



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 March 2026

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Sixty-first session

23 February–2 April 2026

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 58/2. It contains an overview of the implementation of the resolution and developments relevant to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, covering the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 58/2 and covers the period from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. It is based on human rights monitoring conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and on information from governmental sources, other United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations.¹
2. OHCHR has requested full access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory to investigate violations by all duty bearers but, as at the time of writing, had not received any response from Israel. Israel continues to deny visas for OHCHR international staff.
3. For over 58 years, the Palestinian Territory – the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza – has remained under occupation by Israel, institutionalizing long-standing patterns of systematic discrimination, segregation, oppression, domination, violence and other inhumane acts against the Palestinian people.² For over 18 years, Gaza has been subjected to blockades and closures amounting to collective punishment.³
4. The conduct of hostilities by the Israeli military in Gaza during the reporting period continued to: kill and maim unprecedented numbers of civilians; cause a catastrophic humanitarian crisis; displace virtually the entire population of Gaza, often multiple times; and destroy the remaining civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, universities, homes, mosques, cultural heritage sites, water treatment plants, sewage systems and agricultural areas; thereby imposing on Palestinians conditions of life increasingly incompatible with their continued existence in Gaza as a group. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, OHCHR documented increasing levels of unlawful use of force by Israeli security forces against Palestinians, including through the continued deployment of means and methods designed for warfare, forced displacement and forcible transfer, the destruction of property and arbitrary detention.
5. Such conduct indicates recurrent violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the commission of crimes under international law.⁴ During the reporting period, intensified attacks, the methodical destruction of entire neighbourhoods and the denial of humanitarian assistance appeared to be aimed at a permanent demographic shift in Gaza. That, together with forcible transfers, which appeared to be aimed at a permanent displacement, raise concerns about ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has legal obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to take all measures within its power, as ordered by the International Court of Justice, to prevent the commission of acts of genocide and to prevent and punish incitement to commit genocide in relation to Palestinians in Gaza. An appraisal of the totality of the policies and practices of Israel in this

¹ When not otherwise stated, information in the present report is drawn from OHCHR monitoring conducted in accordance with its methodological standards.

² [A/HRC/58/73](#), para. 10. See also *Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2024*, paras. 158–160, 173 and 261.

³ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/opt/20241106-Gaza-Update-Report-OPT.pdf, para. 5.

⁴ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/09/hc-turk-updates-human-rights-council-we-need-safeguard-eighty-years.

regard⁵ raises serious concerns about its compliance with the Court's binding orders and the obligations of Israel under the Convention.⁶

6. Considered together, Israeli practices across Gaza and the West Bank indicated a concerted and accelerating effort to consolidate the annexation of large parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, while maintaining a system that amounted to a deliberate policy of physical and juridical separation intended to maintain oppression and domination of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Acts committed with the intention to maintain such a policy amount to a violation article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid.⁷

7. Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza continued to violate international law, including by holding and mistreating hostages, amounting to war crimes and potentially other atrocity crimes. Serious concerns persisted over allegations of intentional co-location of military objectives and civilians to try to prevent the targeting of those objectives, which would amount to a war crime.

8. Incidents of unnecessary or disproportionate use of force by security forces of the Palestinian Authority continued in the West Bank, including during large-scale militarized operations in Palestinian communities in Jenin refugee camp and the surrounding areas. The arbitrary detention of Palestinians by those security forces, with patterns of torture or other ill-treatment, were also documented by OHCHR.

9. Gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continued to occur, amid a pervasive climate of impunity.

II. Human rights situation

A. Conduct of hostilities and other killings in Gaza

10. During the reporting period, at least 25,594 Palestinians were killed and another 68,837 injured in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health of the State of Palestine, which OHCHR, through ongoing verification, has confirmed are reliable numbers. This brought the total to 68,858 Palestinians killed and 170,664 injured since 7 October 2023. The actual death toll is likely far higher, as the reported figure does not account for those buried under rubble. Countless more Palestinians have died⁸ due to the human-made humanitarian catastrophe that deepened ever further,⁹ and which included the spread of famine and starvation and the denial of healthcare. During the reporting period, there were no confirmed Israeli civilians killed or injured in Gaza.

11. As of 7 October 2025, according to the Ministry of Health of the State of Palestine, 20,179 children had been killed in Gaza during the preceding two years,¹⁰ with the equivalent

⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5828-human-rights-situation-occupied-palestinian-territory-including; www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-attacks-hospitals-during-escalation-hostilities-gaza-7-october; www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/six-month-update-report-human-rights-situation-gaza-1-november-2023-30-april-2024; www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june; www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-indiscriminate-and-disproportionate-attacks-during-conflict-gaza; and www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5528-human-rights-situation-occupied-palestinian-territory-including.

⁶ *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*, Order, 26 January 2024, *I.C.J. Reports 2024*, para. 86.

⁷ See www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/thematic-report-israels-discriminatory-administration-occupied-west-bank.

⁸ See [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext).

⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/turk-calls-world-prevent-total-humanitarian-catastrophe-gaza.

¹⁰ See <https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/7053>.

of an entire classroom of children killed every day for nearly two years.¹¹ Gaza now has the highest number of amputee children per capita in the world.¹²

12. By the end of the reporting period, OHCHR had verified 19,582 Palestinians killed in Gaza as a result of hostilities since 7 October 2023, including 4,212 women (21 per cent), 4,078 boys (20.8 per cent) and 3,503 girls (17.8 per cent), with verification ongoing. While no civilians may be the object of direct attack and civilians should be protected from the effects of hostilities, the high number of women and children killed remains an important indication of the high proportion of civilians killed.

13. The alarming number of civilian casualties since October 2023 do not appear to have prompted significant changes in the conduct of hostilities by Israel, including civilian harm mitigation. The continuing patterns of deadly attacks instead raise serious concerns about the intentional targeting of civilians and civilian objects, as well as the intentional launching of attacks in the knowledge that the loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects would be clearly excessive in relation to the military advantage anticipated, which would constitute war crimes.¹³

14. Israel continued its attacks on residential buildings, cumulatively killing thousands, including entire families together, in circumstances that raise concerns that numerous Israeli strikes were not targeting military objectives as required under international humanitarian law.¹⁴ OHCHR recorded 1,993 attacks on residential buildings during the reporting period (not including the demolition of buildings by Israeli troops), resulting in 4,528 fatalities, including 1,493 women and children. On 10 November 2024, an Israeli strike on the residential building of the Aloush family in Jabalya killed 24 Palestinians, including 14 children and 6 women.¹⁵ On 20 September 2025, an Israeli strike on residential buildings in As Sabra, southern Gaza City, reportedly killed at least 20 family members, including 12 children and 4 women, with dozens who remain missing under the rubble.¹⁶

15. The Israeli military continued its attacks on makeshift tents accommodating Palestinians who had fled or had their homes destroyed. Despite repeatedly demanding that civilians move to Al Mawasi, a tiny beach strip in south-western Gaza, the Israeli military continued to conduct intense military attacks on the area,¹⁷ with OHCHR recording 161 attacks in Al Mawasi, killing 134 people, during the reporting period; OHCHR recorded 642 attacks on tents, killing 1,677 people, including 695 women and children.¹⁸ As the tents generally shelter families, Israeli strikes on them have killed entire families together.

