

## THEMES AND DEBATES

# Israel's 'Plausible' Genocide in Gaza — The Devastation of Health and Human Rights

## El genocidio "plausible" de Israel en Gaza: la devastación de la salud y de los derechos humanos

---

**Lara Jirmanus.** Harvard Medical School, EE. UU.

Email: [ljirmanus@challiance.org](mailto:ljirmanus@challiance.org), <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5245-8254>

**Aaron Shakow.** Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Boston, MA. EE. UU.

Email : [ashakow@gmail.com](mailto:ashakow@gmail.com), <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3757-6914>

**Yara Asi.** School of Global Health Management and Informatics, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL. EE.UU.

Email : [yara.phd@gmail.com](mailto:yara.phd@gmail.com), <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3432-6407>

**Joelle M. Abi-Rached** Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut and the Department of History and Archaeology, at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Email: [ja205@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ja205@aub.edu.lb), <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2061-9209>

**Received:** September 3, 2025.

**Accepted:** March 24, 2026.

**Conflicts of interest:** None.

**DOI :** <https://doi.org/10.71164/socialmedicine.v19i2.2026.2367>

### Abstract:

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has decimated the civilian infrastructure in Gaza and devastated the civilian population. Israel's seizure of over 50% of Palestinian land in Gaza, its ongoing illegal blockade of humanitarian aid, and expanding attacks in the occupied West Bank reflect a shift in Israeli strategy to the near-complete eradication of Palestinian settled society, which has ominous implications for civilian survival, the future of Palestine as a nation-state, and the viability of international human rights law as a meaningful practice. In contrast to other conflict settings, US medical journals and academic institutions have remained overwhelmingly silent in the face of the Israeli invasion of Gaza, which has inflicted death and suffering on Palestinian civilians on a massive scale. In particular the blockade of food and humanitarian aid, and its attempt to bar international humanitarian relief organizations from Gaza, has only offered more credence for the conclusion reached by international humanitarian organizations by 2024, that Israel was committing genocide and using starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza. Silence in the medical literature, within medical institutions and associations, as the foundations of the law-based international world order have been undermined, has enabled mass killing of Palestinians in Gaza. Today, Israel applies the lessons of Gaza in a destabilizing war in Iran and Lebanon, targeting healthcare workers, universities, and forcibly displacing over one million people in Lebanon, while promising to make parts of Lebanon look like "Khan Younis," in a striking normalization of genocide. The medical establishment must apply standards of human rights to all human beings equally, without exception, lest we risk rendering international standards of universal human rights meaningless and our world substantially less safe.

**Keywords:** Genocide, Famine, Israel/Palestine

### Resumen

Desde el 7 de octubre de 2023, Israel ha diezmado la infraestructura civil en Gaza y devastado a la población civil. La apropiación israelí de más de 50% del territorio palestino en Gaza, su continuo bloqueo ilegal de la ayuda humanitaria y la expansión de sus ataques en la Cisjordania ocupada reflejan un cambio en la estrategia israelí hacia la erradicación casi total de la sociedad palestina asentada, lo que tiene implicaciones nefastas para la supervivencia de la población civil, el futuro de Palestina como estado-nación y la viabilidad del derecho internacional de los derechos humanos como práctica efectiva. A diferencia de otros conflictos, las revistas médicas y las instituciones académicas estadounidenses han guardado un silencio abrumador ante la invasión israelí en Gaza, que ha infligido muerte y sufrimiento a la población civil palestina en gran escala. En particular, el bloqueo de alimentos y ayuda humanitaria e impedir el acceso de organizaciones humanitarias internacionales a la zona, lo que no ha hecho sino reforzar la conclusión a la que llegaron las organizaciones humanitarias internacionales en 2024: que Israel estaba cometiendo genocidio y utilizando el hambre como arma de guerra en Gaza. El silencio en la literatura médica, dentro de las instituciones y asociaciones médicas, mientras se socavaban los fundamentos del orden internacional basado en el derecho, ha permitido el asesinato masivo de palestinos en Gaza. Hoy, Israel aplica las lecciones de Gaza en una guerra desestabilizadora en Irán y en Líbano, atacando a trabajadores de la salud y universidades, y desplazando forzosamente a más de un millón de personas en Líbano, al tiempo que promete convertir partes del Líbano en un escenario similar al de Khan Younis, en una alarmante normalización del genocidio. La comunidad médica debe aplicar los estándares de derechos humanos a todos los seres humanos por igual, sin excepción, para no correr el riesgo de que los estándares internacionales de derechos humanos universales pierdan su significado y nuestro mundo se vuelva sustancialmente menos seguro.

