



Women
Journalists
Without
Chains

The Land and Everything on It:

100 Days of Fragmentation and Erasure in Gaza
Israeli Tactics of Extermination Through Geographic
and Demographic Disintegration



Civil defense teams and medical personnel in the Gaza Strip had not yet completed the recovery of bodies from beneath the rubble when Israeli occupation forces resumed their devastating military operations in March. This marked the beginning of a renewed and intensified campaign aimed at forcibly reshaping Gaza's geography and demographic composition.

Prior to October 2023, the Gaza Strip was home to over 2.3 million people within a total area of just 365 square kilometers. In some neighborhoods, population density exceeded 50,000 people per square kilometer—among the highest in the world. Under this extreme density, Israeli authorities pursued a policy of relentless geographic compression, forcing hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians into severely overcrowded and underserved zones, systematically shrinking the livable space and exacerbating humanitarian suffering.

The Israeli war on the Gaza Strip has produced one of the most devastating humanitarian catastrophes of the 21st century. Since the escalation began on October 7, 2023, Israeli forces have dropped over 100,000 tons of explosives across the densely populated enclave—turning entire neighborhoods into dust and leaving behind more than 50 million tons of rubble. In the span of months, approximately 92 percent of Gaza's housing stock has been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, while vital civilian infrastructure—including hospitals, schools, water systems, power grids, and sanitation networks—has collapsed under the weight of continuous bombardment.

Worse still, this military onslaught has claimed the lives of more than 55,000 people, according to documented estimates. Many of the dead remain buried beneath the ruins, unrecovered due to the renewed Israeli offensive that resumed in March 2025 before rescue efforts had concluded.

As the offensive expanded, the physical and demographic landscape of Gaza has undergone alarming transformations. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as of June 7, nearly 82 percent of the Strip's territory is now under direct Israeli military control, subjected to



evacuation orders, or rendered inaccessible by a combination of force and coercion. In effect, Gaza's already limited geography has been fractured into overcrowded pockets of displacement, pushing the population density in some areas to levels higher than any global urban center.

Unlike major cities around the world, however, Gaza has no functioning airport, no access to a seaport, no sovereign control over its borders, and no viable infrastructure left intact. It is a besieged territory—cut off, under occupation, and subjected to a deliberate strategy of territorial shrinkage and demographic engineering. What is unfolding is not simply a humanitarian crisis, but a campaign of spatial and societal erasure.

This report, issued by Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC), documents the Israeli military's use of forced displacement, infrastructural destruction, and geographic fragmentation as tools of domination and control. These measures, taken together, reflect a calculated strategy to render vast areas of Gaza uninhabitable, complicate the return of displaced civilians, and lay the groundwork for what amounts to a policy of ethnic cleansing.

This dangerous trajectory escalated notably after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—currently facing a request for arrest by the International Criminal Court—visited the White House on February 2, 2025. There, he met with the U.S. President, who reportedly floated the idea that Gaza was no longer suitable for human habitation and suggested the possibility of population displacement. In the weeks following that meeting, Israeli officials publicly confirmed that plans were being drawn up to operationalize that proposal—reigniting the war with even greater intensity and with a clearer vision of permanent demographic transformation.

What is at stake is not just the future of Gaza, but the survival of its people, their homes, their memory, and their rightful claim to the land. This report seeks to document and expose this unfolding atrocity and to call the international community to action before Gaza disappears—piece by piece, life by life.



The report concludes that the actions carried out by Israeli occupation forces since March 2025 go far beyond temporary military operations. Instead, they reflect a deliberate and systematic pattern of creeping occupation—a strategy aimed at redrawing the demographic and geographic realities of the Gaza Strip. These measures constitute grave violations of international law, encompassing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts that meet the legal definition of genocide.

Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) strongly condemns the ongoing escalation of Israeli policies that threaten the very existence of Palestinians in Gaza. The deliberate destruction of what remains of essential services—alongside the mass displacement of hundreds of thousands—represents one of the largest and most systematic ethnic cleansing campaigns in modern history.