16. Rather than locate and limit attacks to military objects, unmanned aerial vehicles adapted with advanced surveillance capacities have been used in a manner that kills civilians,

¹¹ See www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-executive-director-catherine-russells-remarks-humanitarian-situation-children.

¹² See www.unicefusa.org/stories/unicef-delivers-wheelchairs-gazas-children. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-explosive-weapons-left-15-children-day-potentially-lifelong-disabilities-2024>.

¹³ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8 (2) (b) (i), (ii) and (iv). See also www.972mag.com/israeli-intelligence-database-83-percent-civilians-militants/.

¹⁴ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-more-fifty-cent-people-killed-gaza-week-were-shelters-and-residential-buildings>.

¹⁵ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-grave-human-rights-and-humanitarian-situation-north-gaza-amidst-israeli-military-strikes>.

¹⁶ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-israeli-tactics-are-inflicting-terror-palestinian-population-gaza-city-and-forcing-tens-thousands-flee-enar>. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-occupied-palestinian-territory-opt-condemns-israeli-militarys-wanton-destruction-gaza-city-16-september-2025-enar>.

¹⁷ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/escalation-attacks-gaza-pattern-strikes-internally-displaced-peoples-idp-tents-and-residential-buildings-well-crowded-hospitals-enar>.

¹⁸ See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-israel-continues-kill-entire-displaced-families-area-it-designated-safe-enar>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestinians-gaza-continue-be-killed-hundreds-against-looming-threat-forcible-transfer-outside-gaza>.

even in the apparent absence of lawful military objectives.¹⁹ This has included attacking individuals alleged to be civilian members of Hamas, who are not lawful targets. Attacks were directed at these civilians, or individuals simply identified as “terrorists”, when they were at home with their families, resulting in the killing of entire family households. During the reporting period, OHCHR recorded at least 1,143 attacks in which Israeli military unmanned aerial vehicles were implicated, killing 2,079 Palestinians, including 347 children and 185 women. Notably, 981 such attacks were recorded after 18 March 2025 when the first ceasefire was broken, killing 1,819 Palestinians.

17. Israeli forces persisted with the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in residential areas, the indiscriminate and disproportionate effects of which continued to be entirely foreseeable.²⁰ For instance, on 10 July 2025, an Israeli air strike struck a civilian area near the Altayara Junction in Deir al Balah, directly in front of the health clinic of Project HOPE in Altayara, killing 16 civilians, including 8 children and 4 women, and injuring many more.²¹ The strike occurred as children and women had gathered outside the clinic to receive essential care.²²

18. The militarization by Israel of humanitarian assistance in Gaza has led to widespread unlawful killing. Between 27 May, when the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation²³ started their operation in Gaza, and 8 October, OHCHR recorded 2,435 Palestinians, mostly young men and boys, killed by the Israeli military while trying to gain access to food.²⁴ Of those killed, 1,298 were killed in the vicinity of the Foundation sites and 1,137 along the routes of aid and supply convoys, including those of the United Nations.²⁵ In one instance verified by OHCHR, on 17 June, the Israeli military shelled a crowd of Palestinians awaiting United Nations food trucks at Al Tahila junction in Khan Younis, killing 37. According to available information, there was nothing to suggest that the people killed or injured²⁶ had been involved in hostilities or posed any imminent threat to life, which would represent serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

19. During the period of the ceasefire from 19 January to 17 March 2025, the Israeli military killed 81 Palestinians, including 21 children and 4 women – many by unmanned aerial vehicles. Most were killed in the vicinity of vaguely defined and inadequately communicated Israeli-imposed “no-go” zones, with no indication that any of those killed had been taking a direct part in hostilities. Many of those killed were reportedly attempting to check on their homes.²⁷ The same conduct by the Israeli military was observed during the subsequent ceasefire that entered into force on 10 October 2025, with OHCHR recording 50 Palestinians killed in such incidents between 10 and 31 October, including a strike on 17 October on a van in Az Zaytoun, southern Gaza City, which killed 11 Palestinians, including 7 children and 2 women.

¹⁹ See also www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/opt/20241106-Gaza-Update-Report-OPT.pdf, para. 18.

²⁰ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-continued-israeli-airstrikes-gaza-kill-dozens-palestinians-including-women-and-children-enar>. See also www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-indiscriminate-and-disproportionate-attacks-during-conflict-gaza, pp. 4, 11–13 and 15.

²¹ OHCHR monitoring.

²² See www.projecthope.org/news-stories/press-release/ten-children-killed-by-airstrike-outside-project-hope-clinic/.

²³ The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation is an initiative backed by the United States of America and Israel, run by military contractors, which began operating in Gaza on 26 May 2025 under the oversight of the Government of Israel.

²⁴ OHCHR monitoring. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestinians-gaza-continue-be-killed-starvation-or-bullets-israeli-military-while-trying-access-food-enar>.

²⁵ See also www.youtube.com/watch?v=72aZhsNMOWk; and <https://msf.org.uk/article/msf-gaza-report-not-aid-orchestrated-killing>.

²⁶ See www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/13/doctor-in-gaza-describes-daily-patterns-in-israeli-maiming-at-ghf-hubs.

²⁷ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-palestinian-suffering-continues-disregard-international-law-grows-enar>.

20. Israel issued displacement orders more frequently, systematically pushing Palestinians, especially from the north and from Rafah, to an ever-shrinking area. Between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025, the military issued 121 displacement orders to Palestinians.²⁸ By 7 October 2025, 82 per cent of Gaza was within Israeli-militarized zones or under displacement orders.²⁹ By 31 October, 1.9 million people – approximately 90 per cent of the population – remained displaced, many displaced multiple times, including to the severely overcrowded Al Mawasi “humanitarian zone” located in western Khan Younis and Rafah. The Israeli military unilaterally designated it a “humanitarian zone”, despite being unsafe and lacking basic infrastructure and medical facilities.³⁰ The displaced population in Al Mawasi more than tripled in the months between the two ceasefires, increasing from 115,000 on 13 March 2025 to 410,571 as of 28 September 2025,³¹ before falling to 279,000 by the end of the reporting period.