Palabras clave: Genocidio, Hambruna, Israel/Palestina



## The Data on Genocide in Gaza

From October 2023 to the present, Israel engaged in its longest and most deadly military campaign in the Gaza Strip, devastating the civilian population and infrastructure. Due to the destruction of health and humanitarian infrastructure in Gaza, reporting on the numbers of deaths has represented a substantial challenge. The Gaza Mortality Survey (GMS), a population-representative household study published in *The Lancet Global Health*,<sup>6</sup> found that the Gaza Health Ministry figures for violent deaths since October 2023 were more than one-third (34.7%) lower than its independent (survey-based) epidemiological analysis. Based on updated Ministry figures of 72,265 Palestinian deaths<sup>1,2</sup> and approximately 171,969 Palestinians injured as of March 2026,<sup>5</sup> this suggests that approximately 90,000 people in Gaza died violently at the hands of the Israeli military, and about 12,500 other people died from indirect effects of the armed conflict. This means that over 3.4% of Gaza's pre-conflict population of 2.2 million people were killed between October 7, 2023 and the present.<sup>3</sup>

The impact on Palestinian society is difficult to fathom. Entire families have been erased from the civil registry. Twenty-five thousand children lost one or both parents,<sup>4</sup> and Gaza now hosts the largest cohort of pediatric amputees in modern history.<sup>5</sup> Even before Israel blocked all food and humanitarian aid to Gaza starting on March 2, 2025, more women and children had been killed by Israel in Gaza than in any global conflict of similar duration within the last two decades.<sup>4,6</sup>

In January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel's conduct in Gaza could "plausibly" fall within the scope of the Genocide Convention in a case that is ongoing.<sup>7</sup> A U.N.-sponsored independent commission,<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International,<sup>9</sup> Human Rights Watch,<sup>10</sup> and Doctors without Borders<sup>11</sup> have similarly concluded that Israel's actions in Gaza are consistent with "genocide." World powers have failed to take material action, as Israeli military forces continue to control more than half of Gaza,<sup>12</sup> committing repeated violations of the October 2025 ceasefire agreement, killing 689 Palestinians and injuring 1,860 people.<sup>13</sup> World leaders furthermore have

done little to prevent Israel from attacking hundreds of universities, schools and hospitals in Lebanon and Iran, or in response to Israel's threats to make parts of Lebanon look like "Khan Younis," in a striking normalization of genocide. The normalization of these war crimes has paved the way for the United States' double-tap strike on a girls' school in Minab, southern Iran, on February 28, 2026 as well as for President Trump's April 7 threats to destroy a "whole civilization" in Iran. At this moment, the inaction of the international community should raise grave concerns about the viability of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) as a meaningful practice.

Aside from the sheer human toll, health professionals should be deeply concerned about the erosion of IHL because it endangers their ability to provide care across conflict zones and threatens the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, and the right to health.

All available evidence indicates that Gaza is one of the greatest humanitarian disasters of our time. The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development estimated that Gaza's economy would take 350 years to recover its (fragile) pre-October 7, 2023 state.<sup>14</sup> Many reports have demonstrated that Israeli attacks are clustered on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and water distribution systems.<sup>15</sup>

According to the U.N., since October 7, 2023, Israel has pursued a "concerted policy to destroy the health-care system of Gaza."<sup>16</sup> Over 1,000 Palestinian healthcare workers had been killed between October 2023 and January 2025, more than in any conflict of similar duration at that point; Israel has killed over 1,700 Palestinian healthcare workers as of March 2026.<sup>2,17,18</sup> Palestinian healthcare workers have been systematically "targeted," detained and held without access to legal representation, and subjected to torture and sexual abuse in Israeli prisons, according to a report by Physicians for Human Rights, Israel.<sup>19</sup> At least six Palestinian healthcare workers have died while in Israeli prison and almost 90 remained in detention as of February 2026.<sup>19,20</sup>

As of March 2026, only half of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functional.<sup>2,21</sup> Following the destruction of the Gazan health system, polio was detected in Gaza for the first time in 25 years in July 2024.<sup>22</sup> The World Health Organization advocated for a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian pauses to facilitate a vaccination campaign; however, Israeli airstrikes hit polio vaccination sites where humanitarian pauses had been in place in November 2024.<sup>23</sup>