This report is grounded in a broad and credible range of sources, including:

- **Internal documentation collected by WJWC;**
- **Verified reports from United Nations agencies;**
- **Coverage and investigations published by local Palestinian media and official institutions;**
- **International news agency reports and global press coverage;**
- **Hebrew-language media and publications from Israeli civil society organizations;**
- **Official statements and declarations from Israeli authorities made on verified public platforms.**

Through a combined descriptive and analytical methodology, the report details how Israeli forces have, since March, imposed a series of mechanisms to fragment the Gaza Strip. These mechanisms are not incidental—they are part of a calculated strategy to assert territorial control and reduce the Palestinian population to a condition of total dependency and forced mobility. Civilians have been transformed into captives within a shrinking and collapsing landscape—stripped of autonomy, stability, and the basic conditions of human dignity.



Moreover, the report highlights the use of starvation as a method of warfare, completing the broader picture of a genocidal campaign carried out through both visible violence and silent, structural annihilation. What emerges is a portrait of deliberate state policy, not only aimed at conquest, but at erasure.

Since March 2025, Israeli occupation forces have adopted a deliberate policy of dividing the Gaza Strip into three zones:

- **Humanitarian Zones—overcrowded, unsafe areas used to relocate displaced civilians;**
- **Combat Zones—subjected to intense bombardment under the pretext of targeting militants;**
- **Buffer Zones—areas seized during operations, declared off-limits, and gradually expanded.**

This classification, detailed in the report, serves as a mechanism for forced displacement, population fragmentation, and territorial annexation. Civilians are first ordered to evacuate to so-called "safe zones," which lack basic services and are often targeted themselves. Areas evacuated are then destroyed, and once occupied, reclassified as buffer zones from which Palestinians are permanently barred.

The report documents how this system, supported by official Israeli statements, constitutes a systematic effort to reshape Gaza's demographic and geographic landscape—amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and elements of genocide. These actions directly violate international humanitarian law, ICJ rulings, and the Genocide Convention.

Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) condemns these escalating violations and calls on the international community to end all forms of support—military, logistical, and political—to the occupation authorities. The weapons and technologies provided are being used to destroy Gaza's infrastructure, erase its population, and turn the territory into an uninhabitable space—an unfolding atrocity that demands urgent global accountability.



I. Humanitarian Zones

From the outset of the war in October 2023, Israeli occupation forces imposed a policy of geographic fragmentation across the Gaza Strip. Despite portraying certain areas as "humanitarian zones," the entire territory was treated as open ground for indiscriminate bombardment, including the use of internationally prohibited munitions.

Designating locations such as Khan Yunis's Al-Mawasi neighborhood as "safe zones" under humanitarian pretexts, the occupation issued evacuation orders that claimed to protect civilians. However, analysis of these directives and their implementation reveals a starkly different intent: the systematic use of displacement as a weapon to control populations and facilitate territorial acquisition.

1. Geographical Blocks as a Mechanism of Control

In early December 2023, the Israeli army divided Gaza into over 2,300 numbered blocks, directing civilians to memorize their block numbers, which correspond



to their residential areas. According to official military statements, the purpose was to enable civilians to "navigate instructions and move safely" when required. Spokesman Avichay Adraee emphasized the supposed humanitarian aim of avoiding mass evacuations and limiting displacements to nearby areas.

However, from December 2, 2023, onward, the enforcement of this system marked the beginning of a far more coercive phase. The block system became a tool for micromanaging the lives of over two million people—issuing repeated evacuation

orders that forcibly displaced residents from one bombarded area to another, turning civilians into little more than "mobile coordinates" within a grid of destruction.

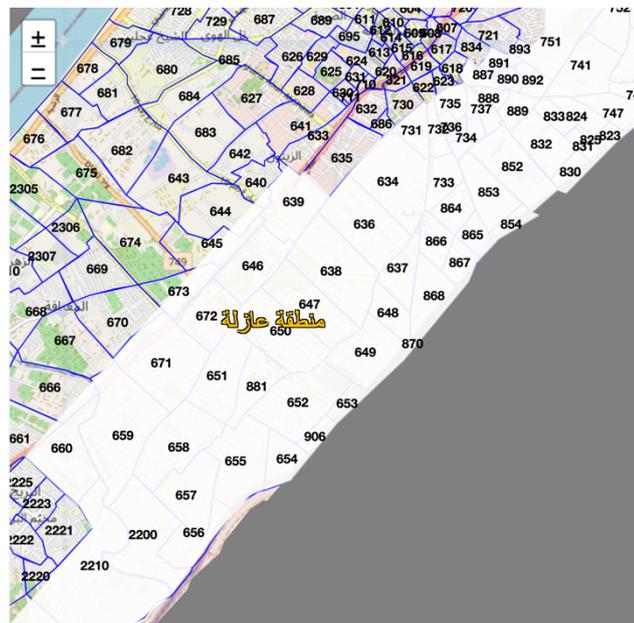
The first official evacuation order under this framework, dated December 2, 2023, exemplifies the approach:

