have been scenes and testimonies showing the Israeli occupation deliberately running over civilians with tanks, without any regard for humanitarian, international, or moral laws.

The genocide war against the Palestinian people coincided with the continued aggression on Al-Aqsa Mosque, the confiscation of Palestinian lands, provocation of Palestinian sentiments, escalated Judaization of the occupied city of Jerusalem, and the ongoing strict blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip since 2006, which has caused catastrophic tragedies in the region.

The Gaza Strip is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with over two million Palestinians residing there. It has been subjected to multiple Israeli attacks and wars over the years and has been under strict restrictions and a comprehensive Israeli blockade since 2006, resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe. In June 2007, the Israeli occupation declared Gaza as an "enemy entity."

In October 2023, at the beginning of the war, the Israeli Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, described the Palestinian people as "human animals" and pledged to act accordingly. He announced the imposition of a "complete siege" and the closure of all crossings and entries to the Gaza Strip.

Shocking Numbers



The World Health Organization documented 410 attacks on healthcare facilities, resulting in the martyrdom of 685 individuals, injuring 902 others, and damaging 99 facilities, including 30 hospitals. 104 ambulances were also damaged, with 54 of them completely destroyed.



The occupation deliberately destroyed or damaged the infrastructure and basic services for water, communication, sanitation, health, and municipal buildings in the Gaza Strip, which provide services to the population, as well as humanitarian and relief organizations.



The destruction affected 70% of the houses in the Gaza Strip, reaching up to 80% in northern Gaza. Additionally, the civilian infrastructure was completely destroyed, surpassing the scale of destruction in other wars worldwide.



Estimates by the World Bank and the United Nations put the cost of damages to vital infrastructure in the Gaza Strip at around \$18.5 billion.



The occupation destroyed 171 government buildings, 100 schools and universities completely, and partially damaged 305 schools and universities. It also targeted 229 mosques completely, 297 mosques partially, and destroyed three churches.



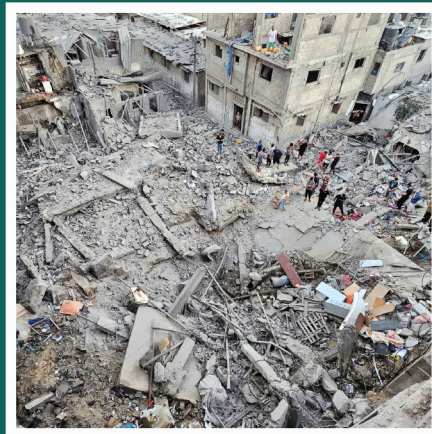
The Israeli occupation committed 2,922 massacres during the genocide war, resulting in 47,975 martyrs and missing individuals, including 14,500 children and 9,560 women.



According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), 218,600 displaced individuals are residing in 92 of its schools in various areas of the Gaza Strip. There are also many displaced individuals staying in government schools, other buildings, or in tents on roads and squares.



As of March 31, the occupation had arrested around 258,500 children and 64 journalists, while 13,000 Palestinians remain missing.



The occupation completely destroyed 70,000 residential units within 180 days and partially destroyed another 290,000 units.



Among the martyrs, 484 were medical personnel, 65 were civil defense personnel, and 140 were journalists.

▶ War on Children

During the war, the Israeli occupation killed over 14,000 children and injured thousands more by mid-March. This child mortality rate has rarely been seen in any other conflict worldwide. Additionally, the occupation killed over 9,000 women.



Ted Chaiban, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, described the war in Gaza as a "war on children," but it seems that these facts are not being heard by anyone.

According to UNICEF, every day, children and families in Gaza face the threat of death from the sky, diseases due to a lack of clean drinking water, malnutrition, and a "triple threat" of conflict, disease, and malnutrition.

According to Save the Children organization, the total number of child casualties during the war exceeded 26,000, which is equivalent to 2% of the child population in Gaza over a six-month period. The war also destroyed their educational process and caused long-term psychological trauma and physical harm. Over 24,000 children lost one or both of their parents.



