



Situation Report #21: Occupied Palestine

13 January – 20 January 2025 (until 10:00 AM)

The Government Communication Center at the Prime Minister's Office issues the Situation Report once a week. The next Situation Report will be issued on 27 January 2025.

Key Developments

CEASEFIRE DEAL IN EFFECT AFTER 471 DAYS OF ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Fifteen months after Israel launched its genocidal aggression against the Gaza Strip, a ceasefire deal was brokered by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States. The deal was set to take effect on [19 January 2025 at 8:30 AM](#), but [Netanyahu later announced it would start at 11:15 AM](#). The agreement outlines the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) withdrawal from densely populated areas in Gaza and the gradual prisoner exchange within an initial six-week phase: [Hamas will release 33 Israeli prisoners in the first phase, while Israel will release 1,904 Palestinian prisoners](#). The [deal](#) will allow displaced Palestinians to return to their homes, facilitate humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza, and open crossings for medical evacuations. The negotiations for the following phase will discuss the release of the remaining prisoners, the IOF's full withdrawal, and "the restoration of sustainable calm."

ISRAEL RELEASES 90 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

Past midnight on the first day of the ceasefire deal, the occupation authorities released [90 Palestinian prisoners](#), including 69 women and 21 children, of whom 76 are from the West Bank and 14 from occupied Jerusalem. Throughout Sunday, the prisoners' families waited for their release around the "Ofer" military prison, where seven Palestinians were injured after the IOF attacked them. [The Palestinian Red Crescent Society](#) described the injuries as minor.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY CEASEFIRE DEAL IS "CATASTROPHIC" & "VERY BAD"

Minister [Bezalel Smotrich](#), like many Israeli officials, including [Ben Gvir](#), criticized the deal as "dangerous to Israel's national security and reverses many of the war's achievements." He warned that he would leave the government if the war did not conclude with a "complete victory over Hamas." In addressing the current situation in Gaza, Smotrich said, "It is ruined and disintegrated, uninhabitable, and it will remain that way." In inciting against the Palestinian people, Smotrich added: "This is an animalistic society that sanctifies death. Very soon, we will erase their smile again and replace it with cries of grief and the wails of those who were left with nothing." In an interview with [ABC News](#),



the architect of the Generals' Plan, Giora Eiland, said the deal is "very bad" for Israel but emphasized that it's better than not having a deal. Regarding President Trump's influence, he said Israel didn't "want to be in confrontation with President Trump just as he begins his new term."

CEASEFIRE DEAL PROVES ISRAEL USED STARVATION AS A WEAPON OF WAR

Experts say ceasefire deal proves [Israel deliberately starved Palestinians in Gaza](#). Israel has consistently refuted claims of limiting aid entry into the Strip, asserting that it imposed "no limits" on the quantity of aid allowed. An associate professor of law at the University of Haifa, Itamar Mann, said Israel's argument before the ceasefire was not "credible" and that the deal "could be evidence of a war crime." Mann said: "The deal increases the amount of aid illustrates that Israel is controlling, and has controlled throughout the war, the amount of aid that enters the Gaza Strip," concluding that "This does reflect that Israel has intentionally decreased the amount of aid, which is evidence of a war crime in a situation where parts of the population is suffering from starvation as a consequence."

HRW: ISRAEL COMMITTED WAR CRIMES & CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN GAZA

[Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) said President Joe Biden's administration "demonstrated a double standard" in its response to Israel. The organization criticized in its World Report for 2025, issued last Thursday, the US, Germany, and other governments for providing "arms and military support to Israel," thereby "violating international legal obligations and domestic law." The report said that in Gaza, the occupation authorities "have deliberately deprived Palestinians of access to water required for survival, which is a crime against humanity and may amount to the crime of genocide," adding that "Israeli strikes have killed and wounded tens of thousands of civilians, deliberately targeted hospitals, residential buildings, and aid workers, and devastated schools and camps sheltering displaced families, leaving no safe haven from the hostilities and destroying the infrastructure necessary for survival."

CUBA REQUESTS TO JOIN SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a [press release](#) on 13 January 2025 stating that Cuba filed a "declaration of intervention" concerning the "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)." The ICJ concluded, "South Africa and Israel have been invited to furnish written observations on the declaration of intervention." So far, several countries have joined South Africa's case, including [Nicaragua, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, Turkey, and Ireland](#).



Summary

After Israel's **471** consecutive days of its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, the IOF has killed at least **46,913** Palestinians, incl. **17,841** children and **12,298** women, and injured about **110,750** others.¹ On 19 January 2025, after the ceasefire came into effect, the IOF [killed 19 people in Gaza, injuring more than 36 others](#). [UNICEF spokesperson James Elder](#) said that around 35 children were killed "every single day" during Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip.



[Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate](#): the IOF killed 193 journalists in Gaza in 2024

Figure 1: Gaza Strip

In the occupied West Bank, incl. Jerusalem, since 7 October 2023, the IOF has killed **859** Palestinians, incl. 174 children, and injured more than **6,700** others⁴. During the past week, [Muataz Abu Zneid](#), a 35-year-old administrative detainee from the south of Hebron, passed away in the Israeli Soroka Hospital. A father and husband, Muataz's family said he had no health issues before his arrest on 27 June 2023. Following his martyrdom, the number of [Palestinian prisoners who died in Israeli prisons after 7 October 2023 increased to 55 martyrs](#).



Figure 2: West Bank⁵ | 13- 19 January 2025 (until 8 AM)

¹ [PCBS](#) - last updated on 19 January 2025.

² UNOCHA, [Reported Impact Snapshot| Gaza Strip](#), Day 466: 14 January 2025.

³ [WHO](#)- last updated on 3 January 2024

⁴ [PCBS](#) - Last updated on 19 January 2025.

⁵ [NAD's Palestinian Monitoring Group](#) | The same incident may result in multiple attacks.



In Focus

The [Addameer Association for Human Rights](#) in Gaza reported that its lawyer visited the ill detainees who were arrested from Kamal Adwan Hospital at the end of December 2024. According to Addameer's lawyer, the detainees reported harrowing details about the severe mistreatment and inhumane conditions they have endured.

Anyone capable of walking was forced out of the hospital and directed to walk toward Al-Fakhoura School in the northern Gaza Strip. On the way, the IOF beat them severely with whips and rifle butts, along with cursing and swearing obscene words. At the school, the IOF ordered the detainees to take off their clothes. They were blindfolded and handcuffed before being transported in trucks to another location. IOF soldiers humiliatingly stepped on the detainees' heads with their boots. Stripped of clothing, the detainees were left in an exposed yard near the sea for six hours, enduring freezing temperatures that left them on the verge of collapse. Subsequently, they were transferred to the "Anatot" detention camp, where they remain handcuffed and blindfolded even while eating or sleeping. Detainees are denied medical care, including cancer patients; they are prohibited from speaking to one another and receive insufficient, poor-quality food.

Addameer Association highlighted the occupation authorities' refusal to grant the lawyer access to the detainees at the "Anatot" detention camp. Instead, the IOF transferred the detainees to "Ofer" prison, where the lawyer was able to meet them.

Government Updates

- Speaking at the third meeting of the [Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution](#) in Oslo last Wednesday, Prime Minister Mustafa said, "It is important to stress that it won't be acceptable for any entity to govern the Gaza Strip but the legitimate Palestinian leadership and the Government of the State of Palestine. Any attempt to consolidate the separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or create transitional entities will be rejected." Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa stressed the urgent need for identifying and applying concrete, irreversible tools – both collectively and individually – against Israel. Such steps begin with a comprehensive ceasefire, the lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip, implementing the UN resolutions including 2334 (2016), 2735 (2024) and accountability, thereby paving the way to end Israel's illegal occupation and achieve the two-State solution.



- Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa chaired a special ministerial meeting on Thursday to assess the readiness of various ministries and government agencies to implement [emergency response plans in the Gaza Strip](#) following the end of Israel's aggression. Dr. Mustafa emphasized President Mahmoud Abbas's directives to reunify governmental institutions and strengthen coordination with government teams operating in Gaza. He urged collective efforts under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to provide relief to our people, stressing the importance of enhanced coordination efforts between international relief organizations and government institutions to ensure aid reaches those in dire need, ensuring fair distribution and preventing exploitation.
- Following Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa's meetings in Brussels, the [European Union \(EU\) announced a new humanitarian aid package worth €120 million](#) to support the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, including by providing food aid, supporting healthcare, improving water and sanitation services, and providing safe shelter for displaced people who have lost their homes. With this package, the total humanitarian aid provided by the EU to Gaza since 2023 has reached more than €450 million. This is in addition to the humanitarian air bridge that delivered more than 3,800 tons of aid.
- Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa said, during the opening remarks of an [extraordinary Cabinet session](#) convened Sunday in Ramallah, in the presence of the heads of the Water and Energy Authorities and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, to coordinate governmental field efforts in Gaza, that, "We hope for a permanent ceasefire, followed by relief efforts for our people in Gaza, reconstruction, and ultimately achieving the realization of the Palestinian state under its legitimate leadership."

During the session, the Cabinet reaffirmed the Presidency's statement and President Mahmoud Abbas's position that the State of Palestine holds full legal and political authority over the Gaza Strip, as the case with the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as well as affirming the rejection of any attempts to detach or carve up any part of Gaza or approve the forced expulsion of any Palestinian from their homeland. It also reiterated that the Palestinian Government, under President Abbas's directives, has completed all preparations to assume full responsibilities in Gaza and that its administrative and security personnel are entirely prepared to carry out their tasks to alleviate the suffering inflicted on the Palestinian people in Gaza; allow displaced persons to return to their homes; restore essential services, including water and electricity to the Strip; assume responsibility for border crossings; and help begin Gaza reconstruction.