"Residents of Al-Qarara residing in blocks 39, 224, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2351, 132, 136, 137, 138, 139: For your safety, evacuate immediately to designated shelters in Rafah and the humanitarian zone in Al-Mawasi."

This system has remained in effect through June 2025, forming the basis of an operational doctrine that controls movement, enforces displacement, and facilitates repeated bombardment—often of the very areas civilians were told to flee to. Far from offering safety, these "humanitarian zones" serve as part of a broader strategy of fragmentation, disorientation, and territorial domination under the guise of humanitarian concern.

2. The Shrinking "Humanitarian Zone":

Following the outbreak of indiscriminate Israeli attacks in October 2023, hundreds of thousands of civilians from northern Gaza were forced to flee southward into areas designated by the Israeli occupation as "humanitarian zones." Initially, these zones constituted approximately 63% of the Gaza Strip's total area. However, the so-called safe



zone quickly and systematically shrank—reaching only about 10% of the Strip by the time a ceasefire agreement came into effect in January 2025.



In practice, these zones were never truly safe. Despite being classified as humanitarian, Israeli forces frequently issued evacuation orders for neighborhoods within them, redirecting civilians to devastated areas reclassified as "combat zones." This contradictory and coercive pattern exposed displaced persons to relentless attacks even after they complied with instructions.

Throughout 2024, the humanitarian zone steadily diminished:

- **May 2024: 79 square kilometers**
- **June 2024: 60 square kilometers**
- **August 2024: 35 square kilometers**

These reductions corresponded with a dramatic rise in attacks on displacement shelters. Far from being protected, civilians were hunted from one location to another—bombed in tents, shelters, and schools. Entire families were buried under sand or incinerated in makeshift shelters during repeated massacres inside areas officially labeled as humanitarian.

The ceasefire agreement signed on January 19, 2025, called for the return of civilians to their homes and the withdrawal of Israeli forces to pre-October 7 lines. However, after the war resumed on March 18, 2025, Israeli forces escalated their fragmentation strategy with renewed intensity.

By May 2025, at least 241 shelters—including UNRWA schools, hospital courtyards, and designated humanitarian sites—had been bombed. The following incidents illustrate the pattern of systematic targeting of internally displaced persons (IDPs):

- **May 12, 2025:** The Fatima Bint Asad Government Preparatory School in Jabalia was bombed, killing 15 civilians, including eight children and two women.
- **May 20, 2025:** Airstrikes hit IDP tents in Al-Mawasi, Rafah, killing Abeer Ziad Kassab and her six children, the youngest only eight months old.
- **May 28, 2025:** Without warning, occupation forces bombed the Fahmi al-Jarjawi School, sheltering thousands of IDPs in Gaza City. Thirty-one



civilians were killed, their bodies torn apart and hurled from the building by the blast.

These examples are part of a broader pattern in which so-called "humanitarian zones" serve not as sanctuaries, but as traps—facilitating mass displacement only to render civilians more vulnerable to bombardment. The shrinking of Gaza's livable space is not incidental, but a calculated act of warfare targeting both the land and the people who remain on it.

3. Aid Distribution Zones



In response to mounting international condemnation over the deliberate starvation of Gaza's civilian population, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced in a video address on May 22 the establishment of designated zones for the distribution of humanitarian aid. Presented as a humanitarian initiative, these zones were soon revealed to be strategically positioned near Israeli military encampments inside Gaza—part of a deeply troubling strategy that sought to manage hunger through military control and to exploit these zones as instruments of repression and lethal force.