In December 2023, UNICEF estimated that at least 1,000 children, each one of them, suffered the amputation of one or both legs, making it the largest group of child amputees in history. The Israeli occupation also destroyed the only facility in Gaza for manufacturing prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation, taking it out of service. The facility was the Hamad Hospital.

Human rights organizations have documented the execution of 13 children by the Israeli army through direct gunfire in and around the Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City. These acts constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity in themselves and are part of the series of killings committed by Israel as part of the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza for over five months.

The occupation executed Palestinian children ranging in age from 4 to 16 years old, some while they were trapped with their families inside their homes, and others while attempting to flee along pre-designated paths set by the army after being forced to leave their homes and places of residence.

War on Hospitals

The Israeli occupation deliberately targets hospitals, health centers, and medical staff during the war. It has rendered all hospitals in the city of Gaza and its north out of service, turning them into centers for field executions and detention during the ground operation. This is part of the systematic, organized, and wide-scale plan implemented by Israel against the health sector in Gaza to disable it through destruction and blockade, pushing it to a point of no return and depriving Palestinians in the sector of opportunities for survival, life, and healing.

Since the beginning of the war, the occupation has killed 484 medical personnel, in addition to the arrest of hundreds during the invasion of hospitals, including Dr. Mohammed Abu Salamia, the director of Al-Shifa Hospital, on November 23, 2023. A human rights report indicated that he was subjected to severe torture and had all his limbs broken in an attempt to extract false confessions from him.

The Israeli army stormed the Al-Shifa Medical Complex for the second time during the war on March 18, causing massacres and gruesome crimes against anyone present, regardless of their civilian or professional status, gender, age, or health condition. The same was done to Kamal Adwan and Al-Awda Hospitals in northern Gaza, as well as Al-Amal and Nasser Hospitals in the city of Khan Younis in the south of the Strip.

According to the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, more than 1,500 people have been killed, injured, or missing, half of whom are women and children, based on testimonies and observations received during the second invasion of Al-Shifa. Medical teams discovered hundreds of corpses inside the complex and in the surrounding area, including burned bodies and others with severed heads and limbs, some of them tied up.





The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor stated that among the victims of the massacre, at least 22 patients were killed in their hospital beds due to the Israeli blockade of the complex and intentional denial of medical care, food, and supplies. The army deliberately obstructed the arrival of relief teams and representatives of international organizations to the complex throughout its military operations, in addition to forcibly evacuating and arresting its staff, especially medical personnel. The fate of some of them remains unknown to this day.

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor further stated that the occupation destroyed medical complexes such as Al-Shifa and rendered them completely non-functional by demolishing all their buildings through explosions and arson, including mortuaries, courtyards, and internal and external corridors.

The Israeli occupation army committed its crimes in medical complexes without the slightest respect for the rules of international humanitarian law, especially the principles of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity. It disregarded the special protection enjoyed by civilian hospitals and medical staff, as well as the protection afforded to civilians, whether in their civilian capacity or as non-participants directly involved in hostilities. It also prohibited the targeting of the wounded and patients, even if they were military personnel. Until now, it has not provided any evidence or justification for the wide-scale and grave commission of these crimes, which flagrantly violate international humanitarian law. These crimes constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity in and of themselves.

According to the World Health Organization, the Israeli occupation army has turned the Al-Shifa Medical Complex in western Gaza into "an empty structure filled only with corpses due to its invasion and siege." The Director-General of the organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, stated in response to the World Health Organization mission's successful access to the complex after multiple failed attempts since March 25, "The majority of the complex's buildings have suffered extensive destruction, and the assets have been mostly damaged or turned into ashes. Even the restoration of minimum operational capacity in the short term seems impossible."



The missing people

The human rights organizations and family testimonies in the Gaza Strip have recorded the presence of more than 13,000 Palestinians among the missing, either under the rubble, as victims of random mass graves, or forcibly hidden in Israeli prisons and detention centers. Some of them have been killed inside these facilities.

