

# HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

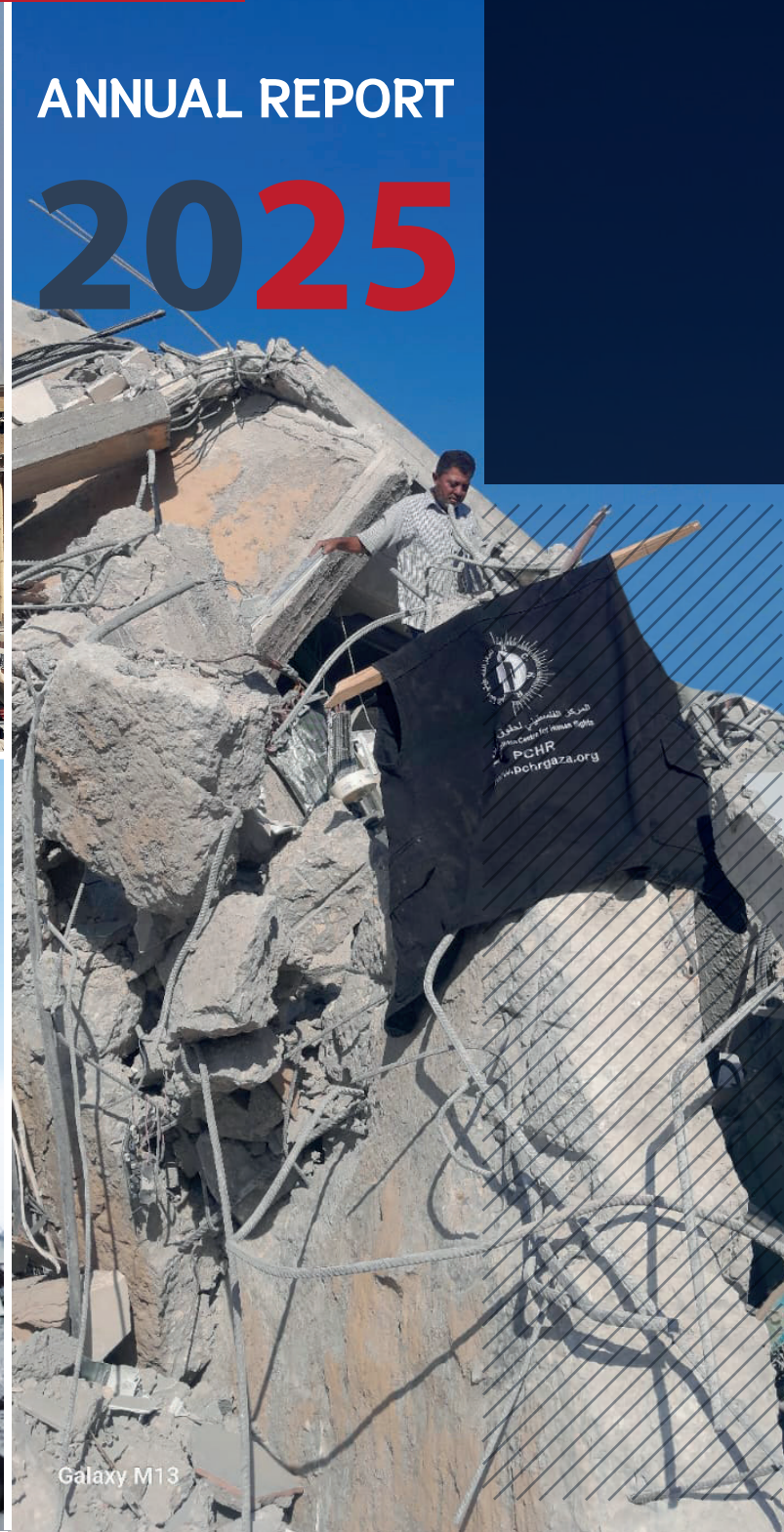
## PCHR'S ACTIVITY REPORT



**PCHR**  
المركز الفلسطيني  
لحقوق الإنسان

### ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025







## PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Centre is an independent Palestinian human rights organization (registered as a non-profit Ltd. Company) based in Gaza City. The Centre enjoys Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nation. It is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists–Geneva; the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Pairs; member of the Euro–Mediterranean Human Rights Network – Copenhagen; member of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) – Stockholm; member of the Arab Organization for Human Rights – Cairo; and member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty – Rome. It is a recipient of the 1996 French Republic Award on Human Rights, the 2002 Bruno Kreisky Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights and the 2003 International Service Human Rights Award (UNAIS). The Centre was established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists in order to:

- » Protect human rights and promote the rule of law in accordance with international standards.
- » Create and develop democratic institutions and an active civil society, while promoting democratic culture within Palestinian society.
- » Support all the efforts aimed at enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in regard to self-determination and independence in accordance with international Law and UN resolutions.

The work of the Centre is conducted through documentation and investigation of human rights violations, provision of legal aid and counseling for both individuals and groups, and preparation of research articles relevant to such issues as the human rights situation and the rule of law. The Centre also provides comments on Palestinian Draft Laws and urges the adoption of legislation that incorporates international human rights standards and basic democratic principles. To achieve its goals, the Centre has recruited a committed staff of well-known human rights lawyers and activists.

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CENTRE'S WORK

The Centre determined after a thorough legal assessment of the peace accords signed by the PLO and the Israeli government that the occupation would continue both physically and legally. According to these agreements Israel has redeployed its forces inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while Israeli settlements and military installations maintain their presence in Palestinian territory. The major legal aspects of the Israeli occupation remain in place. Israeli military orders that safeguard Israeli control over the Palestinian people and their land remain valid in accordance with the peace agreement. The Israeli military court is still functioning and to this day thousands of Palestinians languish in Israeli prisons. The essential elements of the Palestinian issue remain unresolved – the right to self-determination, the right to an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the right to remove illegal Israeli settlements from the Occupied Territory. All of these constitute basic unfulfilled rights of the Palestinian people. In light of this wide-ranging disregard for Palestinian rights, the Centre concludes it must continue its work to protect Palestinian human rights from ongoing violations by the Israeli government and courts.