On May 27, Israeli authorities activated these so-called aid zones, where relief operations were carried out by a U.S.-based private company operating under direct Israeli military oversight. The scheme was swiftly rejected by the United Nations and numerous international humanitarian and human rights organizations, which denounced it as incompatible with neutral, impartial, and effective aid delivery.

In practice, these zones became sites of grave violations committed under the cover of humanitarian relief. Two central features defined this disastrous approach:

- **Orchestrated Chaos as a Tool of Starvation**

The plan compelled tens of thousands of starving civilians to gather at four widely dispersed aid points across southern and central Gaza—locations often separated by more than 10 kilometers. After Israel had imposed a complete blockade on humanitarian assistance since March 2, hundreds of thousands faced acute hunger. Those who reached the distribution points found only a fraction of the supplies needed for survival. The meager rations triggered desperate and often violent competition among civilians, effectively weaponizing hunger and fostering internal strife within Gaza's exhausted population.

Disturbingly, eyewitness accounts and rights monitors reported that Israeli forces targeted local volunteers attempting to safeguard aid distributions, while enabling looters to seize the supplies from those most in need. The resulting chaos deepened Gaza's social fragmentation and transformed starvation from a slow, silent killer into a catalyst for disorder and despair.

- **Turning Aid Zones into Killing Grounds**

Far from being sanctuaries, the designated aid zones became sites of massacre. Civilians lured by the promise of food and basic necessities were repeatedly attacked. Between May 27 and June 19 alone, over 3,500 casualties were recorded in connection with these zones—including at least 434 killed and more than 3,100 wounded—many struck while queuing for aid.



According to figures released by Gaza's Ministry of Health, hospitals received 784 bodies over the last ten days of this period, among them 332 individuals described as the "martyrs of bread"—a term coined for those slain while seeking relief.

Partial hospital data illustrates the daily toll:

June 10:	54 killed,	including 36 at aid sites
June 11:	123 killed,	57 at aid sites
June 12:	103 killed,	21 at aid sites
June 13–14:	90 and 29 killed,	respectively
June 15:	65 killed,	26 at aid sites
June 16:	68 killed,	38 at aid sites
June 17:	61 killed,	59 at aid sites
June 18:	144 killed,	including 29 at aid sites and 15 recovered by civil defense
June 19:	76 killed,	22 at aid sites



While official data remains incomplete for several dates, the pattern is tragically clear: these so-called aid zones have become epicenters of devastation, where the promise of relief has been cynically turned into an instrument of further suffering and death.

II. Combat Zones

In the wake of relentless military assaults that have leveled entire neighborhoods and caused mass civilian casualties, Israeli forces have progressively designated vast areas of Gaza as "combat zones." These classifications have served to justify the issuance of evacuation orders, ostensibly to facilitate operations against resistance infrastructure or armed groups. However, many independent observers argue that such claims mask a broader strategy aimed at asserting control over territory by systematically destroying the foundations of civil life. The impact on Gaza's land, people, and infrastructure has been devastating, as outlined below.

1. Forced Evacuations

The designation of combat zones has paved the way for large-scale ground operations following the forced displacement



of local populations. According to United Nations agencies, more than 90% of Gaza's residents have been displaced during the current war, many uprooted repeatedly—sometimes more than ten times. Since October 2023, evacuation orders have covered over 85% of Gaza's territory, with a sharp increase in such orders after March 18.



By the end of April 2025, at least 30 new evacuation directives had been issued, displacing hundreds of thousands—often from areas already devastated by prior attacks. These orders primarily targeted Gaza's eastern, northern, and southern regions, pushing civilians into increasingly cramped and unsafe zones in the west.

A stark example occurred on March 31, when the entirety of Rafah Governorate—once sheltering hundreds of thousands of displaced persons—was ordered evacuated. Similar directives followed on April 11, forcing residents out of densely populated areas of eastern Gaza City, including Shuja'iyya, Zeitoun, Al-Nur, and Al-Tuffah neighborhoods.

2. Systematic Destruction of Homes



Under the pretext of safeguarding ground forces within these combat zones, Israeli troops have systematically demolished what little remained of Gaza's battered residential landscape. The pattern of destruction appears aimed at depopulating areas and rendering them uninhabitable, thereby precluding any possibility of return or reconstruction.

