

**Documentary Report (No. 15)** on the Israeli Aggression on Gaza

Covers the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# Introduction

The Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip has turned a large part of the besieged Palestinian enclave into a pile of rubble, with people in desperate need of water, fuel and life-saving necessities, amid a total blockade of the enclave. Thousands of buildings, including hospitals, mosques and churches, have also been damaged or destroyed in Israel's relentless air and ground attacks on the besieged enclave.

This report, available in English and Arabic, provides daily facts and statistics about Israeli massacres in the Gaza Strip in the period between December 22 - 25, 2023.

It also sheds light on the political and humanitarian aftermaths along with the human loss and material damage inflicted on the besieged enclave as a result of the unabated strikes and Israeli siege, impeding Gazans' access to humanitarian assistance

# 1. Daily Scenes

### **Friday**

22 December 2023



Over 280 people have been killed and 650 others injured as the Israeli army continues to target residential buildings, healthcare facilities, and overcrowded areas across the Gaza Strip.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli strikes on Thursday and Friday have claimed the lives of 390 Palestinians, bringing the death toll since Oct. 7. to over 20,057. Israel's bombardment of Gaza continues after it ordered civilians to evacuate the Bureij refugee camp; children are among the wounded in attacks on Deir El-Balah.

The head of the World Health Organization calls the situation in Gaza "heartbreaking" and warns famine is "looming". Israel continues to bombard southern Gaza despite new evacuation orders

In the southern part of the Gaza Strip, Khan Younis has been turned into a complete battle zone between the Palestinian fighters and the Israeli soldiers. It has been under mass Israeli shelling during the last hour, with five Palestinians reportedly killed in the destruction of a residential building.

Rafah, which is already overwhelmed and densely populated with evacuees, has also been attacked during the last couple of days. Earlier today, five Palestinians were killed after an attack in its central area.

A Nuseirat attack survivor says his family members died in an Israeli attack on Friday. The house hosted six displaced families comprising 52 people, including his sisters. Almost half of the victims are children. UNDP worker Issam Al-Mughrabi along with his wife and three children were killed in an Israeli air attack on Gaza city.



Dozens of Palestinians have been detained in Israeli military raids throughout the occupied West Bank cities of Al-Khalil, Ramallah, Jenin, Qalqilya, Tubas and Jerusalem. Many Palestinians are held without charges. PRC has documented allegations of torture and beatings.

### Saturday

**23 December 2023** 

Israeli air and ground attacks have resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries. In less than 24 hours, more than 200 Palestinians have been killed alongside 360 others who have been wounded. Israeli attacks have continued despite a UN Security Council resolution to scale up the humanitarian aid to Gaza.



The Gaza-based Health Ministry estimated that 20,258 people have been killed and 53,688 injured since the war outbreak on Oct. 07. Hundreds of casualties remain trapped under the rubble of destroyed houses.

Israeli army has been accused of carrying out summary execution of 137 Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza Strip after digging holes and burying people alive. Six staff members of Al-Awda Hospital along with eight Red Crescent paramedics have been detained by Israeli soldiers. The army prevented ambulances from reaching casualties and transferring them to hospitals.

Approximately 70 percent of the 20,057 people killed in Gaza due to Israel's military onslaught are women and children. Gaza's government media office has reported the 100th journalist to be killed by Israeli bombardments since the start of the war.

The Tal Al-Zatar neighborhood north of Gaza has been under Israeli siege for more than 20 days, preventing medical teams from reaching the area. Schools around the Indonesian hospital have also been heavily bombarded.

Israeli forces have raided the town of Beita, south of Nablus, as overnight incursions continue across the occupied West Bank. Reconnaissance aircraft have been hovering over the city and the nearby Tulkarem and Nur Shams refugee camps. Israeli forces have also stormed the city of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.

### Sunday

24 December 2023



More than 300 victims have been reported in less than 24 hours. The death toll has now hit 20,424 according to the latest updates from Gaza's government media office.

The Israeli military showered Beit Hanun town, north of Gaza, with mortar barrages.

Israeli soldiers have been deployed at Al-Rafi'i School and detained a number of young men. Women sheltered at the school have been forced out at gunpoint.

At least 70 people have been killed in an Israeli air attack on Gaza's Maghazi refugee camp, which a Palestinian Health Ministry spokesperson describes as a "massacre". At a nearby hospital, frantic Palestinians carried the dead and wounded, including children, following the deadly strike on the Maghazi refugee camp, east of Deir El-Balah.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has condemned the arbitrary killings and urged Americans to press President Joe Biden and his government to put a stop to Israel's bloody assault.

"The Biden administration's callous indifference to - and active support for - the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing being carried out by the far-right Netanyahu government will stain our nation's international reputation for generations to come," said CAIR's Ibrahim Hooper in a statement.