The peace accords and the major political changes resulting from the agreement, including the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in part of the Occupied Territories, has led to a vital and active role for the Centre in protecting civil and political rights and in promoting the development of democratic institutions, an active civil society, and a democratic legal system in Palestine.

## WORK UNITS OF THE CENTRE

The Centre is composed of specialized working units which carry out their activities in an autonomous but integrated manner.

- **Fieldwork Unit**

The fieldwork is considered the basic activity of the Centre. Well-trained field workers located in different areas of the Gaza Strip obtain accurate and documented legal information on human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. They gather information in the field from victims and witnesses of human rights violations. The information is received by the coordinator of the unit and other researchers to verify accuracy. Through the field workers' presence in the field the Centre has been able to maintain close contacts with the community. In this way, the community is able to influence

the work of the Centre and the Centre is able to meet the community's interests and demands.

- **Legal Unit**

This unit is composed primarily of a team of lawyers who give free legal aid and counselling to individuals and groups. The unit also carries out legal intervention with concerned bodies and makes legal representations before courts in cases that involve broad principles of human rights that affect not just the individual before the court but the community as a whole. Furthermore, the unit attempts to support the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

- **Democratic Development Unit**

This unit specializes in the promotion of democracy and the promotion of civil society and the rule of law. The unit's team carries out research and organises workshops and seminars to discuss issues on human rights and democracy. The unit's team also prepares comments on draft laws prepared by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to influence the decision-making process and the adoption of democratic laws. The unit has been also involved in providing training on human rights and democracy for youth groups.

- **Economic and Social Rights Unit**

This unit seeks to ensure the importance of economic and social rights through research and study. Such work is particularly important because it tends to be neglected, to some extent, by other human rights organizations. To achieve its goals the unit conducts studies, workshops, and seminars that focus attention on economic and social rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The unit seeks to develop recommendations and standards for each of these rights to be fulfilled in the Palestinian situation. Moreover, the unit reviews and assesses the legislation and draft laws pertaining to these rights adopted by the Palestinian Authority in an effort to secure legislation that is in harmony with international standards. The unit further seeks to provide an informative training base for governmental and non-governmental personnel who are empowered to set plans and implement

programs and policies relevant to these rights. The goal of such training is to help bring economic and social rights into alignment with the standards accepted internationally and to ensure the maximum degree of implementation of these rights.

- **Woman Rights Unit**

This Unit was established as a pilot project in May of 1997 for one year, renewable upon assessment of its accomplishments. The initial project was established after a thorough and comprehensive study of the conditions of Palestinian women and the work of women's institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Unit aims to provide legal aid for women and women's organizations. Intervention on behalf of women in Shari'a courts is included in its mandate. The Unit further aims to raise awareness of women's rights established by international human rights conventions and to raise the awareness of Palestinian women in regard to their rights under local law. Finally, the Unit is carrying out studies on Palestinian women and the law, while supporting the amendment of local laws inconsistent with women's rights.

- **The Training Unit**

The Training Unit is a main instrument in PCHR's work in disseminating and developing a human rights culture, and promoting democratic concepts in the local community with all its various segments. The Unit organizes and holds training courses and workshops in order to develop theoretical knowledge and provide professional skills that can contribute to a real change in the behavior of the society, which in turn can promote respect for, and protection of human rights and participation in community building. The target groups of the training courses and workshops are particularly the youth, including university students, activists of political parties, lawyers, media, union members, and other civil society groups.

- **The Library**

The Centre has established a specialised legal library in subjects related to local and international law, human rights, and democracy. The library includes books and periodicals in both Arabic and English and includes all Palestinian laws and Israeli military orders. Documents pertaining to laws of neighbouring Arab countries are also available. Furthermore, the library includes a variety of books and periodicals detailing the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The library is open for the free use of researchers, academics, and students.

- **Funding of the Centre**

The Centre is funded by the generous contributions of a number of international non-governmental organizations in the fields of human rights, democracy, and

social justice and a number of Governments which has friendly relationships with the Palestinian people.

## BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dr. Riad Al-Zanoun

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Mr. Jaber Wishah | Ms. Nadia Abu Nahla | Mr. Hashem Al-Thalathini

Ms. Muna Shawa | Mr. Raji Sourani | Ms. Heba Akkila

## [ DIRECTOR GENERAL ]

Mr. Raji Sourani

“ The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights is an independent legal body dedicated to the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, and the upholding of democratic principles in the Occupied Territories. Most of the Centre’s activities and interests concentrate on the Gaza Strip due to the restriction on movement between the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli government and its military apparatus. ”

## PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In light of the ongoing genocidal war on the Gaza Strip and the destruction of PCHR's Head Office in Gaza, PCHR's temporary address is:

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## FOREWORD:

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) presents its 2025 Annual Report, in continuation of a long-standing tradition it has upheld for more than three decades since its establishment. This report is issued under exceptionally grave and tragic circumstances faced by the Palestinian people—particularly in the Gaza Strip—amid the ongoing genocidal war waged by the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) since 7 October 2023.