Until now, the Israeli army has not released any information regarding the circumstances of the killings of these prisoners and detainees. Independent parties have also been unable to verify and determine the conditions of their deaths. Their bodies have not been retrieved, their identities have not been established, and their remains have not been returned or communicated to their families.

The Israeli occupation does not allow the entry of special equipment and specialized teams to clear the rubble of houses and buildings destroyed by the army, to rescue the trapped individuals still alive, and to recover the thousands of bodies of those who perished since the start of the military offensive on October 7th last year.

This estimation of the number of missing individuals is based on initial reports of the missing. It is difficult to accurately determine the actual numbers at this stage due to the continuous Israeli military attacks and the siege imposed on many areas by the Israeli army. Additionally, the practices of the Israeli army aim to disperse Palestinian families, particularly by forcing them to repeatedly evacuate without securing safe passages, separating family members and compelling them to flee to different areas, or arbitrarily arresting and forcibly hiding them. Communication between families has been severed, especially in light of weak or disrupted communication and internet services.

Civil defense teams, with limited resources, have recovered the bodies of over 500 Palestinians from the Al-Shifa Medical Complex and its surroundings in western Gaza City and Khan Younis after the withdrawal of the army. Most of these bodies had decomposed due to the extended period, and some showed signs of being scavenged by cats and dogs. The Israeli forces hindered their retrieval for months, violating the dignity of the victims and their right, as well as their families' right, to bury them respectfully and appropriately according to their religious rituals, in individual graves, and to respect these graves and mark them in a way that allows them to be constantly identified.

▶ The Siege and War on Education

During the Israeli occupation's genocide war, it imposed a siege on the Gaza Strip as a form of collective punishment. It implemented a systematic and escalating policy to isolate and deprive Gaza of basic services and essential components of life. This included the destruction of homes, factories, water wells, schools, hospitals, police stations, laboratories, buildings, and institutions that provide essential services.

The occupation deliberately and extensively targeted universities and academic elites in the Gaza Strip during the genocide war. It intentionally destroyed buildings dedicated to educational, artistic, scientific, religious, and historical purposes, aiming to make Gaza an uninhabitable place and forcibly displace its residents by creating an environment lacking the minimum requirements for life and services.

The occupation deliberately targeted and killed academic, scientific, and intellectual figures in the Gaza Strip in specific and deliberate attacks. Dozens of them were killed in direct airstrikes that targeted their homes without prior warning, along with their families or other families who had sought refuge with them. Among them were three university presidents, as well as over 95 deans and professors, including 17 professors and 59 individuals holding doctoral degrees, and 18 individuals with master's degrees.

The targeted academics are distributed across various scientific fields, and the majority of them represent the "pillars of academic work in Gaza's universities."

Israeli bombardment also resulted in depriving 88,000 students from continuing their university education, and 555 students were unable to join scholarships abroad.

The occupation destroyed five out of six universities in the Gaza Strip, either completely or partially. The Israeli army showcased scenes of the complete destruction of Al-Israa University after detonating its headquarters and demolishing all its buildings and facilities on January 17th last year. The university was turned into military barracks and a detention center for over two months. The occupation also destroyed the National Museum within the university, which housed over 3,000 rare artifacts, and looted hundreds of them.

Islamic University in Gaza City was completely destroyed due to intensive aerial bombardment on October 11th. The remaining buildings were leveled during the occupation's ground invasion of the university complex.

Furthermore, 171 educational government buildings, 100 schools and universities were completely destroyed, and 305 schools and universities were partially destroyed.

According to the Ministry of Education's report, the casualties among students during the war reached 5,994, with 9,890 injuries. Additionally, 266 teachers in the Gaza Strip were martyred. Currently, 620,000 students in the Gaza Strip continue to be deprived of education.

The destruction caused by the genocide war in Gaza affected 70% of homes, with the percentage rising to 80% in the northern part of the strip. Moreover, the civilian infrastructure was completely destroyed, surpassing what has been witnessed in other wars worldwide, including Aleppo in Syria and Mariupol in Ukraine, as well as other historically devastated cities. This information was provided by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Balakrishnan Rajagopal.

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