21. The actions of Israel indicated the undertaking of mass forcible transfer. They included: frequent, broad and repeated displacement orders that did not appear strictly required for imperative military reasons or genuinely issued for the security of the population; failure to provide for the safety of displaced populations, including in Al Mawasi, and their accommodation or access to the necessities of life; widescale destruction of housing and other civilian infrastructure, including the healthcare system, thereby preventing returns; and statements advocating forcible transfer from senior Israeli officials.³²

22. A driver of forced displacement, including forcible transfer, in Gaza has been the attacks by Israel on and the demolition of the civilian infrastructure necessary to support Palestinian life, including the systematic and wanton destruction of residential buildings³³ and attacks against hospitals,³⁴ schools,³⁵ food related sites and tents for the internally displaced. Satellite imagery from 11 October 2025 identified 81 per cent of all structures in Gaza damaged or destroyed.³⁶ A total of 320,622 housing units were estimated damaged. In August, 98.5 per cent of cropland in Gaza was assessed as either damaged, inaccessible or both, and no cropland in Rafah or North Gaza was accessible.³⁷ The environmental impact of Israeli attacks was unprecedented, including the contamination of soil, water and the air.³⁸

²⁸ OHCHR monitoring.

²⁹ See www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-7-october-2025.

³⁰ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-israel-continues-kill-entire-displaced-families-area-it-designated-safe-enar>.

³¹ Information from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat.

³² See www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-07-07/ty-article/.premium/defense-minister-israel-to-concentrate-all-gaza-population-in-rafah-humanitarian-zone/00000197-e56a-d1ad-ab97-e5ef764e0000; www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/netanyahu-vows-to-escalate-gaza-war-implement-trump-s-displacement-plan-/3524138; and www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/smotrich-gaza-will-be-totally-destroyed-within-months-population-concentrated-in-narrow-border-area/.

³³ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestinians-gaza-continue-be-killed-hundreds-against-looming-threat-forcible-transfer-outside-gaza>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-occupied-palestinian-territory-opt-condemns-israeli-militarys-wanton-destruction-gaza-city-16-september-2025-enar>. See also www.972mag.com/israel-gaza-total-urban-destruction/.

³⁴ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-opt-israeli-attacks-health-facilities-gaza-city-leaving-sick-and-injured-nowhere-turn-enar>. See also the conference room paper of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, available from www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session58/a-hrc-58-crp-6.pdf.

³⁵ See https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/verification-damages-schools-based-proximity-damaged-sites-gaza-occupied-palestinian-territory-update-10-july-2025?_gl=1*12qmiql*_ga*MjU0MTMzMzA0LjE3MDA3NDMxMDU.*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*cZ3NTUxNzc5NDIkbzQ3JGcxJHJQxNzU1MTc4MTY2JGo2MCRsMCRoMA.

³⁶ See <https://unosat.org/products/4213>. See also www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-15-october-2025.

³⁷ See <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/3a966c1f-c31b-4550-90bb-eca8efbe9c1f>. See also <https://unosat.org/products/4072>.

³⁸ See www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/damage-gaza-causing-new-risks-human-health-and-long-term-recovery.

By the end of 2024, nearly all cattle and poultry had been killed.³⁹ Israeli attacks, including on North Gaza and Gaza City,⁴⁰ caused the wanton destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the attacks killed thousands of civilians, causing further waves of mass forced displacement of Palestinians to the south.⁴¹ Such attacks raised the suspicion that Israel was seeking to cause permanent demographic shifts, turning Gaza into a largely uninhabitable place for Palestinians.⁴²

23. Palestinians faced the inhumane choice of either starving to death or risking being killed while trying to get food.⁴³ In August 2025, famine was confirmed in Gaza Governorate and was projected to expand to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis by the end of September 2025. Over half a million people in the Gaza Strip faced catastrophic conditions, characterized by starvation, destitution and death. North Gaza was found to be “similar or worse than in Gaza Governorate”, with insufficient access to data in North Gaza.⁴⁴ According to the Ministry of Health of the State of Palestine, at least 463 Palestinians starved to death during the reporting period, including 157 children.⁴⁵

24. The situation of famine and malnutrition was the direct result of actions taken by the Government of Israel.⁴⁶ The deaths and the physical and psychological suffering caused by hunger were the foreseeable and repeatedly foretold consequences of the actions of Israel, including: closure, blockade⁴⁷ and other unlawful impediments to the entry and distribution of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, including food, fuel,⁴⁸ medicine and water;⁴⁹ destruction of agricultural land and other food production infrastructure; repeated attacks on fishers and fishing infrastructure;⁵⁰ destruction of vehicles and machinery essential for food distribution and provision of critical services;⁵¹ and forced displacement of the population of

³⁹ See www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/FAO-gaza-emergency-relief-food-production/en.

⁴⁰ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-occupied-palestinian-territory-israels-tactics-are-inflicting-terror-palestinian-population-gaza-city-and-forcing-tens-thousands-flee-enar>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-opt-israeli-attacks-health-facilities-gaza-city-leaving-sick-and-injured-nowhere-turn-enar>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israeli-strikes-internally-displaced-persons-and-killing-persons-collecting-firewood-gaza-raise-further-concerns-about-attacks-civilians>; and <https://unosat.org/products/4205>.

⁴¹ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-occupied-palestinian-territory-israels-tactics-are-inflicting-terror-palestinian-population-gaza-city-and-forcing-tens-thousands-flee-enar>.

⁴² Ibid.; see also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-occupied-palestinian-territory-opt-condemns-israeli-militarys-wanton-destruction-gaza-city-16-september-2025-enar>.

⁴³ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/06/gaza-palestinians-seeking-food-continue-be-killed-israeli-military; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestinians-gaza-continue-be-killed-starvation-or-bullets-israeli-military-while-trying-access-food-enar>.

⁴⁴ See www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Gaza_Aug2025.pdf.

⁴⁵ See also www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.

⁴⁶ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/turk-says-gaza-governorate-famine-direct-result-israeli-government-actions.

⁴⁷ Between 2 March and 19 May 2025, Israel initiated a total blockade of humanitarian aid and commercial supplies into Gaza (see www.who.int/news/item/12-05-2025-people-in-gaza-starving--sick-and-dying-as-aid-blockade-continues), which was reportedly only ended to maintain the support of key allies (see <https://news.walla.co.il/item/3750845>).

⁴⁸ See www.undp.org/press-releases/joint-statement-ocha-ohchr-undp-unfpa-unicef-unops-unrwa-wfp-and-who-fuel-shortage-gaza.

⁴⁹ See www.un.org/sg/en/content/highlight/2025-04-08.html.

⁵⁰ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/building-starvation-systematic-attacks-fishing-gaza-and-implications-livelihoods-and-protection-may-2025>; see also www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/gaza-facing-man-made-mass-starvation-says-whos-tedros-2025-07-23/.

⁵¹ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-deteriorating-human-rights-and-humanitarian-situation-occupied-palestinian-territory>.

Gaza. Following the dismantlement by Israel of the United Nations aid delivery system,⁵² the unpredictable, militarized distribution centres run through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation – with practically only three military-controlled sites replacing 400 aid distribution points – failed utterly to deliver humanitarian aid at the scope and scale needed,⁵³ in violation of the obligations of Israel under international humanitarian law.⁵⁴ Israeli officials made statements suggesting that the entry of humanitarian aid was directly linked to the release of hostages.⁵⁵

25. Any use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of war constitutes a war crime,⁵⁶ as do all forms of collective punishment.⁵⁷ It may also constitute the crimes against humanity of murder, extermination or other inhumane acts, if committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population.⁵⁸ If committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, it may also constitute genocide.