Israel's repeated attacks on the Palestinian health system, and its blockade of humanitarian relief, including food, medicines and medical supplies have resulted in what international organizations have widely described as the "collapse" of the Palestinian health system in Gaza. Israeli soldiers have filmed themselves destroying medical equipment, which contributes to evidence that this destruction of the health system was intentional.<sup>24</sup> The devastation of the health system and the siege of Gaza have left over 170,000 Palestinians injured and approximately 350,000 with chronic diseases without access to care or essential medicines.<sup>25</sup> Cancer treatment has been entirely unavailable in Gaza. Yet, Israel denied over 60% of the 15,600 requests for medical evacuation, including for cancer patients, between October 2023 to December 2024. Over 18,500 patients are currently in need of medical evacuation, including 4,000 children, however the vast majority of essential evacuations are denied or severely delayed; as of February 2026, 1,268 patients have died awaiting medical evacuation.<sup>26</sup> Many Palestinians fear they will not be allowed to return to Gaza, if they leave for medical treatment.<sup>27</sup> The U.S. medical establishment has maintained its silence as the U.S. State Department halted all visas for Palestinians in August 2025, including those issued for humanitarian and medical treatment.

A United Nations report released in November 2025, has further found that Israel has a "de facto state policy of organised and widespread torture," including "allegations of repeated severe beatings, dog attacks, electrocution, waterboarding, use of prolonged stress positions [and] sexual violence."<sup>28</sup> The report further noted that 75 Palestinians had died in custody since the beginning of the Gaza war, which was

"abnormally high," and for which no officials had been held accountable.<sup>28</sup>

Several international humanitarian organizations concluded that Israel used starvation and destruction of potable water supplies as weapons of war,<sup>44-47</sup> including targeted attacks on aid convoys, which have killed at least 589 aid workers (333 in 2024, making it the "deadliest year on record" for humanitarian aid workers).<sup>48,5</sup> Israel had significantly restricted humanitarian aid into Gaza after October 2023, and then from March through August 2025, Israel completely blocked entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, causing nearly 500,000 Palestinians in Gaza to experience conditions of catastrophic famine, according to the International Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee.<sup>29</sup> The water supply in Gaza decreased by 94% after October 2023, to 4.74 liters a day per person—less than one-third of the recommended minimum for emergencies.<sup>30</sup> In a July 2025 survey, 96% of households reported water insecurity.<sup>31</sup>

In May 2025, the U.S.- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) was launched, replacing distribution mechanisms led by the U.N. and international NGOs. Between May and August 2025, massacres at GHF food distribution sites occurred nearly daily, with nearly 1,400 Palestinians killed while seeking food and thousands more injured.<sup>32</sup> During that period, over 100 Palestinians died from malnutrition, while food sat in warehouses outside of Gaza, blocked from entering by Israel.<sup>32</sup> Amid international condemnation,<sup>33</sup> the GHF eventually suspended its efforts. However, Israel has continued to block humanitarian relief. Between September 2025 and March 2026, over half of all relief efforts requiring coordination with Israeli authorities have been impeded, withdrawn or denied, according to UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.<sup>2</sup> In December 2025, Israel banned 37 international humanitarian organizations, including Doctors without Borders, from operating in Gaza, which UN experts condemned as "part of a systematic assault on humanitarian operations in the occupied Palestinian territory and another step in the deliberate dismantling of Gaza's lifeline."<sup>34</sup>

A significant portion of civilian morbidity and mortality in Gaza has been caused by forced displacement, the destruction of food and water distribution systems, health facilities, and other vital infrastructure by Israel.<sup>35</sup> As of March 2026, over half of Gaza's population has been displaced and over 900,000 are in need of emergency shelter.<sup>2,13,21</sup>

