



## Current Situation in **PALESTINE**

### Introduction & Background

Since October 7th, 2023, Gaza has endured **relentless and indiscriminate bombardment by Israeli military** forces, resulting in the killings of over 23,000 Palestinian lives, including more than 10,000 children. The unprecedented situation has reached a critical point, with Gaza's infrastructure, hospitals, and shelters targeted. This unyielding aggression calls for urgent attention and coordinated efforts, especially from the Canadian government, to secure a ceasefire and address the humanitarian crisis. Canada, bound by its obligations under international law and as a member of the United Nations, holds a crucial role in

advocating for the immediate cessation of hostilities and ensuring the protection of civilian lives in Gaza. The next steps for the Canadian government include holding Israel accountable for its crimes against humanity and working with world leaders to end the siege on Gaza.

As of February 1st, Israel has dropped the equivalent of  
**2 Nuclear Bombs**  
on Gaza



**33,000+**

Palestinians  
Killed by Israel

**100%**

Of Gaza's 2.2M  
population displaced

**8000+**

Palestinians in  
Gaza still missing

**500,000 +**

People in Gaza are facing  
'catastrophic starvation'

# Situation in Gaza Prior to October 7

Since 2007, Gaza has been characterized as an **open-air prison** due to Israel's blockade, restricting movement of people and goods. Home to over 2M Palestinians, the population of Gaza is **confined to just 365 square kilometres**.

Israel's closure policy blocks most Gaza residents from going to the West Bank, preventing professionals from pursuing opportunities within Palestine and from traveling abroad. Israel's near 17-year blockade, severely impacts Gaza's economy and resources. For example, 85% of fishing waters are restricted, 1M Palestinians struggle to provide food for their families and half the working population faces unemployment.

Prior to October 7, 2023, there have been 4 major hostilities between Israel and Gaza – death totals disproportionately impact Palestinians.

## POPULATION



2/3 of the population of Gaza is under the age of 25

Nearly **50%** of Gaza's entire population is under 18 years old



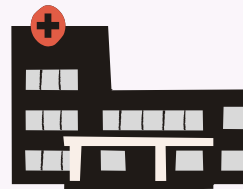
Over 122 journalists and media workers have been killed since Oct 7

**122 +**

**5,200** Palestinians held in Israeli prisons BEFORE October 7th



**70%** of the Palestinians killed after October 7th are women and children



Currently, not a single hospital is left standing in northern Gaza. Hundreds of medical staff and volunteers have been killed or forced to flee.



## Occupied Palestine - A System of APARTHEID

Since 1948, Israel's government has created and maintained systems of policies, laws, and practices designed to privilege Israeli Jewish lives **at the expense** of Palestinians. According to Amnesty International, Israel's oppressive regime governing Palestinians constitutes a **system of apartheid**.

In the West Bank, Israel has imposed 645 fixed obstacles, 49 constantly staffed checkpoints, and 139 occasionally staffed checkpoints to restrict freedom of movement.



## Violence Against Palestinians

- ▶ In 2022, **204** Palestinians were killed by Israeli Armed Forces
- ▶ In 2023, prior to Oct 7th, 234 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, with settlers responsible for 9 more.
- ▶ In 2022 alone, the UN has tracked 660 attacks on Palestinians.
- ▶ Examples of the violence faced by Palestinians include the torching of Palestinian homes in Huwara and the lethal raids in Jenin.
- ▶ Israeli Authorities have “failed in the investigation” of 81.5% of violent crimes against Palestinians since 2005.
- ▶ Since October 7th, settler violence and killings have significantly increased in the West Bank.



## Illegal Settlements

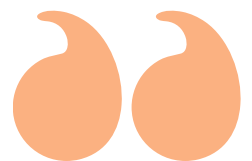
- ▶ 685,000+ Israeli settlers live in East Jerusalem and the West Bank
- ▶ These settlements are considered illegal by the international community.
- ▶ Palestinian citizens of Israel are denied nationality.
- ▶ Palestinians have no citizenship, and most are stateless, requiring ID cards from Israel to live and work.

## Discriminatory Detention in Israeli Prisons

Before Oct 7th, Israel held 5,200 Palestinians in Israeli prison, including 33 women and 170 children. 1 in every 5 Palestinians have been arrested and charged in Israeli Military Courts. 2 of every 5 Palestinian men have been arrested and charged in Israeli military detention. Prior to Oct 7, Israel held 1,264 Palestinians in administrative detention. This means they are being detained for long periods of time, with no charge!



**IF THE GENOCIDE DOESN'T KILL  
THEM, STARVATION WILL**



# Present Situation in Gaza

Since October 7th, 2023, approximately 70% of the death toll are women and children. According to Oxfam, Israel's military is killing Palestinians at an average rate of 250 people a day.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) states that **civilians in Gaza have been "targeted, attacked, abused, and killed over the past year at a scale unprecedented in the recent history of Israel and Palestine."**

Israel's war on Gaza includes **collective punishment** amounting to **war crimes**. This includes their forced starvation, internet blockages and blocking humanitarian and medical assistance access to those who need it most.



Medical infrastructure has been targeted – 27 out of 36

hospitals are out of service. The 9 left are all in the south and only partially functional. 87 ambulances have been damaged. Hundreds of medical staff have been injured or killed. 55,200 units have been destroyed, and 160,700 are partially destroyed, 231 schools are either damaged or completely inoperable. 267 places of worship are damaged including 75 mosques and 3 churches. 82 journalists and 152 UNRWA workers have been killed in the bombings by Israeli forces.

# Present Situation in the West Bank

- Since October 7, 2023, the situation in the Occupied West Bank has gotten substantially worse.
- Towns have been subjected to both air strikes and increased military presence.
- Curfews have been imposed, and Palestinians have been arrested and beaten.
- Israel is conducting night raids in the West Bank.
- Amnesty International states that Israel has dramatically increased its use of administrative detention.
- The number of detainees has surpassed 5,800.
- Violence by Israeli settlers has also drastically increased.
- 256 settler attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank in the first 6 weeks of the crisis.
- 143 Palestinian households have become displaced.

## TAKE ACTION NOW



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