26. Israel continued to engage in the targeting and killing, in some instances apparently deliberate, of humanitarian and medical personnel,⁵⁹ as well as the security personnel responsible for securing the distribution of aid. According to the Ministry of Health of the State of Palestine, between 7 October 2023 and 24 September 2025, 1,722 health workers (1,254 men and 455 women) were killed in Gaza. This included the killing, on 23 March 2025, of 15 medical and humanitarian personnel from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, the Civil Defence of the State of Palestine and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, whose bodies were found in mass graves.⁶⁰ The killing of such personnel not directly participating in hostilities amounts to war crimes, including wilful killing. It also has an impact on the humanitarian situation, including contributing to famine and the starvation of civilians.⁶¹ Medical personnel were also arbitrarily detained and reportedly tortured and starved by Israel, with 95 Palestinian medics reportedly still in detention as of October 2025.⁶²

27. The attacks by Israel against civilians have dismantled and destroyed Gaza's governance and law enforcement structures. In this context, intra-Palestinian violence involving armed elements affiliated with Hamas and different groups opposing Hamas' rule

⁵² See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/gaza-israel-must-restore-un-humanitarian-system-stave-starvation-say-un. See also www.nrc.no/news/2025/october/mounting-alarm-as-israeli-authorities-reject-ngo-applications-to-transport-life-saving-aid-into-gaza.

⁵³ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/turk-calls-pressure-israeli-government-end-carnage-gaza.

⁵⁴ See www.icj-cij.org/case/196/advisory-opinions; and Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, arts. 55, 56 and 59. See also www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/statement-humanitarian-country-team-occupied-palestinian-territory-principled-aid-delivery-gaza-enhe.

⁵⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/04/gaza-increasing-israeli-evacuation-orders-lead-forcible-transfer; https://x.com/IsraeliPM_heb/status/1979577059916873762; and www.gov.il/he/pages/spoke-rafah181025.

⁵⁶ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) study on customary international humanitarian law, rule 156; and Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (b) (xxv).

⁵⁷ ICRC study, rule 103.

⁵⁸ Rome Statute, art. 7 (1) (a), (b) and (k).

⁵⁹ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-unlawful-killings-gaza-and-imperative-accountability-enar>.

⁶⁰ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/04/turk-warns-un-security-council-increasing-risk-atrocity-crimes-opt; <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/04/1161736>. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/local-statement-attacks-security-personnel-gaza-enar>.

⁶¹ According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, since 7 October 2023 and as of 29 October 2025, at least 577 aid workers had been killed in Gaza, namely, 386 United Nations staff and team members, 54 staff and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, 4 staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross and 133 aid workers of national and international non-governmental organizations. According to the Civil Defence of the State of Palestine, 140 of their staff had been killed while on duty as of 1 October 2025.

⁶² See www.instagram.com/healthcareworkerswatch/p/DQDd8IsiIVY/?img_index=2.

increased during the reporting period, particularly from 10 October 2025.⁶³ Some groups⁶⁴ sowed further disorder in a community where previous law enforcement and judicial systems had already been largely destroyed by Israeli attacks,⁶⁵ contributing to the abuse of Palestinians' human rights, including to life, liberty and security of person.

28. There were serious concerns over the unlawful use of force by what remained of the de facto authorities' law enforcement capacities, including by groups such as the "Saheem Unit". This included the arbitrary detention, torture and extrajudicial execution of a young Palestinian man in March 2025, allegedly because of his participation in demonstrations criticizing Hamas and calling for an end to the war.⁶⁶ On 11 June, there were reports of the killing, including possible summary executions, of 12 Palestinian staff associated with the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation by armed men allegedly affiliated with Hamas.⁶⁷ Such killings may amount to war crimes.

29. Dehumanizing and potentially genocidal rhetoric, including from the highest officials of the Government of Israel, continued.⁶⁸ Beyond purporting to justify the unacceptable civilian death toll in Gaza,⁶⁹ in statements, senior officials advocated for the destruction of Gaza and the mass emigration of the Palestinian people⁷⁰ in a context in which it could not be considered truly voluntary and for the pursuit of such methods in the West Bank.⁷¹ There continued to be no evidence of steps taken by Palestinian authorities to hold accountable persons engaged in speech prohibited under international human rights law, including dangerous and dehumanizing speech amounting to incitement to violence against Israelis and/or Jews.

30. Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups continued to hold hostage, as bargaining tools, Israeli and foreign civilians and military personnel taken from Israel on 7 October 2023, as well as the bodies of those who had been killed during attacks or who had died or been killed in captivity. Of the 251 persons taken on 7 October, and 4 who had been held since 2014 and 2015, Hamas returned 51 live hostages following negotiations during the reporting period. The bodies of 38 were either recovered by Israeli forces or returned during the ceasefires. As of 31 October 2025, a total of 168 hostages had been released alive (including 8 rescued by the Israeli military), 76 bodies had been released or retrieved and the bodies of 11 deceased hostages remained in Gaza, including one Israeli soldier killed in 2014. Videos previously released and public testimonies of released hostages have indicated sexual and other gender-based violence, torture and other ill-treatment, including beating, prolonged confinement underground and deprivation of food, water and bathroom access.⁷² The taking of hostages and subjecting them to such treatment and

⁶³ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-occupied-palestinian-territory-gaza-ongoing-violations-and-risks-civilians-enar>.

⁶⁴ According to International Crisis Group, one of the groups, affiliated with Yasser Abu Shabab in Rafah, allegedly received Israeli support, see www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/east-mediterranean-mena/israelpalestine/gaza-starvation-experiment.

⁶⁵ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/palestinians-gaza-continue-be-killed-hundreds-against-looming-threat-forcible-transfer-outside-gaza>.

⁶⁶ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-alarm-over-killings-and-unlawful-use-force-local-police-gaza-amidst-deteriorating-public-order-enar>.

⁶⁷ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/killings-gaza-humanitarian-foundation-workers>; see also https://x.com/OHCHR_Palestine/status/1971190699212108057.

⁶⁸ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/09/hc-turk-updates-human-rights-council-we-need-safeguard-eighty-years.

⁶⁹ See www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/17/israeli-general-aharon-haliva-palestinians-7-october-gaza.

⁷⁰ See www.ynet.co.il/news/article/bycf1121pll; www.ynet.co.il/news/article/r1lfstxwxe; <https://x.com/tzvisuccot/status/1949508336820306063>; www.maariv.co.il/news/politics/article-1220480; https://x.com/C14_news/status/1958185438222426621; <https://x.com/moshefeiglin/status/1956772599012450808>; www.c14.co.il/article/1301544; and www.inn.co.il/news/679130.

⁷¹ See <https://x.com/KnessetT/status/1948020184683360584>.