United Nations estimates as of May 2025 indicate that approximately 92% of Gaza's housing stock has been destroyed or damaged, leaving over 1.8 million people homeless or in urgent need of shelter. Israeli forces have reportedly employed

high-yield explosives and demolition robots, often absent any clear military necessity.

In remarks reportedly made during a closed Knesset committee session on May 13, Prime Minister Netanyahu acknowledged the systematic nature of the demolition policy, stating: "We continue demolishing homes daily. In the end, they will have nowhere to return to... The only result will be emigration. The challenge is to find countries that will take them." Entire communities—including Rafah, Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, Abasan, and Bani Suheila—have effectively been wiped off the map, reduced to rubble and ash, leaving their inhabitants without shelter.

3. Erasure of Civil Infrastructure

The destruction of Gaza's civil infrastructure has been sweeping and methodical, targeting the essential components that sustain daily life. What many



describe as an "urban erasure" strategy has left Gaza's urban and rural landscapes in ruins.

One of the most dramatic examples came in early April 2025, when Israeli forces destroyed much of Rafah City. Once home to 275,000 people and swollen by waves of displaced residents, Rafah was encircled, emptied, and razed. Satellite imagery confirms that the city, once a refuge, has been obliterated.

By mid-2025, it is estimated that around 90% of Gaza's physical infrastructure—roads, utilities, water and sewage systems, farms, schools, hospitals—has been either destroyed or severely damaged. The educational sector has been



decimated: over 95% of schools have sustained damage, with more than 88% requiring complete reconstruction. This includes UNRWA-run institutions as well as government and private schools that had served as shelters.

Gaza's agricultural sector is near total collapse. A May 2025 FAO assessment found that only 4.6% of farmland remains usable, with more than 80% damaged and nearly 78% rendered inaccessible, largely as a result of combat zone declarations and buffer zone expansions.

Healthcare infrastructure has been systematically targeted. Over 94% of Gaza's hospitals have been hit by direct strikes, and more than 80% of health facilities are no longer operational. The toll includes the destruction of 180 ambulances and the killing of more than 1,581 healthcare workers, including essential specialists. Since March 2025, key medical centers such as Al-Ahli Hospital, the Nasser Medical Complex, and the European Hospital have been rendered inoperable. In one particularly devastating blow, Israeli forces destroyed the Noura Al-Kaabi Dialysis Center—the sole facility for kidney patients in northern Gaza.

III. Buffer Zones



The Israeli policy of geographic fragmentation in Gaza is inseparable from what can be described as a crime of creeping occupation. This is most clearly manifested in the systematic classification of large areas within the Strip as "buffer zones." These zones can be defined as: geographic areas inside the Gaza Strip forcibly emptied of their original inhabitants as a result of Israeli occupation measures, and subsequently transformed into prohibited areas from which civilians are barred. Such zones serve to isolate the Palestinian population from Israeli military positions established within Gaza, forming part of a deliberate strategy of geographic dismemberment and incremental territorial control.

In practice, these areas have been transformed into closed enclaves, facilitating the implementation of apartheid-like policies. They are systematically prepared for future use as military colonies or settlement outposts, entrenching the occupation and undermining the Palestinian presence by obstructing communication, cohesion, and the continuity of the indigenous population. Their establishment typically unfolds in two phases:

1. Establishment of Military Corridors

The Israeli military first constructs militarized routes deep inside Gaza, often reviving the names of settlements evacuated in **2005**. These corridors, leveled across tens of kilometers, are equipped with permanent fortifications, watchtowers, and logistical infrastructure to support ongoing military operations.

2. Gradual Expansion into "Security Zones"

Subsequent phases see these corridors expanded into adjacent areas, converting surrounding lands into prohibited zones. This strategy was starkly demonstrated in late March **2025**, when Israeli forces ordered the full evacuation of Rafah, paving the way for its incorporation into an expanding buffer zone between the Salah al-Din and Morag corridors.