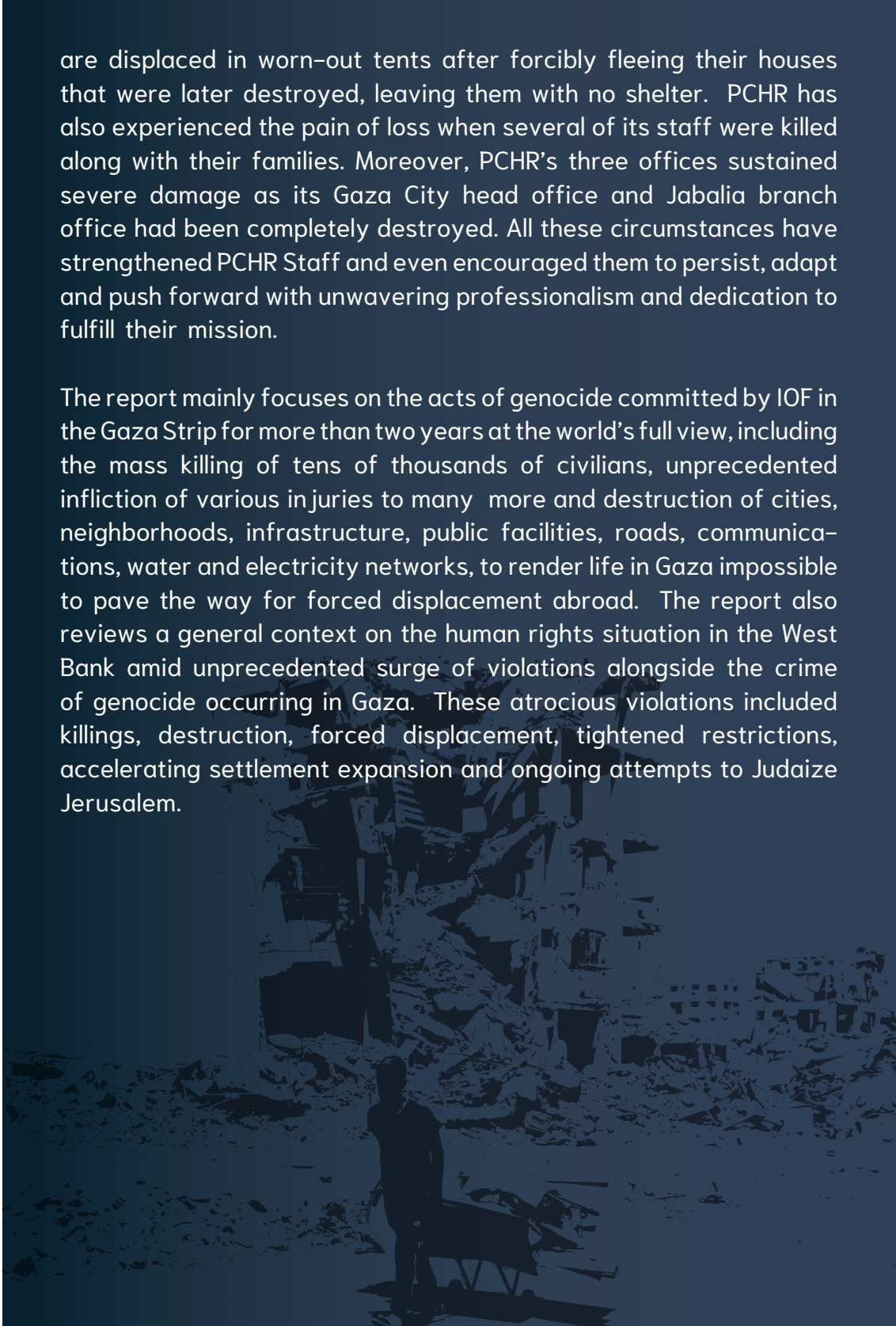
The report reflects PCHR's work over the course of the year and is structured in two parts.

1. **Part 1: Human Rights Situation:** it examines the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), with a primary focus on war crimes and serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed by the IOF in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.
2. **Part 2: PCHR's Activities:** it presents PCHR's diverse activities and programs at both the local and international levels during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. It also highlights PCHR's adaptive and innovative responses to the conditions imposed by the war on Gaza, in light of the significant shifts in the scale and nature of its interventions.

PCHR could successively implement its activities according to its 5-year strategic plan despite all the dire circumstances facing the Palestinian people amid the ongoing genocide that has forced 2.3 million Palestinians to face an unknown fate alone amid deafening international silence. Meanwhile, PCHR was no better than civilians in Gaza and went through the same suffering they endured from killings, displacement and destruction. The majority of PCHR's staff

are displaced in worn-out tents after forcibly fleeing their houses that were later destroyed, leaving them with no shelter. PCHR has also experienced the pain of loss when several of its staff were killed along with their families. Moreover, PCHR's three offices sustained severe damage as its Gaza City head office and Jabalia branch office had been completely destroyed. All these circumstances have strengthened PCHR Staff and even encouraged them to persist, adapt and push forward with unwavering professionalism and dedication to fulfill their mission.

The report mainly focuses on the acts of genocide committed by IOF in the Gaza Strip for more than two years at the world's full view, including the mass killing of tens of thousands of civilians, unprecedented infliction of various injuries to many more and destruction of cities, neighborhoods, infrastructure, public facilities, roads, communications, water and electricity networks, to render life in Gaza impossible to pave the way for forced displacement abroad. The report also reviews a general context on the human rights situation in the West Bank amid unprecedented surge of violations alongside the crime of genocide occurring in Gaza. These atrocious violations included killings, destruction, forced displacement, tightened restrictions, accelerating settlement expansion and ongoing attempts to Judaize Jerusalem.





# Human Rights

## Situation in the oPt:

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### INTRODUCTION

By the end of 2025, the human rights and international humanitarian law situation across the oPt had deteriorated to unprecedented levels. Meanwhile, the IOF continued to perpetrate genocide in the Gaza Strip for nearly 26 months, destroying more than 80% of the territory and reducing the lives of approximately 2.5 million Palestinians to a slow, protracted death— caught between systematic starvation and a suffocating siege aimed at their forcible displacement outside the Strip.

Despite the announcement of a fragile ceasefire in October 2025, the IOF persisted in policies of “de facto annexation,” alongside the obstruction of humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts. These practices have entrenched a catastrophic humanitarian reality and rendered the Gaza Strip effectively uninhabitable, in flagrant violation of the principles of international humanitarian law.

As the genocidal war in Gaza enters its third year, the international community has begun taking unprecedented legal steps, reflected in historic decisions issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). These include the issuance of arrest warrants against the Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, as well as the landmark advisory opinion delivered by the ICJ on the oPt. In parallel, the United States, as a strategic ally of Israel, has adopted retaliatory measures aimed at undermining these international efforts to advance justice and accountability.

While these decisions have offered a glimmer of hope for victims and their families after decades of injustice and impunity, the United States admin-

istration has imposed sanctions on three leading Palestinian human rights organizations: PCHR, Al-Haq, and Al-Mezan. These sanctions were enacted pursuant to Executive Order 14203, on the grounds that these organizations have “directly engaged in efforts by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute Israeli nationals without Israel’s consent.”