Aid groups and UN agencies say Israeli bombardments make implementing the UN Security Council humanitarian aid resolution near impossible.



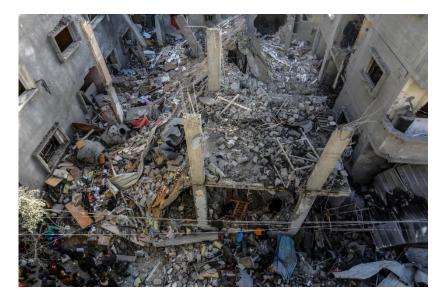
Armed fighting has erupted, followed by explosions, after Israeli forces stormed the Balata refugee camp, east of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. Red Crescent (PRCS), says at least eight Palestinians across the occupied West Bank have sustained injuries as a result of attacks by Israeli forces and illegal settlers.

### Monday

#### 25 December 2023

About 250 Palestinians have been killed and 500 injured in the past 24 hours, the Gaza-based Health Ministry said. An Israeli air attack hit the Al-Amal neighborhood in western Khan Younis, resulting in casualties. Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF) says that since the bombing of Maghazi and Bureij refugee camps by the Israeli army, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital has reported taking in 209 injured and 131 dead Palestinians so far. About half the casualties received by the hospital are women and children.

Gaza's Maghazi refugee camp has been left in ruins after deadly Israeli attack Residents who have returned to their neighborhood have only found blocks of concrete lying where their homes had stood.



A video circulating on social media shows hundreds of Palestinian men, stripped to their underwear, held captive by Israeli soldiers in a stadium in Gaza. Israeli tanks are seen bulldozing one area of the stadium, which has been turned into a detention camp. The Palestinian detainees are made to walk with their hands holding their ID cards above their heads and are forced to sit in the cold with their hands handcuffed behind them with Israeli soldiers walking around them. Human rights organisations and the UN have documented cases of Israeli forces carrying out summary executions of Palestinians held in detention after removing them from shelters and displacement camps.

Israeli soldiers, accompanied by vehicles and military bulldozers, have stormed occupied West Bank towns. More than 100 Israeli army vehicles are in the Nur Shams refugee camp, according to local media sources. Entrances to the camp have been sealed off, effectively placing the camp's residents under siege. Celebrations are muted in the occupied territories as Israel's war on Gaza rages. Usually bustling with visitors from around the world this time of year, West Bank churches are empty this Christmas.

# 2. Political & Humanitarian Repercussions

- Former UN official Chris Gunness says what's unfolding in Gaza is "an American-Israeli genocide it's not just an Israeli genocide". "Just as America provides Israel with \$4bn of military support per annum, it's also as we've seen tonight providing Israel with diplomatic and political cover to continue with a genocide which is marked by the wholesale and industrial ignoring of international humanitarian law," Gunness told Al Jazeera.
- In his latest post on X, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus again warned that "famine is looming" in Gaza. He called for an "urgent improvement in food security".
  - The situation is most acute in northern Gaza, where four of five households "are going entire days and nights without eating". That's the case for about half of the displaced people in the south, he said. "This is catastrophic to the health of people across the Strip. This is heartbreaking."
- \*Humza Yousaf, the first minister of Scotland, has condemned those who do not support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza: "The world said 'never again' yet allows violence that results in the killing of more children."
- Responding to the UN Security Council resolution passed earlier, Jason Lee, Save the Children's country director in the occupied Palestinian territory, says anything short of a ceasefire "will at best only serve to slow the continued descent of Gaza's children into more unimaginable suffering from death, disease and approaching famine".
- While the International Rescue Committee welcomed the resolution's "demands for immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access" to Gaza, it said "much more is clearly needed".

"The foundation of UNSC action should be the UN Charter and international law. The conflict is a clear threat to regional peace and security, and civilian rights under international law are being woefully disregarded," the group said.

"We are calling on the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution to ensure unimpeded access to life-saving humanitarian aid and secure the safe release of hostages," Amnesty Secretary General Anges Callamard said in a post on X.

That came before the Security Council approved its latest resolution on the conflict, which has been criticized for not clearly demanding a pause in fighting to allow the promised increase in aid.

Scholars Against the War on Palestine, called for academics across the world to unite in calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The group is circulating a petition online demanding an end to the fighting, unrestricted access to aid and the halting of all attacks on Palestinian education and health institutions. As of today, 325 scholars have signed the petition.

The United Nations relief agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) has called for an "immediate and humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza" while also emphasizing the need for an "unimpeded flow of aid" into the besieged enclave, regardless of ongoing political negotiations.