Key Buffer Corridors Inside Gaza

Salah al-Din Corridor ("Philadelphi Route"):



Spanning approximately **14** kilometers along Gaza's southern border with Egypt, this corridor runs from the Mediterranean coast to the Kerem Shalom crossing, encompassing the Rafah Crossing—Gaza's primary gateway

to the outside world. Since October **2023**, Israel has intensified strikes along this route under the stated aim of eliminating tunnels. However, reports in the Israeli press have revealed Prime Minister Netanyahu's intent to maintain permanent control of the corridor to tighten the blockade, restrict humanitarian assistance, and dominate border crossings. Egypt has responded by deploying forces along its side of the border, heightening regional tensions and compounding the humanitarian crisis.

Netzarim Corridor:

This corridor cuts an **8-kilometer** path through central Gaza, severing the north (**14 km**) from central and southern areas (**27 km**). Established by Israel's 36th Division in November **2023**, the offensive that created this corridor razed over **10 square kilometers**, including key institutions such as the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, Al-Azhar University, the Justice Palace, Juhor ad-Dik village, and farmlands. The area has been rendered uninhabitable. Today, the Netzarim Corridor functions as a fortified military zone, with movement between north and south Gaza strictly controlled. The associated buffer area now exceeds **56 km²**, obstructing humanitarian relief operations and consolidating Israeli control over civilian life.

Jabalia / Mefalsim Corridor:

Following a major military campaign in October–November **2024**, Israeli forces established this corridor between Jabalia and Beit Lahia. The **162nd Division**

created a passage stretching from Al-Montar crossing east of Jabalia to Beit Lahia's coast, effectively isolating North Gaza Governorate from Gaza City. Beyond its military utility, the corridor has displaced over half the region's population, destroyed residential areas beyond repair, and rendered reconstruction virtually impossible.

Kissufim Corridor:

Satellite imagery from October 2024 confirmed the creation of this corridor linking the Kissufim military base in the east with Al-Mawasi near Khan Younis in the west. This zone has cut off Rafah and Khan Younis from central Gaza, providing Israeli forces with strategic mobility and firepower over large areas.

Morag Corridor:

In early April 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the initiation of control over what he termed the "Morag Corridor," describing it as the "Second Philadelphi Route." The stated objective was to sever Khan Younis from Rafah. This corridor extends approximately 12 kilometers, running from the Mediterranean coast in the west to Salah al-Din Road in the east. It forms part of a broader strategy to expand Israeli control over Gaza by cutting off roughly 20 percent of the territory—an area of about 74 square kilometers. The Morag Corridor was designed to isolate Rafah, a governorate that includes Gaza's critical Kerem Shalom and Rafah border crossings. Its construction aimed to block the movement of civilians and goods between northern and southern Gaza, further tightening Israel's long-term grip on the territory, deepening the humanitarian crisis, and accelerating the forced displacement of the population. With the launch of the Rafah offensive led by the 36th Division, Israeli authorities swiftly revealed the corridor's underlying purpose. Just two days after the military announced the completion of the Morag Corridor and the encirclement of Rafah, Israel's Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, confirmed that the military was working to "integrate the seized areas" between the Morag and Salah al-Din corridors. This plan effectively aims to annex the entirety of Rafah Governorate into what is now referred to as a "security zone."

These developments point to deeply concerning dimensions of the occupation, including indications of long-term infrastructural ambitions, such as the possible construction of the proposed Ben Gurion Maritime Canal through southern Gaza.

IV. Statements by Israeli Officials

The geographic fragmentation of Gaza and the systematic destruction of its civilian life have been accompanied by open declarations from Israeli officials expressing an intent to empty Gaza of its native population—a strategic aim that aligns with acts recognized under international law as genocide. These statements have coincided with gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including the deliberate imposition of conditions designed to bring about the partial or complete destruction of Gaza's civilian population, to force mass displacement, and to facilitate the seizure of territory.

Such rhetoric and actions escalated following Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Washington in February 2025 after the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump. Since that time, Israeli leaders have repeatedly invoked Trump's position as justification for policies that amount to ethnic cleansing and territorial domination. Notable examples include:

1. Trump's Proposal Used to Intimidate Civilians



Israeli officials have amplified calls for mass displacement of Gaza's population, invoking Trump's reported proposal after Netanyahu's February 2 visit to Washington. In those remarks, Trump described Gaza as a "demolition site unfit for

habitation," suggesting that its residents should be relocated rather than seeking accountability for those responsible for the devastation.