These measures are intended to paralyze the work of human rights organizations that play a critical role in documenting crimes committed against the Palestinian people and in collecting the legal evidence necessary to support accountability for violations in the oPt. The three organizations constitute a primary source of legal documentation and victim testimonies concerning violations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Their closure would result in the absence of independent bodies capable of documenting crimes with the highest standards of professionalism and would represent a direct attempt to undermine the international justice and accountability system.

This measure clearly reflects the United States’ bias in favor of the Israeli occupation and its efforts to provide it with legal and political protection. Such actions contribute to the entrenchment of Israel’s settler-colonial regime, grounded in illegal occupation and apartheid, and impede any meaningful path toward international accountability.

These sanctions form part of a continued series of punitive measures adopted by the United States administration against ICC judges and staff, UN Special Rapporteurs, and Palestinian human rights defenders. This has occurred alongside Israeli policies aimed at isolating the oPt from international oversight, including the systematic targeting of media outlets, the denial of access to international media in the Gaza Strip, and the obstruction of the work of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry.

Moreover, in 2025, Israel imposed a series of tightened procedural and on-the-ground restrictions aimed at crippling UNRWA operations across the oPt, effectively attempting to create conditions that make its work impossible. As a result, millions of Palestinian refugees are at risk of being deprived of essential services.

In this context, the Israeli Knesset issued a decision in October 2024 to prohibit UNRWA’s operations in Israel and East Jerusalem, while severely restricting its

activities in Gaza and the West Bank. This decision is expected to result in the disruption of essential services and the confiscation of property. The law is set to enter into force 90 days after its issuance. It also imposes restrictions on the issuance of permits required for UNRWA staff to enter Israel and prohibiting Israeli banks from facilitating financial services for the agency.

Israeli crimes extended beyond military aggression to include a systematic campaign aimed at eliminating the presence of international organizations in Palestine. In 2025, further measures were imposed, including the banning of UNRWA aid entry to Gaza in March; the suspension of issuance and renewal of entry visas for UNRWA international staff since January 2025; raids and physical assaults on UNRWA offices in the al-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied Jerusalem; and, finally, the Knesset's approval in December 2025 of an additional law prohibiting the provision of electricity, water, and fuel to UNRWA institutions, while also cutting all banking services and blocking any contact with the agency.

In this broader context, completing the organizational siege and attempts to impose a trusteeship over the Palestinian people through the violation and marginalization of their rights, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted [Resolution 2803](#), effectively normalizing the colonial occupation of Palestinian territory. This resolution which was widely criticized by [Palestinian civil society organizations](#) was imposed on the Palestinian people without their consent, constituting a flagrant violation of their inalienable right to self-determination. The United States and its allies have made it clear that this plan must be accepted, explicitly threatening to “finish the job”—an overt reference to the resumption of genocidal operations in Gaza. UN experts, including [Francesca Albanese](#), Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, have described this as a “capital-driven model of foreign control” that entrenches existing power asymmetries rather than delivering justice.

Throughout the year, the IOF continued their brutal war on the Gaza Strip, persisting in the genocidal campaign initiated in October 2023. During this period, the IOF deployed the most devastating military means against Palestinian civilians. More than 80% of the Gaza Strip has been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of civilians—predominantly women and children—have been killed or injured. The destruction has extended to virtually all infrastructure, including the health and education systems, as well as commercial, economic, and agricultural

sectors. A policy of starvation has been systematically imposed, exacerbated by a comprehensive siege on a territory already subjected to blockade for 18 years. Essential supplies, including food and medicine, have been deliberately denied entry in a calculated effort to inflict mass suffering—both to increase civilian deaths and to exert pressure aimed at the forcible displacement of the population beyond the Strip. This war has fundamentally targeted the very existence of Palestinians on their land, seeking to uproot and forcibly displace them under conditions of sustained and unprecedented military bombardment, the scale and intensity of which are unparalleled in modern history.

IOF have continued to escalate their military operations at an accelerating pace, inflicting thousands of deaths and injuries, and causing widespread destruction and immeasurable human suffering. The Gaza Strip has effectively been transformed into an open arena of mass atrocities, as the Israeli war machine has persistently targeted residential buildings, bombing homes with their inhabitants inside, resulting in the killing of entire families and their burial beneath the rubble. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed, while many more have sustained severe injuries, leaving a significant number with permanent disabilities. Thousands of others remain missing trapped beneath the debris.

Amid this catastrophic reality, Israel has thrown open the doors of its prisons to detain thousands of Palestinians who have been subjected to various forms of brutal torture, resulting in the deaths of many and leaving others to endure severe suffering under inhumane detention conditions. PCHR has documented harrowing testimonies from released detainees, who reported being subjected to rape, including both women and men. At the same time, approximately two million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced under bombardment and widespread destruction, after being ordered to evacuate to areas designated by Israel as “safe.” Those displaced have instead faced hunger, cold and a slow, prolonged death, as a result of the ongoing siege and the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies.

The policy of starvation has continued as a systematic weapon, exacerbating the suffering of the besieged population, while Israel persists in erasing all aspects of life. Entire neighborhoods have been wiped out; hospitals have been destroyed along with the wounded and sick inside them; and educational institutions—including universities and schools that had been turned into shelters for displaced people—have been bombed with those inside. Moreover, water,

electricity, and road networks have been paralyzed, while economic, commercial, and agricultural facilities have been systematically destroyed. As a result, the Gaza Strip population has been left in conditions unfit for human life, facing a devastating fate that threatens their very existence day after day.

In the West Bank, the situation has been no less severe. Israel's violations against civilians in 2025 have reached unprecedented levels as IOF launched widescale military campaigns in northern West Bank, particularly Jenin and Tulkarm. IOF repeatedly raided those two cities alongside their refugee camps, committed horrific massacres that killed hundreds, destroyed the infrastructure, levelled hundreds of houses to ruins and forcibly displaced thousands from their homes. Meanwhile, additional waves of displacement occurred in Masafer Yatta and Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley, where thousands more were forced from their homes following widespread demolitions.