⁷² See <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/11/middleeast/israel-hostage-andrey-kozlov-gaza-hamas-intl/index.html>; www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-820032; and www.youtube.com/watch?v=op3t2QBD88c.

conditions is in breach of multiple provisions of international humanitarian law and amounts to war crimes and possibly other atrocity crimes.⁷³

B. Unlawful killings and injuries in the context of law enforcement in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

31. The killing of Palestinians by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which has dramatically increased since October 2023, continued at an unprecedented rate.⁷⁴ As verified by OHCHR, during the reporting period, Israeli security forces killed 255 Palestinians (200 men, 8 women, 45 boys and 2 girls), including 3 persons with disabilities, most of them during raids on Palestinian cities and refugee camps.⁷⁵ Sixteen were killed in the context of attacks and alleged attacks against Israelis and 74 during exchanges of fire. Thirty-three Palestinians were killed while throwing stones or Molotov cocktails, while posing no imminent threat to life. One hundred and thirty were killed while posing no threat whatsoever.

32. Israeli security forces employed means and methods designed for warfare in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, such as air strikes, in a context where there were no hostilities.⁷⁶ For example, on 8 January 2025, Israeli security forces struck a family's yard in Tammun, Tubas, with an air-to-ground missile, killing two Palestinian boys, 8 and 10 years of age, and a 23-year-old unarmed man.⁷⁷ Between 24 and 25 December 2024, Israeli security forces killed seven Palestinians with missile strikes on Tulkarm refugee camp, including two unarmed women and a 16-year-old boy.⁷⁸ The use of such weapons outside of hostilities, in law enforcement operations, is unlawful. In law enforcement operations, lethal force may only be used as a last resort, in response to an imminent threat to life and following a graduated use of force approach where less harmful means have proved ineffective or insufficient.⁷⁹

33. The militarized operations of Israel have included the large-scale Operation Iron Wall in the northern West Bank, launched on 21 January 2025 and targeting refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarm and Tubas.⁸⁰ Between 21 January 2025 and 31 October 2025, Israeli security forces killed 92 Palestinians (72 men, 3 women, 15 boys and 2 girls) in the three governorates during such operations, with most of them unarmed and posing no imminent threat to life.⁸¹

34. Israeli security forces routinely resorted to unnecessary or disproportionate use of force in law enforcement operations, in violation of international human rights law. On 21 January 2025, Israeli security forces shot and killed a 10-year-old unarmed boy standing on the porch outside his house in Tulkarm.⁸² On 25 January, Israeli security forces shot in the

⁷³ See www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/six-month-update-report-human-rights-situation-gaza-1-november-2023-30-april-2024, para. 44.

⁷⁴ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-violence-and-restrictions-occupied-west-bank-coinciding-ceasefire-implementation>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-week-new-year-violence-shows-no-sign-abating-occupied-palestinian-territory-enar>.

⁷⁵ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/against-backdrop-escalation-between-israel-and-iran-west-bank-situation-further-deteriorates>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-violence-and-restrictions-occupied-west-bank-coinciding-ceasefire-implementation>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-week-new-year-violence-shows-no-sign-abating-occupied-palestinian-territory-enar>.

⁷⁶ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-un-human-rights-office-opt-condemns-recent-spate-killings-civilians-across-west-bank-and-gaza>.

⁷⁷ OHCHR monitoring.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-un-human-rights-office-opt-condemns-recent-spate-killings-civilians-across-west-bank-and-gaza>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/accountability-and-human-rights-basis-just-peace-occupied-palestinian-territory-enar>.

⁸⁰ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/07/israel-must-stop-killings-and-home-demolitions-occupied-west-bank.

⁸¹ OHCHR monitoring.

⁸² Ibid.

head and killed a two-year-old Palestinian girl during a militarized raid on Ash Shuhada village in Jenin. On 9 February, Sondos Shalabi, who was eight months pregnant, was shot dead by Israeli security forces while fleeing with her husband from Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm, during Operation Iron Wall.⁸³

35. OHCHR documented cases of apparent extrajudicial executions. For instance, on 8 May 2025, during an operation in the old city of Nablus, undercover Israeli security forces appeared to execute a 30-year-old Palestinian man while he was raising his hands in a sign of surrender.⁸⁴ In the context of an occupation, killings resulting from the unlawful use of firearms or other lethal force may amount to wilful killings – a war crime.⁸⁵

36. During the reporting period, there was an increase in Palestinian security forces' unnecessary or disproportionate use of force against Palestinians in the West Bank, including lethal force, resulting in the unlawful killing of at least 8 Palestinians. This included during large-scale operations targeting Palestinians wanted by Israel, in particular Operation Protect the Homeland in Jenin refugee camp and the surrounding area, which lasted from 5 December 2024 to 21 January 2025. In this operation, Palestinian security forces deployed armoured personnel carriers and snipers and used shoulder-fired missiles. By the end of the operation, 15 Palestinians had been killed, including two women (one of them a journalist), four men, three boys and six officers of the Palestinian security forces (all men).⁸⁶ Despite the Palestinian Authority announcing investigations into each killing during the operation, no findings had been made public by the end of the reporting period.

C. Unlawful demolitions and forcible transfer in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

37. During Operation Iron Wall, Israeli security forces caused the mass displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank at a level not seen for decades. Residents from refugee camps in Tulkarm, Tubas and Jenin described being led out of their homes by Israeli security forces under the threat of lethal force and then forced out of their towns.⁸⁷ By 31 October 2025, the Israeli security forces had issued demolition orders for 436 buildings, totalling approximately 1,400 homes, in the Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams camps.⁸⁸ By 16 October 2025, it was assessed that 602 buildings had been completely destroyed and 1,450 severely or moderately damaged.⁸⁹ The extensive destruction of property, not justified by military necessity, constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (art. 147).⁹⁰

⁸³ See www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2025/03/brink-women-occupied-palestinian-territory. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-mass-displacement-palestinians-northern-west-bank-source-growing-concern-enar>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-deteriorating-human-rights-and-humanitarian-situation-occupied-palestinian-territory>.

⁸⁴ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-extrajudicial-executions-and-other-unlawful-use-force-occupied-west-bank>. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-violence-continues-intensify-occupied-west-bank-enar>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-grave-breaches-international-law-occupied-palestinian-territory-must-end-enar>.

⁸⁵ Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, art. 147; ICRC study, rule 156; and [A/HRC/52/75](#), para. 26.

⁸⁶ See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-teen-killed-palestinian-security-forces-occupied-west-bank-enar>.

⁸⁷ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-mass-displacement-palestinians-northern-west-bank-source-growing-concern-enar>.

⁸⁸ OHCHR monitoring.

⁸⁹ See https://unosat.org/static/unosat_filesystem/4216/OCHA-CBPF-OPT-034_UNOSAT_CE20231007PSE_WestBank_RefugeeCamps_CDA_SA_20251016.pdf.

⁹⁰ See also www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/07/israel-must-stop-killings-and-home-demolitions-occupied-west-bank.