This rhetoric was soon reflected in psychological warfare and policy:

- On February 20, Israeli aircraft dropped leaflets on Gaza's residents warning: "The implementation of Trump's coercive plan will begin soon. You will be forcibly displaced, whether you like it or not." The leaflet chillingly declared: "The map of the world will not change if all the people of Gaza disappear from existence." This was a calculated attempt to terrorize the population into fleeing, consistent with the crime of forced displacement.
- On March 2, Netanyahu announced a halt to all humanitarian aid and goods entering Gaza. Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir celebrated the decision on social media, declaring: "Finally, the decision has been made—better late than never. This policy must be pursued until the last kidnapped soldier is returned. It's time to open the gates of hell, to cut off electricity and water, to return to war, and—most importantly—not to settle for half the kidnapped soldiers, but to follow Trump's warning to the end."
- On March 21, Defense Minister Yisrael Katz stated that he had ordered the army to seize new areas of Gaza and to force residents to evacuate to the south. Katz explicitly linked this to "the implementation of the Trump plan." On March 23, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced that the Israeli security cabinet had approved Katz's proposal to establish a "voluntary displacement directorate" to expel Palestinians "in accordance with the vision of the American president."

2. Activities on the Ground

The statements of Israeli officials have been matched by destructive military actions aimed at realizing their declared objectives. Dozens of documented cases, including material recorded by occupation forces themselves, illustrate how policy statements have translated into acts of large-scale destruction and displacement.

- Following the expansion of ground operations in southern Gaza, the army ordered the full evacuation of Rafah on March 29, as part of its plan to extend the so-called "Defense Security Zone." That same day, Netanyahu stated: "Our fighters are hitting Hamas hard. We will not stop until we achieve all the goals of the war and win."
- On April 2, Katz announced a significant expansion of military operations, confirming large-scale seizures of Gaza's territory. He emphasized that these actions were "making Gaza smaller and more isolated." On April 10, visiting the completed Morag Corridor, Katz declared that Israeli forces were "incorporating the seized areas into the security belts."
- On May 5, Smotrich stated at a conference: "We are occupying Gaza to survive. Gaza will be completely destroyed, and its residents will leave in large numbers to third countries." That same day, Netanyahu proclaimed: "There will be no entry or exit."
- On May 18, the army launched "Operation Gideon's Wagons"—a comprehensive ground assault targeting both northern and southern Gaza. The operation, approved by the Israeli security cabinet, reflects the use of political and military machinery to justify policies amounting to state terrorism.

3. Previous Statements

These recent statements and actions form part of a longer pattern of incitement and intent, well-documented in South Africa's genocide case against Israel before the International Court of Justice. Israeli leaders have repeatedly employed dehumanizing rhetoric and issued direct threats that clearly articulate genocidal intent:

- Prime Minister Netanyahu described the war as "a war of the sons of light against the sons of darkness" and invoked the biblical call to "erase the memory of Amalek," a phrase historically associated with justifications for ethnic cleansing.



- President Isaac Herzog denied the civilian character of Gaza's population, asserting: "An entire nation there is responsible. Talking about unaware and uninvolved civilians is incorrect."
- Former Defense Minister Yoav Galant pledged: "Gaza will never be the same again. We will destroy everything. I have released all the brakes."
- Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir declared: "When we say we want to destroy Hamas, we also mean those who celebrated, supported, and distributed sweets—they are all terrorists."
- The Minister of Agriculture described the campaign as "the Nakba of Gaza 2023." The Minister of Heritage went so far as to call for "dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza."

Together, these statements and associated actions provide stark evidence of both the act and intent elements of genocide, as defined under international law.

V. Key Outcomes and Legal Classification

Israel has maintained comprehensive control over Gaza's borders, airspace, maritime domain, and surveillance networks since its so-called "withdrawal" in **2005**. Under Article **42** of the **1907** Hague Regulations, such domination establishes Gaza's status as occupied territory. This status places clear obligations on Israel under Articles **2** and **6** of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including the duty to protect civilians during armed conflict.