Alongside the crimes unfolding, settlement expansion and settlers' attacks alarmingly accelerated while attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and isolate it from its surroundings intensified. Also, Israel imposed more restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement by increasing military checkpoints between cities and villages in a prelude to isolate the West Bank and turn it into isolated cantons as part of the Israeli government's broader plan to impose full sovereignty over the territory. Amid all these repressive measures, arrests continued at wide scale as thousands were detained in brutal conditions, and many died due to torture and medical neglect.

This report reviews the key features of the human rights and international humanitarian law situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) during 2025. It documents the various forms of violations committed and examines their impact on the lives of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Amid the ongoing systematic crime of genocide perpetrated by IOF against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip for the second consecutive year; at a time when Palestinians across the oPt face the most intense campaigns of ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and the deliberate use of starvation as a method of warfare; according to historic decisions issued by the ICJ have emphasized the existence of a real threat of genocide and established legally binding provisional measures to prevent it; the arrest warrants issued by the ICC against Israeli leaders for their involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity; and In light of Israel's continued defiance of all United Nations resolutions and principles of international humanitarian law, exploiting international inaction and silence—which, in effect, amounts to complicity by states and actors that continue to provide Israel with military support and political cover, PCHR underscores that the international community's failure to take effective deterrent and punitive measures has significantly undermined the international judicial system as a whole. Accordingly, PCHR recommends the following actions to the international community:

### **PCHR's recommendations to the international community:**

- » Immediate and definitive cessation of aggression: Exercise genuine and binding pressure to end the crime of genocide and all forms of systematic targeting of civilians and civilian objects in the Gaza Strip.
- » Opening crossings and ensuring humanitarian relief: Guarantee the permanent opening of all border crossings to allow the unrestricted flow of humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and fuel, in order to avert famine and end the siege used as a tool of extermination.
- » Establish an effective Gaza reconstruction mechanism: Operate under a United Nations mandate, in consultation with and with the explicit consent of representatives of the Palestinian people.
- » Impose diplomatic, military, and economic sanctions on Israel: This includes a trilateral arms embargo and restrictions on energy sources.

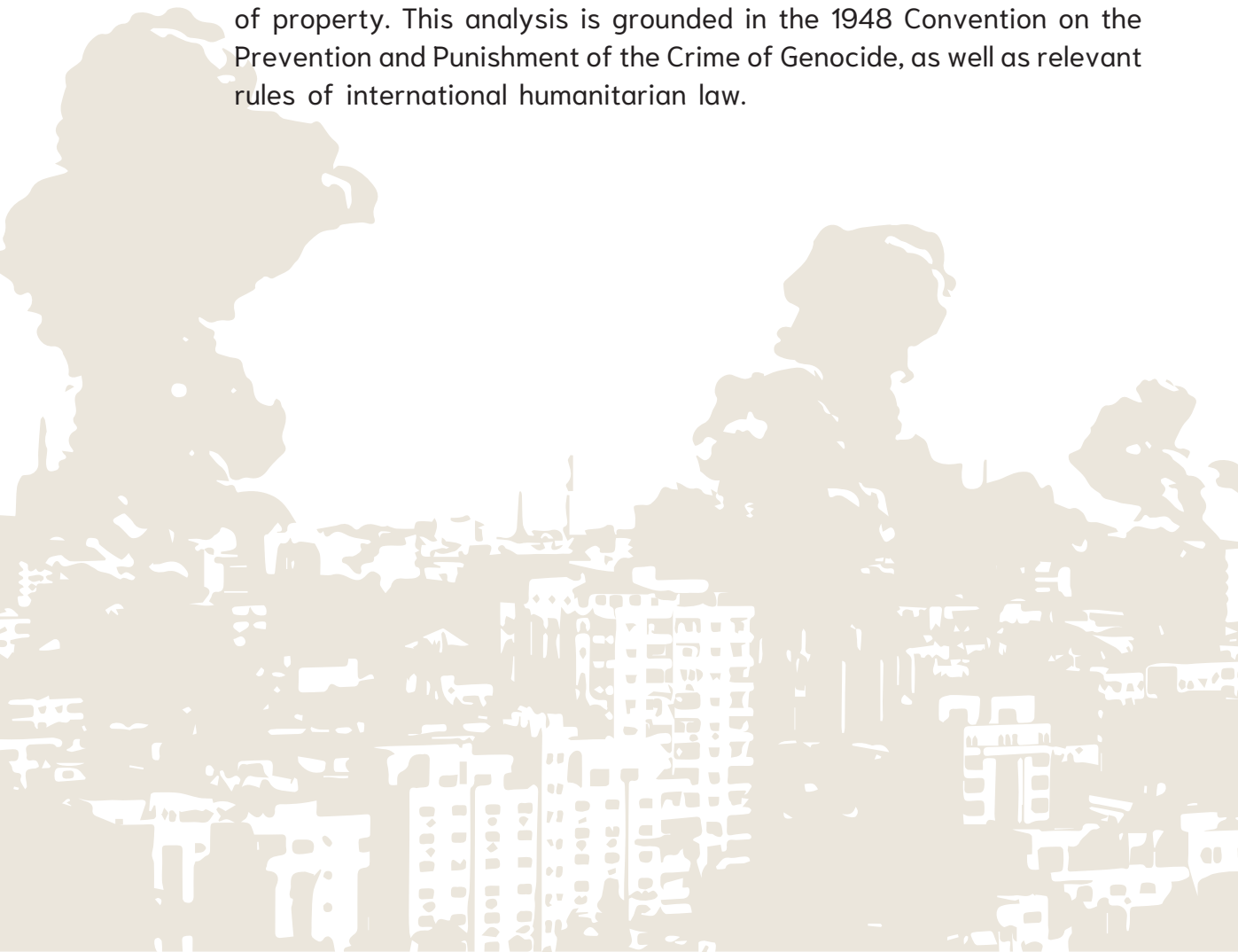
- » Reinforce accountability for historical and ongoing atrocities: Support the establishment of an independent and impartial international mechanism to investigate crimes committed against the Palestinian people.
- » Implement international arrest warrants: Call on states—particularly in Europe and parties to the Rome Statute—to fulfill their legal obligations and execute arrest warrants issued by the ICC.
- » Prioritize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people: Including the right to self-determination and the right of Palestinian refugees in exile and diaspora to return.
- » Dismantle the Israeli settler-colonial apartheid system on both sides of the Green Line.
- » End the illegal Israeli occupation: Halt the accelerated process of annexation of oPt.
- » Ensure compliance by third states with ICJ advisory opinions: Including the 2024 opinion on the legal consequences of Israeli policies and practices in the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and the 2004 opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall.
- » Uphold legal obligations of third states regarding the Palestinian people's right to protection: A right inherent to their self-determination, as affirmed by the ICJ advisory opinion of July 2024 on the illegality of the occupation, and reflected in subsequent relevant UN General Assembly resolutions.
- » Protect UNRWA: Reject Israeli attempts to ban or undermine UNRWA operations and ensure its continued funding as a lifeline for refugees and as a living testament to their cause until the realization of return and reparations.
- » Revoke all unjust designations against Palestinian civil society organizations: Lift classifications labeling them as “terrorist” or “illegal,” which aim to cut off their funding and undermine their oversight and service roles. Ensure international protection for activists and civil society staff facing arbitrary detention or persecution for engaging in peaceful and lawful activities.