This widespread food and water insecurity is compounded by environmental destruction.<sup>36</sup> Only 4% of Gaza's agricultural land is undamaged and accessible as of March 2026.<sup>5</sup> According to the U.N., almost 40 million tons of toxic debris have been generated (107 kg debris/m<sup>2</sup>), including asbestos, cadmium, lead and other heavy metals, posing severe environmental hazards and health risks and complicating efforts for rebuilding and recovery.<sup>37</sup> Human rights organizations repeatedly condemned Israel's "mass repeated forced displacement of Palestinians in inhumane and unsafe conditions"<sup>10</sup> as "war crimes" and violations of IHL.<sup>9-11,16</sup> In mid-October 2024, Israel ordered all 400,000 Palestinians in northern Gaza to leave and evacuated hospitals at gunpoint,<sup>10,38</sup> and in December 2024, Israel had placed nearly 80% of Gaza under "evacuation" orders. Human Rights Watch identified these orders with the war crime of "forcible transfer," and stated that Israel's actions "appear to also meet the definition of ethnic cleansing." Israeli forces also prevented the establishment of safe evacuation corridors for civilians by repeatedly bombing designated "safe" routes.<sup>10,38</sup> Having faced no consequences for forced displacement in Gaza, Israel now displaces over one million people in Lebanon with the same playbook of a scorched-earth policy.

### **Not just Gaza: Unprecedented displacement in the Palestinian West Bank**

In January 2025, during a brief ceasefire in Gaza, Israel launched a massive military operation in the occupied West Bank, displacing over 40,000 people in less than a month. Over a year later, they have not been permitted to return to their homes in the largest displacement of Palestinians since Israel first occupied the West Bank in 1967, in what Human Rights Watch

describes as "war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity."<sup>1,2</sup> Under cover of the Iran war, Israeli settlers have expanded attacks in the West Bank, as Israel advances plans to build a total of 25,000 housing units in illegal settlements in the West Bank, which the Israeli group Peace Now describes as "all-time record."<sup>3</sup>

### **Erasure of Genocide in the U.S. Medical Press**

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the U.S. medical establishment responded with widespread condemnation of Russia's attacks on healthcare.<sup>22</sup> By contrast, among U.S. medical journals with an impact factor greater than 10, only a handful of articles focused on the genocide in Gaza have been published.<sup>23</sup> Do medical journals have a responsibility to document the Palestinian experience as they do with other humanitarian crises? If not, what are the implications of this epistemic inequity?

Levy and Leaning have argued in the case of Russia's war in Ukraine that "health professionals have a responsibility to respond to the immediate needs of victims and to intervene in the devastating intergenerational effects of war on human health and life."<sup>35</sup> IHL protections for civilians in Gaza appear to have been systematically violated as a matter of policy. In every sector, from food and nutrition, to water and sanitation, to access to health care and education, Israel has endangered access to "objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population," which are explicitly protected by the *Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949*.<sup>39</sup>

Silence in the medical literature regarding the decimation of Gaza perpetuates historical patterns of injustice,<sup>40,41</sup> and undermines the integrity of IHL by failing to apply its standards universally. Moreover, the systematic censorship of scholarship on Palestine extends well beyond the Middle East; it has set a dangerous precedent for the Trump administration's attacks on health equity and racial and gender justice. Universities and institutions that adopted the "Palestine exception" have established a precedent for censorship more broadly, threatening decades of

progress in the study of social, political and structural determinants of health inequity.<sup>43</sup>

Our response to these attacks on academic integrity and human rights must be one of firm resolve to ensure that academic literature is not silent on the experiences of marginalized groups in order to right the wrongs of history.<sup>42</sup> We must insist that our institutions and publications defend the human rights of people, without exception, lest they risk rendering universal standards of international human rights and justice meaningless. Medical professionals must decide whether all peoples' stories deserve to be told, what principles we uphold, and whether we are properly defending their equal application to everyone.