Since October **2023**, Israeli policies and actions have systematically dismantled civilian life in Gaza, in ways that violate international law and may meet the legal threshold for crimes under the **1948** Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The policy of geographic fragmentation—dividing Gaza into "humanitarian," "combat," and "buffer" zones—has produced multiple categories of serious violations:

1- Impact on Demographic Structure

The creation of so-called "humanitarian zones" has coincided with lethal attacks on civilians, including those evacuating along declared safe routes, near crossing



points, and inside shelters. Aid distribution points have repeatedly become sites of mass casualties. These patterns are consistent with crimes prohibited under Article II of the Genocide Convention and Article 8 of the Rome Statute (war crimes). The fragmentation of Gaza's population into isolated enclaves has destroyed social cohesion and violated Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which guarantees freedom of movement. Mass forcible displacement—whether labeled as "evacuation" or otherwise—violates Article 49 of the Convention, which prohibits individual or mass forcible transfers of civilians. In this context, such displacement also constitutes a crime against humanity under Article 7(1)(d) of the Rome Statute. These acts intersect with other crimes where the imposition of life-threatening conditions aims at the destruction of a civilian population.

2- Destruction of Property

Under international law, an occupying power is prohibited from destroying civilian property unless absolutely required by military necessity. Israel's widespread destruction of homes, critical infrastructure, and agricultural land far exceeds this justification, breaching the principles of distinction, proportionality, and necessity in international humanitarian law. Even where military targets were allegedly present, the scale of collateral damage has been grossly disproportionate. Strikes on healthcare infrastructure—essential for survival—suggest an intent to entrench siege conditions and render Gaza uninhabitable. Such acts may fall within the scope of genocidal acts under Article II(c) of the Genocide Convention ("deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about a group's physical destruction in whole or in part") and violate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), particularly the right to health and adequate living conditions.

3- Effects of Geographic Transformation

The deliberate division of Gaza into fragmented zones appears designed to facilitate permanent displacement and de facto annexation. The creation of buffer and security zones has involved the seizure of territory and the permanent denial of civilian return—violations of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the UN

Charter's prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force (Article 2(4)). The establishment of permanent military corridors and exclusion zones reflects a strategy aimed at altering Gaza's geography and demographics. These measures are consistent with the definition of apartheid under Article II(c) of the 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which prohibits legislative and other measures designed to divide the population along racial lines and deny basic rights.

Recommendations

The evidence presented in this report demonstrates that Israel is engaged in acts prohibited under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians as a national group. These acts include the shrinking and geographic fragmentation of Gaza and the imposition of deadly living conditions designed to forcibly displace the civilian population. The continuation of this situation for over 20 months, coupled with the obstruction of justice and accountability mechanisms, poses a grave threat to the future of human rights and the integrity of international law. This reality demands urgent action to end these unlawful practices and restore the rights and dignity of Gaza's civilian population.

In light of the findings of this report, **Women Journalists Without Chains** puts forward the following recommendations:

- Urgently condemn the Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip and reject any attempt to alter its internationally recognized borders, reduce its area, or change its demographic composition. The international community must demand an immediate end to all measures of geographic fragmentation and forced displacement in Gaza.
- Take concrete action to halt the genocide in Gaza, including suspending military aid, arms sales, bilateral agreements, and all forms of cooperation with Israeli occupation authorities until the war ends and Israeli forces fully withdraw from Palestinian territories.



- Ensure the unrestricted passage of sufficient quantities of essential materials for the reconstruction of homes, civilian infrastructure, and public services. All forcibly displaced civilians must be allowed to return freely to their homes or to places of their choice, in full respect of their right to freedom of movement.
- Facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid through independent and internationally supervised channels, not subject to Israeli control or distribution mechanisms, and immediately dismantle the so-called distribution zones that have functioned as sites of deadly attacks on civilians.
- Support the independence of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by rejecting any form of political pressure or blackmail that seeks to obstruct its work. States must cooperate with and strengthen ICJ investigations into Israeli violations within its jurisdiction, ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.
- Press the Israeli authorities to grant immediate access to human rights missions, independent journalists, and international investigators to enable effective monitoring, documentation, and reporting on the humanitarian and human rights impact of Gaza's geographic fragmentation.