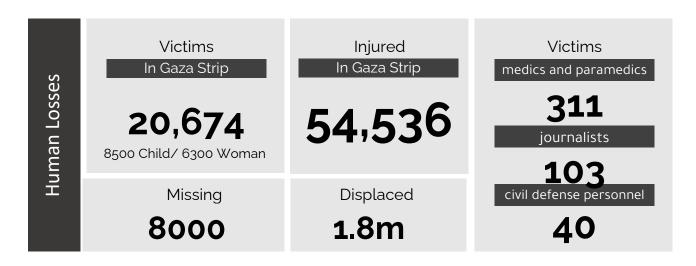
"It is extremely tragic that politics stand in the way of 2.2 million people's survival in Gaza," UNRWA spokesperson Tamara al-Rifai said at a press conference. The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Observatory says the Israeli army continues to invade schools used as shelters by tens of thousands of displaced people throughout the Gaza Strip.

Israeli forces have turned shelter centers, most of them UN-run schools, into targets since the first days of the offensive, and noted witness testimonies confirmed the attacks were unjustified and targeted defenseless people.

The observatory added it documented Sunday's raid by Israeli forces into a school in Jabalia, and the arrest of 15-year-old males after forcing them to strip down to their underwear.

## 3. Humanitarian Loss and Material Damage

As many as 20,674 people have been killed by indiscriminate Israeli bombardment since Oct. 7, including more than 8,500 children and 6,300 women. Women and children make up 70% of the victims list. Since Oct. 7, Israeli forces committed over 1,800 massacres in the Gaza Strip, where 8,000 people, including more than 5,500 women and children, have been missing under rubble of destroyed buildings. The list of victims includes more than 311 medics and paramedics, 40 civil defense personnel, and 103 journalists. More than 54,536 people have been left wounded. Over 1.8 million people have become internally displaced, with no access to food or water. An estimated 150,000 Palestinians are being forced to flee areas of central Gaza, as Israeli forces advance on refugee camps there.



The Israeli military has called for the evacuation of a strip of land stretching across central Gaza that includes Bureij and Nuseirat camps, and told the almost 90,000 residents and 61,000 displaced people in the affected areas to move southwards to the town of Deir El-Balah.

However, the UN warned that they had nowhere to go because Deir El-Balah was already overcrowded, with several hundred thousand displaced people sheltering there.

In the period under examination, more than 137 civilians have been executed by Israeli forces in Gaza City and the northern Strip. Among them are people killed in front of family members and pregnant women trying to make their way to Al-Awda Hospital as they held up white flags.

Israeli army set up detention camps east of Gaza City, dug large pits in them and placed dozens of Palestinian civilians inside, before executing them by shooting them directly, and then buried them with bulldozers.

Hundreds of victims' bodies are still missing under the rubble of buildings or are among the corpses scattered in Gaza's streets and border areas and impossible to locate or retrieve right now.

Nearly 65,000 housing units have been completely razed to the ground; 290,000 units have been partially damaged. Nearly 60% of residential units in Gaza are uninhabitable. 115 mosques and three churches have been completely destroyed; 200 mosques sustained partial damage. More than 25 hospitals and 55 health centers on the Strip have been out of service. Over 140 healthcare facilities have been targeted by Israeli military.

There is no longer any functional hospital left in northern Gaza due to a lack of fuel, staff and supplies. Israeli forces also targeted 102 ambulances, while dozens of others are out of service due to fuel shortage.

**Destroyed** Mosques residential Units 115 **Material Losses** 65000 Churches Completely Destroyed Completely Destroyed **Medical Sector** 102 **Ambulance** Hospitals out of Services out of Services out of Services

UNRWA says there are an estimated 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza with more than 180 births a day. Doctors and midwives are doing everything possible to provide care for newborn babies and high-risk pregnant women at the seven remaining operational UNRWA health centers out of 22.

Hospitals are barely functioning. Infectious diseases are rife and spreading fast in overcrowded shelters. Hundreds of people with war injuries are unable to receive care.

Many Gazans have lost contact with their relatives due to major Israeli restrictions on Gaza's cellular communications and internet. Since October 7, the communications network has been subject to devastating destruction. These attacks have continued despite the resolution taken by the UN Security Council in terms of scaling up the humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Reports have emerged throughout Israel's ground operations in Gaza of the mistreatment of Palestinians detained by Israeli forces. Speaking to The Associated Press from a hospital bed in Rafah after his release, Khamis Al-Burdainy of Gaza City said Israeli forces detained him after tanks and bulldozers partly destroyed his home. He said men were handcuffed and blindfolded.

Another released detainee, Mohammed Salem, from the Gaza City neighborhood of Shujaiah, said Israeli troops beat them. "We were humiliated. A female soldier would come and beat an old man, aged 72 years old."

305 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military raids across the West Bank since Oct. 7. Up to 3,500 people have been wounded and 4,540 arrested.

Israeli army incursions have led to the displacement of 2,373 Palestinians from their homes and the demolition of 317 structures.