# 1.

## Human Rights Situation in the Gaza Strip in 2025:

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This part reviews the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip by systematically documenting the grave violations committed by the IOF during the ongoing genocidal war. It provides a chronological account of incidents that occurred throughout the year and offers an analysis of the patterns and principal forms of violations, including large-scale killings, the deliberate imposition of starvation, and the destruction of property. This analysis is grounded in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as relevant rules of international humanitarian law.



## 1.1 Chronology of Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip in 2025:

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By the beginning of 2025, approximately 15 months had elapsed since the onset of the genocidal war. During this period, at least 51,042 Palestinians were killed, and an additional 108,379 were injured.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the year, the crime of genocide continued to unfold at an accelerating pace, with both the intensity and scale of attacks increasing despite the announcement of a temporary ceasefire in January 2025, which lasted for approximately two months. This ceasefire quickly collapsed, and hostilities resumed with even greater bloodshed and destruction, accompanied by a significant escalation in the scale and scope of military operations.

Over the course of 2025, humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip deteriorated to unprecedented levels, surpassing in severity what has been recorded since the onset of the genocidal campaign. This deterioration encompassed mass killings, the intensification of the siege and starvation, the systematic obstruction of medical and food aid, and the accelerated demolition of homes and property. Entire cities and villages in the northern and southern Gaza Strip were destroyed or wiped out. On 11 October 2025, a ceasefire was declared following international and regional interventions and pressures. The agreement included humanitarian arrangements, a prisoner exchange, and promises to initiate a

However, until the end of the year, Israel failed to comply with the terms of the ceasefire agreement and continued to violate it repeatedly. This included the killing of dozens of Palestinians across Gaza Strip's cities and the continued obstruction of humanitarian aid, preventing its flow as stipulated in the agreement. Consequently, the humanitarian situation remained catastrophic, further entrenching a prevailing climate of impunity

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<sup>1</sup> Palestinian Ministry of Health- Health Information Unit: <https://www.sehatty.ps/public/>



### ■ Ceasefire Announcement – January 2025

On 19 January 2025, a ceasefire agreement was announced under international and regional sponsorship. The agreement was structured in three phases, each spanning 42 days. The first phase stipulated the release of 33 Israeli detainees in exchange for the release of a number of Palestinian prisoners, including those serving long sentences. It also called for a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces from areas they had occupied after 7 October in the northern and central Gaza Strip, the entry of humanitarian aid, and the gradual return of displaced persons to damaged areas. The details of the second and third phases were postponed for later negotiation, leaving the agreement fragile from the outset.

### ■ Return of Hundreds of Thousands of Displaced Persons to Northern Gaza

Approximately one week after the ceasefire came into effect, and following the initiation of prisoner exchanges, Israeli forces withdrew from the “Nitsarim” axis along the Rashid line west of Gaza City. Following this partial withdrawal, tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians returned on foot to their homes in Gaza City and its northern areas, after being displaced for 15 months from the central and southern parts of the Strip. At the same time, thousands of vehicles began returning north via the Salah al-Din corridor after undergoing security

inspections conducted by an Egyptian–Qatari committee, as stipulated in the agreement. Over the following days, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians seeking to return to their homes in northern Gaza continued to flow back to their destroyed neighborhoods.

In contrast, the majority of residents in Rafah were prevented from returning to their homes after Israeli forces refused to withdraw from the “Philadelphia” axis along the Egypt–Palestine border, insisting on remaining stationed there. Their presence posed a significant obstacle to the return of displaced persons. Forces stationed at this axis fired upon some Palestinians attempting to return to their homes located far north of the line of control, resulting in fatalities in many cases. This repeated targeting and killing by Israeli forces in Rafah occurred amid an unprecedented humanitarian disaster, as the area had been systematically devastated over the preceding months, complicating any return of residents following the fragile ceasefire.

### ■ Ongoing violations during the ceasefire

Despite the ceasefire coming into effect and the initiation of its terms, including prisoner exchanges, the IOF consistently failed to comply with the agreement. They continued to kill Palestinians through air bombardments and gunfire, including targeting civilian police officers and members of protection committees tasked with safeguarding humanitarian aid. These violations occurred amid ongoing efforts by armed groups—operating under direct IOF protection—to loot aid trucks and obstruct the delivery of essential assistance.

During the ceasefire, PCHR documented several airstrikes and gunfire incidents carried out by the IOF, which remained deployed inside the Gaza Strip, both along the southern Rafah area near the Palestinian–Egyptian border (Philadelphia axis) and the eastern Gaza Strip border. These attacks targeted tens of Palestinians attempting to check on their homes or agricultural lands. According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, the IOF killed 106 Palestinians and injured 959 others during this period.