## References

1. Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip (25 February 2025). United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory. February 25, 2025. Accessed April 15, 2026. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-25-february-2025>
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Reported Impact Snapshot / Gaza Strip (25 March 2026)*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territories; 2026. Accessed March 17, 2026. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-25-march-2026>
3. Spagat M, Pedersen J, Shikaki K, et al. Violent and non-violent death tolls for the Gaza conflict: new primary evidence from a population-representative field survey. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2026;14(4):e552-e559. doi:10.1016/S2214-109X(25)00522-4
4. Oxfam. More women and children killed in Gaza by Israeli military than any other recent conflict in a single year. Oxfam International. October 1, 2024. Accessed November 19, 2024. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/more-women-and-children-killed-gaza-israeli-military-any-other-recent-conflict>
5. United Nations. Israeli Efforts to Dismantle UNRWA's Life-Saving Operations in Gaza Would Be Disastrous, Senior Officials, Speakers Warn Security Council. Question of Palestine. October 9, 2024. Accessed December 26, 2024. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/press-release-sc-09oct24/>
6. UN expert warns of new instance of mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire. OHCHR. Accessed February 19, 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls>
7. International Court of Justice. *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa Vs Israel)*. International Court of Justice; 2024. Accessed January 8, 2025. <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>
8. OHCHR. UN Special Committee finds Israel's warfare methods in Gaza consistent with genocide, including use of starvation as weapon of war. OHCHR. November 14, 2024. Accessed November 17, 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-gaza-consistent-genocide>
9. Amnesty International. "You Feel Like You Are Subhuman": Israel's Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza. Amnesty International; 2024. Accessed January 8, 2025. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/you-feel-like-you-are-subhuman-israels-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>
10. Hardman N. "Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged." Human Rights Watch; 2024. Accessed December 7, 2024. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/11/14/hopeless-starving-and-besieged/israels-forced-displacement-palestinians-gaza>
11. Doctors Without Borders. *Gaza: Life in a Death Trap*. Doctors Without Borders; 2024. Accessed January 8, 2025. [https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/sites/default/files/documents/MSF\\_REPORT\\_Gaza%20Life%20in%20a%20death%20trap%20Report\\_20241229.pdf](https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/sites/default/files/documents/MSF_REPORT_Gaza%20Life%20in%20a%20death%20trap%20Report_20241229.pdf)
12. Federman J, Magdy S. Hamas considers a proposal to disarm in Gaza that's central to the territory's future. AP News. March 27, 2026. Accessed April 2, 2026. <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-hamas-disarmament-israel-trump-weapons-ceasefire-a2cb4dc8c6f6af4a61d7102a29974a87>
13. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Humanitarian Situation Report | 27 March 2026*. 2026. Accessed April 1, 2026. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-27-march-2026>

14. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). *Economic Costs of the Israeli Occupation for the Palestinian People: The Economic Impact of the Israeli Military Operation in Gaza from October 2023 to May 2024 - UNCTAD Report*. United Nations General Assembly; 2024. Accessed December 26, 2024. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unctad-report-10sep24/>
15. Asi Y, Mills D, Greenough PG, et al. 'Nowhere and no one is safe': spatial analysis of damage to critical civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip during the first phase of the Israeli military campaign, 7 October to 22 November 2023. *Confl Health*. 2024;18(1):24. doi:10.1186/s13031-024-00580-x
16. United Nations. *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and Israel*. 2024. Accessed November 12, 2024. <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/262/79/pdf/n2426279.pdf>
17. World Health Organization. Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA). November 16, 2024. Accessed November 19, 2024. <https://extranet.who.int/ssa/Index.aspx>
18. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory. *Reported Impact Snapshot | Gaza Strip (10 September 2025)*. 2025. Accessed April 2, 2026. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-10-september-2025>
19. Physicians for Human Rights, Israel. *Torture of Medical Workers in Israel - A Call for Urgent Action*. Physicians for Human Rights, Israel; 2025. Accessed March 2, 2025. <https://www.phr.org.il/en/torture-of-medical-workers/>
20. Healthcare Workers Watch. A sixth healthcare worker from Gaza has died while in Israeli detention as fears grow for the safety of the remaining detainees - Healthcare Workers Watch. February 13, 2026. Accessed April 2, 2026. <https://healthcareworkerswatch.org/press-releases/a-sixth-healthcare-worker-from-gaza-has-died-while-in-israeli-detention-as-fears-grow-for-the-safety-of-the-remaining-detainees/>
21. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip, 13 August 2025 at 15:00 | OCHA. August 13, 2025. Accessed August 19, 2025. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-13-august-2025-1500>
22. World Health Organization. Humanitarian pauses vital for critical polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip. August 16, 2024. Accessed November 30, 2024. <https://www.who.int/news/item/16-08-2024-humanitarian-pauses-vital-for-critical-polio-vaccination-campaign-in-the-gaza-strip>
23. UN News. Gaza: Strike hits health centre as polio vaccine campaign resumes in ravaged north | UN News. November 2, 2024. Accessed November 30, 2024. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1156441>
24. Human Rights Watch. Gaza: Israeli Military War Crimes While Occupying Hospitals | Human Rights Watch. March 20, 2025. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/03/20/gaza-israeli-military-war-crimes-while-occupying-hospitals>
25. Sidhwa F, Perlmutter M, Pachiyannakis T, Johnston M, Hamawy A, Swoboda L. Gaza Healthcare Letters. Gaza Healthcare Letters. October 2, 2024. Accessed December 4, 2024. <https://www.gazahealthcareletters.org/usa-letter-oct-2-2024>
26. Save the Children International. NEWS QUOTE: Urgent medical evacuations through Rafah predicted to take over four years, trapping children in need. Save the Children International. February 12, 2026. Accessed April 4, 2026. <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/news-quote-urgent-medical-evacuations-through-rafah-predicted-take-over-four-years-trapping>
27. Anjuman Rahman. "Gazans evacuated for medical treatment fear they'll never be allowed back home." *Middle East Monit*. January 21, 2025. Accessed February 19, 2025. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250121-gazans-evacuated-for-medical-treatment-fear-theyll-never-be-allowed-back-home/>
28. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN Committee against Torture publishes findings on Albania, Argentina, Bahrain and Israel. OHCHR. November 28, 2025. Accessed April 16, 2026. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/11/un-committee-against-torture-publishes-findings-albania-argentina-bahrain>
29. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). *Famine Review Committee, Gaza Strip, August 2025*. 2025. [https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Famine\\_Review\\_Committee\\_Report\\_Gaza\\_Aug2025.pdf](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Gaza_Aug2025.pdf)
30. Oxfam. Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe. July 18, 2024. Accessed December 1, 2024. <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/press/israel-using-water-as-weapon-of-war-as-gaza-supply-plummets-by-94-creating-deadly-health-catastrophe-oxfam/>

31. Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 20 July - 2 August 2025. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory. August 6, 2025. Accessed August 21, 2025. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-20-july-2-august-2025>
32. UN News. Gaza: Nearly 1,400 Palestinians killed while seeking food, as UN warns airdrops are no solution | UN News. *UN News*. August 1, 2025. Accessed April 6, 2026. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165552>
33. Psaledakis D. More than 100 aid, rights groups call for action as hunger spreads in Gaza. *Reuters*. July 23, 2025. Accessed July 23, 2025. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/more-than-100-aid-rights-groups-call-action-hunger-spreads-gaza-2025-07-23/>
34. Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Israel: Ban on 37 Aid Groups Makes Life Unbearable for Genocide Survivors in Palestine, Say UN Experts*. United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights; 2026. Accessed April 4, 2026. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/01/israel-ban-37-aid-groups-makes-life-unbearable-genocide-survivors-palestine>
35. Levy BS, Leaning J. Russia's War in Ukraine — The Devastation of Health and Human Rights. *N Engl J Med*. 2022;387(2):102-105. doi:10.1056/NEJMp2207415
36. Abuawad A, Griffiths M, Edwards G, et al. From Ecocide to Genocide: A Call to Action for Scientists Globally to Address the Destruction in Gaza. *Social Science Research Network*. Preprint posted online November 4, 2024:5021472. doi:10.2139/ssrn.5021472
37. United Nations Environment Programme. *Environmental Impact of the Conflict in Gaza Preliminary Assessment of Environmental Impacts*. 2024. Accessed December 4, 2024. [wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/45739](https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/45739)
38. Action for Humanity, ActionAid, CESVI. Urgent joint statement: Northern Gaza is being erased – global leaders must act now to end Israel's atrocities - occupied Palestinian territory | ReliefWeb. October 16, 2024. Accessed December 5, 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-joint-statement-northern-gaza-being-erased-global-leaders-must-act-now-end-israels-atrocities>
39. OHCHR. Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). OHCHR. December 7, 1978. Accessed November 17, 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-additional-geneva-conventions-12-august-1949-and-0>
40. Abi-Rached JM, Brandt AM. Nazism and the Journal. *N Engl J Med*. 2024;390(13):1157-1161. doi:10.1056/NEJMp2307319
41. Rubin EJ, Malina D, Williams WW, Morrissey S. Recognizing Historical Injustices in Medicine and the Journal. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;389(23):2202-2202. doi:10.1056/NEJMe2311317
42. Human Rights Watch. *Israel's Crime of Extermination, Acts of Genocide in Gaza*. 2024. Accessed January 8, 2025. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/12/19/israels-crime-extermiation-acts-genocide-gaza>
43. Eric Reinhart and Joelle M. Abi-Rached, "Health, Human Rights, and the Palestine Exception," *The Lancet*, ahead of print, January 15, 2026, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(25\)02629-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)02629-7).



**Social Medicine**  
Health For All

ISSN: 1557-7112