A Call to Action: Gaza's Humanitarian Emergency

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL





Apar Heitl: The Apartheid Convention and the Rome Statute define apartheid as a crime against humanity, committed when any 'inhuman' or 'inhumane' act is perpetrated in the context of an 'institutionalized regime' of systematic 'oppression' and 'domination' by one racial group over another, with the intent to maintain that system. Inhuman/inhumane acts include unlawful killing and serious injury, torture, forcible transfer, persecution, and the denial of basic rights and freedoms. (Amnesty)







Background (very brief)

- · Balfour Declaration: British statement supporting the Zionist movement into Palestine.
- Partition Plan 1947: UNSCOP recommended the establishment of two separate states, Jewish and Arab, to be joined by economic union, with the Jerusalem-Bethlehem region as an enclave under international administration.
- Zionist movement for Jewish state brought Holocaust survivors to Palestine
- Jewish settlers were given land, but broke agreements and settled illegally (forcing families out of homes and killing others)
- With support from the USA, Israel took control of Palestine and subjected its people to unfair laws and human rights violations
- · Over 700k Palestinians displaced in what is known as the Nakba into Gaza and the West Bank
- Palestinians have been subject to killings, torture, rape, abuse, and more for over 75 years.
- Palestinian militant groups formed as a response
- A recent retaliation by Hamas left hundreds of Israelis dead, in response Israel has subjected Gaza to a brutal and illegal bombing campaign

Nakba: The Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Before the Nakba, Palestine was a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. However, the conflict between Arabs and Jews intensified in the 1930s with the increase of Jewish immigration, driven by persecution in Europe, and with the Zionist movement aiming to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. (United Nations)





Intifada 1-2: Nakba: largely spontaneous series of Palestinian demonstrations, nonviolent actions like mass boycotts and Palestinians refusing to work jobs in Israel, and attacks (using rocks, Molotov cocktails, and occasionally firearms) on Israelis.





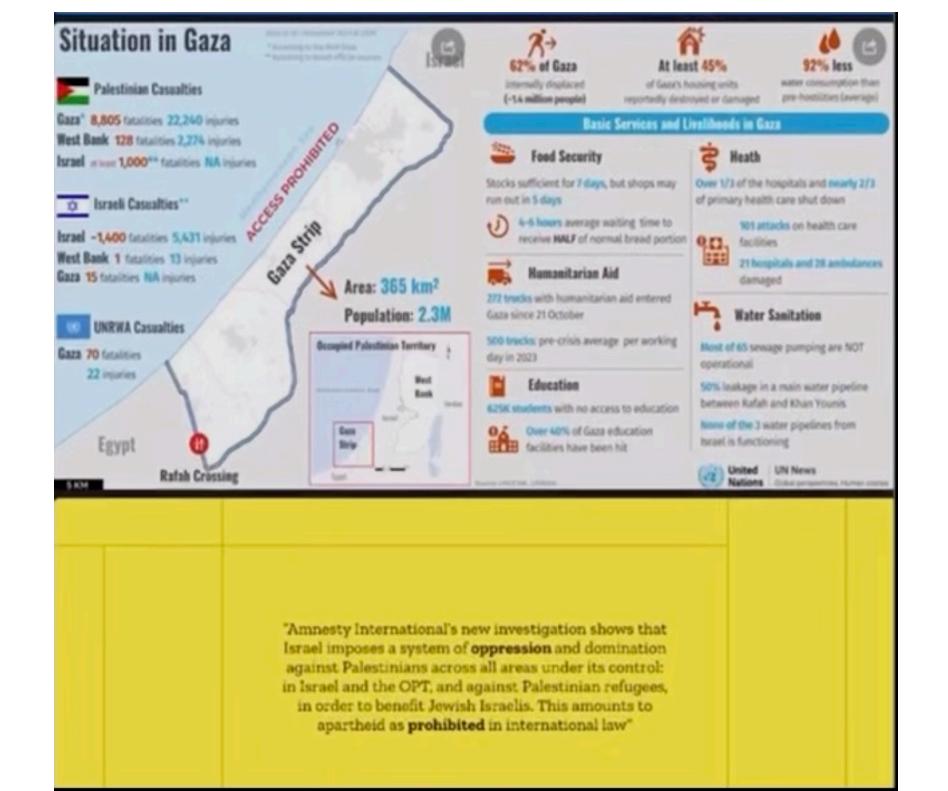




Background on Children in Palestine (Entire Conflict)

- Each year children are killed in the conflict and not just in Gaza.
- In addition to UNICEF and Amnesty, the Israeli
 Human Rights group B'tselem accuses the Israeli
 Army of violating the rights of children causing
 injury and death to many each year.
- The Israeli Army has also physically and emotionally abused many kids with 4 out of 5 Palestinian kids saying they have been arrested, beaten, and stripsearched constantly. (According to Save The Children) Palestinian children have constantly faced psychological abuse as well.
- Israel is the only country in the world that systematically prosecutes children in Military Court.



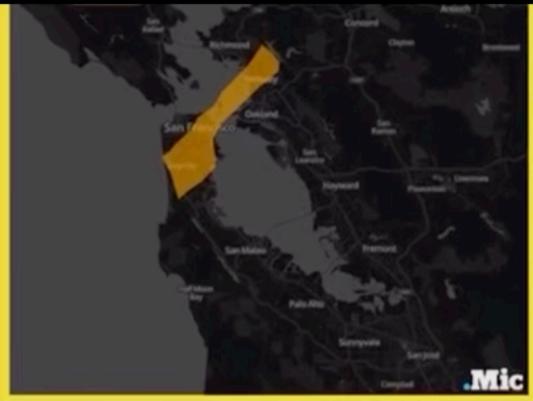


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"Amnesty International's new investigation shows that Israel imposes a system of **oppression** and domination against Palestinians across all areas under its control: in Israel and the OPT, and against Palestinian refugees, in order to benefit Jewish Israelis. This amounts to apartheid as **prohibited** in international law".

-Amnesty International





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leave. It is the most densely populated city on Earth. Israel has cut it from receiving food, water, and electricity. This is against international law.

Note: Israel previously did not allow Palestinians in Gaza to produce their own electricity without permits, which were sparsely given if given at all. Cutting electricity and vital resources has resulted in devastating civilian casualties

Human Rights Violations

- Illegal Israeli Occupation: Israel annexed land occupied by force during 1948 and 1967 wars.
- Illegal Israeli Settlements on Occupied Land: Israel built over 200 settlements on Palestinian lands.
- Illegal Land Acquisition by Force: Israel confiscated extra land in 1948 and seized East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.
- Israeli Ethnic Cleansing: Forced displacement of Palestinian populations and refusal of the right to return.
- Israeli Apartheid System: Discrimination against Palestinian Arabs, resembling the UN definition of apartheid.

- Targetted Violence: Including torture, imprisonment without charges, land confiscation, and more.
- Collective Punishment: Targeting entire Palestinian communities for the actions of a few.
- Transformation of Local Laws: Implementing <u>dual</u> <u>legal systems</u> in occupied territories.
- Violations of UN Security Council Resolutions: Israel has violated numerous resolutions.
- Illegal Separation Barrier: The International Court of Justice declared the Israeli separation barrier illegal.



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- Harmful language used in the media to depict an entire group of people as subhuman

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- Words such as "animal" and "terrorist" are often used

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