In the same context, the IOF continued to enforce the closure of crossings and to use starvation as a method of warfare, amid escalating threats to resume large-scale military aggression in the Gaza Strip, thereby perpetuating the ongoing crime of genocide against Palestinians. These developments occurred alongside Israel’s persistent unilateral violations of the ceasefire agreement and

its refusal to enter negotiations for the second phase, causing the agreement to gradually unravel. Furthermore, Israel threatened to implement what it has referred to as the “Hell Plan,” which entails forcibly displacing residents from northern Gaza to the south again, cutting electricity, and resuming a full-scale genocidal campaign.

### ■ Violation of Ceasefire and Resumption of War on Gaza

At dawn on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, the IOF launched a large-scale air bombardment across the Gaza Strip, signaling the collapse of the ceasefire before the commencement of its second phase and the resumption of full-scale hostilities. Within the first hours of the attack, IOF airstrikes killed more than 300 Palestinians and injured hundreds more.

The Israeli strikes continued and expanded in both scope and intensity, culminating in May with the announcement of a new military plan, dubbed “Operation Gideon’s Chariots,” aimed at escalating the offensive on the Gaza Strip. According to Israeli media reports, the plan was designed to be implemented over several months and structured in three phases: the first phase aimed to evacuate residents from northern Gaza to the south and occupy the entire



northern Gaza Strip; the second phase involved the establishment of so-called “humanitarian centers” in southern Gaza, Rafah; and the third phase entailed a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, with reinforced military presence to defeat Hamas and destroy tunnels.

As the offensive intensified, the IOF continued the mass killing of Palestinian civilians, including the bombing of homes with their inhabitants inside, resulting in the eradication of entire families and neighborhoods. The attacks also targeted shelters, including schools and hospitals, as well as tents housing displaced people. Journalists and eyewitnesses were killed in significant numbers. The systematic destruction of cities persisted in both the northern and southern Gaza Strip, accompanied by mass forced displacement toward central and southern areas. Areas such as Jabalia and Beit Hanoun were subjected to continued devastation.

### ■ So-Called Aid Centers: Traps for Mass Killing

In parallel with the mass killings and forced displacements, the IOF continued to enforce a tightened siege on the Gaza Strip, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and intensifying the use of starvation. During this period, IOF also escalated the targeting of humanitarian aid teams and personnel responsible



for safeguarding aid, which was allowed to enter only in severely restricted and calculated ways. Through these measures, Israel aimed to generate chaos, aggravate the humanitarian crisis, and deepen the suffering of Palestinians. Simultaneously, IOF began implementing the second phase of the “Operation Gideon’s Chariots” plan, establishing in May “humanitarian aid centers” in areas under direct military control. These centers, operated by a U.S.-affiliated private organization under the guise of humanitarian assistance and directly protected by IOF forces, were concentrated in Rafah City as the primary hub for aid distribution. The dire conditions caused by the siege, starvation, and mass displacements compelled Palestinians to approach these centers despite the extreme risks involved. From the first day of their operation, the centers became death traps, with IOF and associated security teams opening fire on aid-seekers. This resulted in the deaths of 2,605 individuals, injuries to 19,124, and 200 reported missing persons.

### ■ Famine Looms Again over the Gaza Strip

The closure of crossings on 2 March and the continued obstruction of humanitarian aid entry have caused a severe deterioration of humanitarian conditions for the people of Gaza, resulting in acute shortages of food, medicine, water, fuel, and essential medical services. These restrictions have significantly exacerbated hunger and malnutrition. According to official government sources, dozens of Palestinians died from chronic and serious illnesses due to the unavailability of adequate treatment, both within Gaza and abroad, as the siege prevented travel for medical care. The siege has also contributed to the collapse of the health system, depriving hospitals of the fuel necessary for their operation and preventing the entry of essential medical supplies required for treatment.



## ■ Operation Gideon's Chariots

Over the course of the war, the IOF issued hundreds of forced displacement orders affecting hundreds of thousands of the Palestinian population. Large-scale ground operations were carried out across the Gaza Strip, resulting in the near-total destruction of Rafah, Khan Younis, and northern Gaza. These policies have forced more than two million Palestinians into an area constituting no more than 12% of the Gaza Strip, where they endure inhumane conditions lacking even the most basic necessities for survival. In early August, a new phase of escalation emerged following an announcement by the Israeli government on 8 August,<sup>2</sup> outlining a plan to assert full control over Gaza City, depopulate it, and forcibly displace its residents to the south. This plan appears to form part of a broader strategy aimed at erasing Palestinian cities and confining the population to an area not exceeding 5% of the Strip in its far southern region. Such measures indicate a trajectory toward large-scale forced displacement beyond Gaza, amounting to one of the most extensive campaigns of ethnic cleansing in the oPt since the Nakba of 1948.



<sup>2</sup> Official account of Israeli Minister of Defense Israel Katz on the X platform.:

<https://x.com/IsraeliPM/status/1953653980338241907>

At the outset of the declared military operation, approximately 65% of Gaza City had already been destroyed, particularly in its eastern and southern areas. Nearly two million Palestinians—including both residents and those displaced from northern Gaza—were concentrated in the city’s western areas, living in makeshift tents and overcrowded shelters amid the rubble of destroyed homes and buildings, under devastating conditions lacking even the most basic necessities for human survival. Ongoing threats by the IOF to occupy and further destroy the city forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee once again, seeking refuge in the central and southern Gaza Strip.

At that time, particularly on 11 August, the IOF launched a large-scale operation against Gaza City, carrying out intense aerial bombardments across the city using warplanes, alongside the detonation of explosive-laden robots deep into the residential neighborhoods. In parallel, a ground offensive was initiated in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood in southern Gaza City, resulting in the killing of hundreds of civilians, after their homes and residential buildings were destroyed while they were inside during the ongoing assault on the area.