38. By the end of the reporting period, at least 31,919 Palestinians remained forcibly displaced as a result of Operation Iron Wall.⁹¹ The Israeli authorities issued announcements that residents must not return to their homes,⁹² even to retrieve essential belongings, and shot and detained residents who attempted to do so.⁹³ Forcibly transferring civilians within occupied territory amounts to unlawful transfer – a grave breach of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War which may also, depending on the circumstances, amount to a crime against humanity.⁹⁴

D. Arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment

39. The Israeli authorities continued the mass arrest and detention of Palestinians from across the West Bank⁹⁵ and Gaza.⁹⁶ As of 31 October 2025, following the release of 1,968 Palestinian prisoners and detainees on 13 October as part of the ceasefire agreement,⁹⁷ 9,204 Palestinians were being held in prisons in Israel⁹⁸ and in Ofer prison in the West Bank, comprising 1,242 sentenced prisoners, 3,389 remand detainees, 3,368 in administrative detention without charge or trial and 1,205 detained as “unlawful combatants”.⁹⁹ As of the end of September 2025, according to the Israel Prison Service, 350 children (349 boys and 1 girl), including 175 held in administrative detention, and 47 women were being detained.¹⁰⁰

40. The routine use of administrative detention – on security grounds without criminal charge or trial – continued to expose Palestinian detainees to prolonged arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearance.¹⁰¹ In Gaza, thousands of Palestinians – primarily men and older boys – were placed in administrative detention, under the Unlawful Combatants Law, with no information available about their condition or the status of legal proceedings.¹⁰² Reportedly, only one in four of those detained were identified by the army as belonging to the armed wings of Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad, based on unsubstantiated allegations, with the rest being civilians who did not belong to either groups.¹⁰³ In the West Bank, 3,368 Palestinians were in administrative detention under military order No. 1651 by the end of the reporting period.¹⁰⁴ Arbitrary detention in armed conflict, including in situations of occupation, may amount to the war crimes of unlawful

⁹¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/07/israel-must-stop-killings-and-home-demolitions-occupied-west-bank.

⁹² See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/04/turk-warns-un-security-council-increasing-risk-atrocity-crimes-opt.

⁹³ OHCHR monitoring. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-mass-displacement-palestinians-northern-west-bank-source-growing-concern-enar>.

⁹⁴ See www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/07/israel-must-stop-killings-and-home-demolitions-occupied-west-bank; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israeli-settlers-supported-army-forcibly-displaced-palestinian-communities-jordan-valley-occupied-west-bank-enar>. See also [A/HRC/58/73](#) and [A/80/399](#).

⁹⁵ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/against-backdrop-escalation-between-israel-and-iran-west-bank-situation-further-deteriorates>.

⁹⁶ See also www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june, paras. 12–19, 56 and 57.

⁹⁷ Information from the Palestinian Prisoner’s Society.

⁹⁸ In violation of article 76 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, with the exception of those captured or arrested in Israel.

⁹⁹ See <https://hamoked.org/prisoners-charts.php>. These figures do not include detainees from the Gaza Strip held by the Israeli military.

¹⁰⁰ See www.gov.il/BlobFolder/reports/kluim_325/he/%D7%93%D7%95%D7%97%20%D7%9B%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%90%D7%99%D7%9D%20%D7%A8%D7%91%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%9F%203%20%D7%9C%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%AA%202025.xlsx.

¹⁰¹ www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june, paras. 56 and 57; see also Human Rights Committee general comment No. 35 (2014) on liberty and security of person, para. 15.

¹⁰² www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june, paras. 12 and 56; and www.solidarity-ps.org/en/STATISTICS-PRISON-PALESTINE.

¹⁰³ See www.972mag.com/israeli-intelligence-database-militants-civilians-gaza-detainees/.

¹⁰⁴ See <https://hamoked.org/prisoners-charts.php>.

confinement of protected persons and wilful deprivation of their right to a fair trial,¹⁰⁵ and may also amount to a crime against humanity if committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population.¹⁰⁶

41. Interviews conducted by OHCHR with former prisoners indicated the widespread and routine use of torture and other ill-treatment in detention against Palestinians, including the use of sexual and gender-based violence, repeated beatings, waterboarding, stress positions, starvation and medical negligence.¹⁰⁷ Between 7 October 2023 and 31 October 2025, OHCHR verified 79 deaths of Palestinians, including a child, in Israeli detention: 51 from Gaza, 26 from the West Bank and 2 Palestinian citizens of Israel.¹⁰⁸ Palestinians detained from Gaza remained particularly vulnerable to torture and other ill-treatment.¹⁰⁹ The use of solitary confinement became more common, according to detainees from the West Bank interviewed by OHCHR.

42. OHCHR documented instances of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, against Palestinians detained by Israeli officials. This included a 12-year-old Palestinian girl subjected to two unnecessary and humiliating strip-searches following her arrest for allegedly sticking “Palestinian slogans” on an Israeli security forces’ vehicle. Women detainees told OHCHR about physical assault during arrest, unnecessary, repeated and abusive strip-searches, beatings in detention and verbal abuse, including sexual slurs and threats of rape, together with severely overcrowded and unhygienic detention conditions, a lack of basic sanitary provisions, denial of food and medication and the routine use of solitary confinement. Cells had toilets without a door and a surveillance camera pointed directly at the toilet. Breastfeeding mothers told OHCHR of being denied access to their babies in detention.

43. OHCHR continued to document patterns of arbitrary detention – often based on the exercise of the detainees’ freedom of expression and for their perceived political affiliation – and torture and other ill-treatment by Palestinian security forces, committed with impunity. Related to operation Protection of Homeland, Palestinian security forces detained, often without legal grounds, and subjected to ill-treatment more than 300 Palestinians, mostly from the northern West Bank. Detainees were held in conditions of severe overcrowding, with limited access to hygiene and sanitation, outdoor time and contact with family members. The majority of detainees were held in prolonged pretrial detention without a court hearing and delayed access to a lawyer, with many held without any legal grounds – including 55 with court orders to release them. According to OHCHR monitoring, the torture of detainees as a punishment or to elicit confessions was widespread, and it included beatings, suspension and other stress positions, use of electric wires and other tools for beating, placement in solitary confinement for months at a time and denial of medical care.

44. The Israeli authorities continued to withhold the bodies of Palestinians as a bargaining tool or for collective punishment. The bodies of Palestinians handed over in October 2025 reportedly showed signs of torture and extrajudicial executions.¹¹⁰ As of 31 October 2025, Israel continued to withhold the bodies of 476 Palestinians, namely 401 men, 5 women,

¹⁰⁵ ICRC study, rule 156; and Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (a) (vi) and (vii).

¹⁰⁶ Rome Statute, art. 7 (1) (e).

¹⁰⁷ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/least-75-palestinians-have-died-israeli-detention-7-october-2023>; and <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-west-bank-raids-detention-and-ill-treatment-palestinians>. See also www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june; see www.phr.org.il/en/torture-of-medical-workers/; and <https://pchr.org/pchr-documents-testimonies-of-systematic-rape-and-sexual-torture-in-israeli-detention-against-released-palestinian-detainees/>.

¹⁰⁸ See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/least-75-palestinians-have-died-israeli-detention-7-october-2023>.

¹⁰⁹ See <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/160552>; <https://hamoked.org/document.php?dID=Updates2431>; www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-01-16/ty-article-magazine/.premium/constant-handcuffs-and-no-showers-gazans-detail-abuse-in-israeli-detention/00000194-6edf-d876-affe-7eff8f7f0000; and www.972mag.com/offer-camp-torture-gaza-detainees/. See also www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june, paras. 38–40.

¹¹⁰ See <https://english.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/163445>.

51 boys, 1 girl and 18 males whose age was not known,¹¹¹ while Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups continued to withhold the bodies of 11 Israeli and foreign adult male nationals, including the body of one soldier withheld since 2014.

45. According to OHCHR monitoring, in Gaza, the Israeli military appeared to have regularly used detained Palestinians to shield themselves from attack, to search houses and tunnels and to relay demands for the evacuation of buildings and schools. In the West Bank, OHCHR documented cases of Palestinians apparently being used to shield Israeli security forces from possible fire during operations in Jenin and during house searches.¹¹² Hostage-taking and using protected persons as human shields amount to war crimes, including during law enforcement operations in occupied territory.¹¹³

E. Attacks on journalists

46. OHCHR documented an unprecedented, multifaceted attack on Palestinian journalists. During the reporting period, Israel killed, censored, arbitrarily detained and ill-treated Palestinian journalists, further inhibiting media coverage of the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law taking place.¹¹⁴ Given the pattern of the killing of journalists by Israel, Gaza remained the deadliest place in the world to be a journalist. OHCHR has verified the killing of 289 Palestinian journalists in Gaza since 7 October 2023 (249 men and 40 women),¹¹⁵ with 103 killed during the reporting period (90 men and 13 women). “Press vests have transformed from a means of protection to a target for attacks”, one journalist told OHCHR.¹¹⁶ There were incidents that strongly indicated that journalists may have been deliberately targeted by the Israeli military during their work. For instance, on 25 August, Israel conducted at least two strikes on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, targeting a location known to be used by journalists.¹¹⁷ The first strike killed a journalist who was reportedly filming at the scene, and the second strike killed four journalists who had subsequently rushed to the scene. In total, the strikes killed 23 Palestinians. Directing attacks against protected persons, such as journalists, is a violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime.¹¹⁸ The refusal of Israel to allow international journalists to report from Gaza has helped both its armed forces and Palestinian armed groups to avoid transparency and accountability.¹¹⁹

47. Journalists were targeted with arbitrary arrest and detention. As of 31 October 2025, 41 Palestinian journalists were being detained, with the majority of those from Gaza held under the Unlawful Combatants Law, and those from the West Bank also held under administrative detention or incitement charges related to their work.¹²⁰ In detention, journalists were subjected by Israel to torture and other ill-treatment, including rape and other

¹¹¹ Information from the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center.

¹¹² See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-grave-breaches-international-law-occupied-palestinian-territory-must-end-enar>; and www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2025/03/brink-women-occupied-palestinian-territory.

¹¹³ A/HRC/55/28, para. 64; ICRC study, rule 156; and Rome Statute, article 8 (2) (a) (viii) and (b) (xxiii).

¹¹⁴ See <https://mezan.org/en/post/46762>.

¹¹⁵ See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-un-human-rights-office-condemns-targeting-journalists-and-attacks-hospitals-enar>.

¹¹⁶ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-there-can-be-no-talk-free-press-occupied-palestinian-territory-if-journalists-are-being-killed-and-threatened-their-work>.

¹¹⁷ OHCHR monitoring. See also <https://x.com/UNHumanRights/status/1954850777731641516>; and www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/04/gaza-increasing-israeli-evacuation-orders-lead-forcible-transfer.

¹¹⁸ Rome Statute, article 8 (2) (b) (i).

¹¹⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/06/hc-turk-updates-human-rights-council-we-need-strongest-possible.

¹²⁰ Information from the Palestinian Syndicate of Journalists. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-there-can-be-no-talk-free-press-occupied-palestinian-territory-if-journalists-are-being-killed-and-threatened-their-work>.

forms of sexual violence.¹²¹ In one case in the West Bank documented by OHCHR, a male Palestinian journalist was arbitrarily detained for several months, including in an Israeli prison where he was repeatedly gang raped by Israeli Prison Service personnel over a period of three to four hours. During the incident, he was shackled at both his hands and feet, stripped of all clothing and blindfolded. Israeli Prison Service personnel, who had their faces concealed, took turns repeatedly inserting an object, likely a baton, into his anus, then poured urine over his head. His genitals were also pulled and squeezed during the abuse. Following the incident, the victim experienced rectal bleeding for 23 consecutive days without receiving medical treatment.

48. OHCHR documented that the Palestinian Authority routinely intimidated, detained and ill-treated journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals deemed critical of its rule. On 1 January 2025, the Palestinian Authority suspended Al Jazeera's broadcasting – already banned in Israel and East Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities – in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for “inciting content, misinformation, sedition and interference in Palestinian internal affairs”, apparently in relation to its coverage of Operation Protect the Homeland in Jenin.¹²² The ban was lifted on 12 May 2025. The Palestinian Authority arbitrarily arrested and ill-treated journalists in relation to coverage of the Jenin operation¹²³ and coverage of the release of Palestinian detainees by Israel in relation to the Gaza ceasefire agreement.¹²⁴ The Palestinian Authority also arrested and interrogated Palestinians for posts on social media critical of it or for engaging in peaceful demonstrations, with testimonies and video evidence indicating the torture or other ill-treatment of detainees.¹²⁵

III. Accountability

49. OHCHR was not aware of any steps taken through the Israeli justice system during the reporting period to ensure due accountability for violations of international humanitarian law, including alleged war crimes, perpetrated during the current conduct of hostilities in Gaza, reflecting the experience of previous rounds of hostilities in Gaza over the preceding decades.

50. Impunity also remained pervasive for incidents of unlawful use of force by Israeli security forces outside the context of hostilities.¹²⁶ Between 1 January 2017 and 31 October 2025, 1,521 Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in law enforcement operations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. According to information available to OHCHR, only 112 of these deaths have been or are under criminal investigation, and at least 29 investigations were closed without further action, with indictments issued in only two cases and only one leading to a conviction. OHCHR is unaware of any indictments related to killings or relevant developments within these investigations during the reporting period. Regarding persistent allegations of the torture and other ill-treatment of Palestinians in Israeli detention facilities, there was only one conviction during the reporting period – of an Israeli army reservist sentenced to seven months in prison for abusing Palestinian security detainees in Sde Teiman detention facility.¹²⁷

¹²¹ See also www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/thematic-report-detention-context-escalation-hostilities-gaza-october-2023-june, para. 29.

¹²² See <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/01/1158936>.

¹²³ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-un-human-rights-office-opt-condemns-recent-spate-killings-civilians-across-west-bank-and-gaza>.

¹²⁴ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-violence-and-restrictions-occupied-west-bank-coinciding-ceasefire-implementation>.

¹²⁵ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-un-human-rights-office-opt-condemns-recent-spate-killings-civilians-across-west-bank-and-gaza>. See also www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/08/occupied-palestinian-territory-marwan-barghouti-and-human-rights.

¹²⁶ See also [A/HRC/58/28](#), para. 55.

¹²⁷ See <https://img.haaretz.co.il/bs/00000194-dafa-d390-a1b6-ffff7ac60000/98/e1/6dd32ef14e3c9ffc228ddd801412/%D7%92%D7%96%D7%A8-%D7%94%D7%93%D7%99%D7%9F.pdf>; and www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-02-06/ty-article/.premium/in-

51. International courts continued to provide an important avenue for the pursuit of accountability. On 21 November 2024, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for one Israeli high-ranking official, one former Israeli official and one former commander of Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades, for certain war crimes and crimes against humanity.¹²⁸ Proceedings against the latter were terminated following the notification of his death. By the end of the reporting period, the execution of the other two warrants was pending. Undermining the rule of law and administration of justice, unilateral sanctions were imposed on judges and prosecutors of the International Criminal Court and on certain organizations and individuals for cooperating with the Court, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, for acts undertaken while discharging her mandate, resulting in negative and extensive effects on them in numerous States.¹²⁹

52. The International Court of Justice continued proceedings in relation to the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip, in which it had indicated provisional measures on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024.¹³⁰ Separately, on 22 October 2025, the Court issued an advisory opinion on, *inter alia*, the obligations of Israel, as the Occupying Power, under international humanitarian law, with regard to issues addressed in the present report. The Court also stated that Israel had an obligation under international human rights law to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including through the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third States, in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.¹³¹

53. While efforts were under way, by the end of the reporting period, to advance the United States-led "Comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict" that went into effect on 9 October 2025, the absence of any steps to ensure accountability for violations of international law since 7 October 2023 represented a critical gap. This included the absence of any steps to ensure the collection and preservation of evidence for future prosecutions under international criminal law.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

54. **Israeli forces and Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups have continued to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza, gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and atrocity crimes.**

55. **The human-made humanitarian catastrophe further deepened, which included the spread of famine, starvation and malnutrition and the critical lack of healthcare and other basic necessities across Gaza.**

56. **The cumulative impact of Israeli forces' conduct of hostilities in Gaza since 7 October and its long-standing blockade of Gaza has been the infliction of conditions of life increasingly incompatible with Palestinians' continued existence as a group in Gaza.¹³² This conduct has occurred through recurrent violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. These violations also encompassed the commission of crimes under international law and appeared to be aimed at a permanent demographic shift in Gaza, raising concerns over**

first-since-start-of-war-israeli-soldier-convicted-of-abusing-gazan-detainees/00000194-dae4-ddbc-a1dd-dae6f5d10000.

¹²⁸ See www.icc-cpi.int/palestine; and www.icc-cpi.int/court-record/icc-01/18-417.

¹²⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/09/hc-turk-updates-human-rights-council-we-need-safeguard-eighty-years; see www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/turk-calls-us-withdraw-sanctions-against-palestinian-rights-groups; and www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/turk-denounces-intensification-us-reprisals-against-international-criminal.

¹³⁰ See www.icj-cij.org/case/192/provisional-measures.

¹³¹ See <https://icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/196/196-20251022-adv-01-00-en.pdf>.

¹³² See www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/05/turk-israeli-plans-expand-gaza-offensive-aggravate-concerns-regarding; and www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/04/turk-calls-world-prevent-total-humanitarian-catastrophe-gaza.

ethnic cleansing.¹³³ Israel has a legal obligation to take the steps ordered by the International Court of Justice, to prevent acts of genocide, to prevent and punish the incitement to commit genocide and to ensure that enough aid reaches Palestinians in Gaza. All States are also obligated under international law to take action to prevent and punish genocide.

57. There remains a pervasive climate of impunity in relation to gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, some constituting war crimes and possibly other international crimes. No meaningful steps were taken by the justice system of Israel in relation to accountability for violations committed by Israeli officials and/or settlers. Furthermore, the manner in which hostilities were conducted by Israeli forces in Gaza has been emblematic of what comes with pervasive impunity. There must also be accountability for serious violations of international law, including possible international crimes, by Hamas and its armed wing, Al-Qassam Brigades, as well as other Palestinian armed groups.

58. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the systematic unlawful use of force by Israeli security forces, including lethal force, the widespread arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of Palestinians in detention and the extensive unlawful demolition of Palestinian homes are being undertaken with impunity and used to systematically discriminate, oppress, control and dominate the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem,¹³⁴ amounting to a violation of article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid.¹³⁵ These violations, together with pervasive and growing settler violence committed with impunity,¹³⁶ are fundamental to the coercive environment that induces forced displacement and forcible transfer,¹³⁷ which is a war crime,¹³⁸ altering the character, status and demographic composition of the occupied West Bank, raising serious concerns of ethnic cleansing.

59. Considered together, Israeli practices across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, indicated a concerted and accelerating effort to consolidate the annexation of large parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to deny Palestinians' right to self-determination.

60. In line with the ruling of the International Court of Justice, Israel must end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible.

61. Efforts to reach lasting peace, including the implementation of the "Comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict",¹³⁹ need to include steps to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all duty bearers. Justice for victims must lay the foundation for the reconstruction of Gaza. Duty bearers must ensure Palestinians' immediate participation in governance structures to determine and shape the reconstruction of Gaza and to ensure that two States can exist side by side in a human rights compliant manner. The realization of Palestinians' right to self-determination must not be delayed or made contingent on vague and indeterminate conditions.

62. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urges Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and, as applicable, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups

¹³³ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/09/hc-turk-updates-human-rights-council-we-need-safeguard-eighty-years.

¹³⁴ [A/80/399](#), para. 38; and [A/HRC/58/73](#), paras. 10 and 40.

¹³⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/israels-discriminatory-administration-occupied-west-bank-including-east.

¹³⁶ [A/80/399](#), paras. 38–46.

¹³⁷ *Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel*, para. 154. See also <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/un-human-rights-office-opt-mass-displacement-palestinians-northern-west-bank-source-growing-concern-enar>, [A/80/399](#) and [A/HRC/58/73](#).

¹³⁸ Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (b) (viii).

¹³⁹ Subsequently endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2803 (2025).

to take meaningful action on his previous calls¹⁴⁰ upon them, including to prevent, repress and punish all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law.

63. The High Commissioner reiterates his calls upon States to pursue accountability through the exercise of universal jurisdiction to try crimes under international law in national courts, consistent with international standards, and through cooperation with the International Criminal Court, and to encourage Israel to cooperate in good faith with the United Nations, including OHCHR, in line with the ruling of the International Court of Justice of 22 October 2025.

64. He also calls upon all States to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel facilitating violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

¹⁴⁰ [A/HRC/58/28](#), paras. 66–68.