In the same context, IOF continued their large-scale offensive against Gaza City, expanding the scope of destruction across the entire city. They escalated, in an unprecedented manner, the targeting of high-rise residential buildings, systematically demolishing them one after another. The use of explosive-laden robots to detonate buildings and residential neighborhoods also intensified, with the apparent aim of destroying the largest possible number of structures in preparation for their complete erasure. As part of the escalation of the ground offensive, on 1 October 2025, the IOF announced the closure of the coastal al-Rashid road, preventing movement from southern areas of the Gaza Strip toward Gaza City, while allowing only those wishing to leave the city to move southward. This measure was intended to restrict civilian movement and impose isolation and siege on the city.<sup>3</sup> These actions were accompanied by a dangerous escalation in official Israeli incitement rhetoric. The Israeli Minister of Defense, Israel Katz, stated that this was “the last opportunity for Gaza residents wishing to move south,” claiming that “those who remain in Gaza City will be considered either terrorists or supporters of terrorism.”<sup>4</sup> Such collective characterization strips civilian status from those unable to leave and seeks to provide a false justification for their direct targeting. This explicit and public incitement has effectively served as official cover for policies of killing and forced displacement within the context of the crime of genocide.

<sup>3</sup> Official account of the COGAT on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BEuXpT5Vw/>

<sup>4</sup> Official account of Israeli Minister of Defense on X: [https://x.com/Israel\\_katz/status/1973359224412352978?s=20](https://x.com/Israel_katz/status/1973359224412352978?s=20)

## ■ Declaration of Ceasefire

On 8 October, negotiations between Hamas and Israel, conducted under Egyptian, Qatari, and United States sponsorship, resulted in a ceasefire agreement. The first phase of the agreement provided for the exchange of Israeli hostages—both living and deceased—in return for the release of Palestinian detainees, a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, and the entry of humanitarian assistance. Subsequent phases were to be implemented following the completion of the first phase.

As the ceasefire agreement entered into force on 10 October, the IOF repeatedly violated its terms on a daily basis. These violations included the continued killing of civilians through airstrikes, failure to withdraw from areas designated for withdrawal, and the obstruction of the entry of medical and humanitarian aid as stipulated in the agreement. Throughout this period, IOF attacks resulted in the killing of at least 403 Palestinian civilians across the Gaza Strip by the end of 2025.<sup>5</sup> According to PCHR field documentation, the night of 29 October marked the most violent escalation since the ceasefire was declared. On that night, IOF launched a large-scale military assault employing various types of weaponry, targeting areas across the Gaza Strip from north to south, with civilians and civilian objects as the primary targets. The attack resulted in the killing of 104 Palestinians, including 46 children, 20 women, and one journalist, while 253 others were injured, among them 78 children and 84 women.

## ■ Return of Displaced People to Gaza City

Following the declaration of the ceasefire, tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians began returning via al-Rashid Coastal Road to their homes in Gaza City, despite the devastating conditions and the severe lack of resources necessary to sustain a dignified life. While some managed to return, they found the city in an even more catastrophic state, marked by widespread destruction and deepening despair, as a result of the intense military operations carried out over the preceding two months under the so-called “Operation Gideon’s Chariots.”

Although the ceasefire entered into force on 11 October, the IOF continued their genocidal campaign, albeit at a somewhat reduced pace in terms of casualties. The IOF carried out further killings and targeted civilians in areas from which

<sup>5</sup> The Government Media Office, Update number 1038, 01 January 2026

they had allegedly withdrawn, often citing baseless pretexts and false claims. Waves of escalated bombardment across the Gaza Strip resulted in the deaths of additional civilians. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, since the declaration of the ceasefire, 342 Palestinians were killed and 875 others injured.

By the end of the year, dozens of Palestinians remained unable to return to their areas in the northern and southern Gaza Strip due to the continued IOF military control and recurrent bombardments. The IOF maintained control over approximately 50% of the Gaza Strip, particularly its eastern areas, demarcated by what has been referred to as the “Yellow Line”—a zone extending along the eastern part of the Strip. Return to this area remains strictly prohibited, with the IOF opening fire on anyone attempting to approach and physically enforcing the restriction with yellow cement blocks.

On the other hand, the IOF continued to refuse the entry of humanitarian aid through the agreed-upon channels, thereby violating the ceasefire by blocking the implementation of its second phase and preventing the delivery of essential materials for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Israel denied requests to bring in a number of “essential relief items” and infrastructure equipment, including so-called “repair/reconstruction materials, electrical equipment, and medical supplies,” citing unsubstantiated claims that these constitute “dual-use items.”



## 1.2 Israeli Acts of Genocide Committed against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in 2025

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The IOF have completed the elements of the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. In addition to the mass killings that claimed the lives of tens of thousands, the survivors have been subjected to severe physical and psychological harm through systematic torture, resulting in permanent disabilities, mutilations, and deaths. The IOF imposed coercive living conditions, deliberately destroying the material foundations of society through starvation, the obliteration of infrastructure, and the collapse of the health system. They also implemented biological measures targeting reproduction by dismantling maternal and child healthcare systems. These actions collectively demonstrate a deliberate intent to destroy the Palestinian people as a group, as documented by PCHR throughout the year.

### 1.2.1 Killing large number of Palestinians

In 2025, the genocidal campaign initiated by Israel on 7 October 2023 continued, accompanied by widespread patterns of mass killings targeting Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Aerial and artillery bombardments persisted against homes, buildings, and residential neighborhoods, including shelters, schools, and hospitals that had been repurposed to accommodate displaced people. As a result, tens of thousands of civilians were killed. Civilians were also killed while attempting to access humanitarian assistance, including while standing in lines at aid distribution points. Hundreds were killed by the IOF while trying to obtain food from humanitarian aid centers established during the war. In addition, hundreds of civilians died due to the deliberate policy of starvation following the imposition of a suffocating siege on the Gaza Strip. This resulted in tens of deaths among patients suffering from malnutrition. Furthermore, detainees died in Israeli prisons as a result of torture.

IOF have used excessive and disproportionate force during its genocidal war on Gaza, launching deadly and indiscriminate attacks to kill the largest

number possible of Palestinians through its most advanced military arsenal. IOF have dropped tens of thousands of tons of highly explosive bombs from air, land and sea on houses and residential neighborhoods while civilians inside, with each bomb weighing up to one or half ton. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), these attacks resulted in the killing of 25,718 Palestinians and the injury of 62,854 others, the majority of whom were women and children, within an escalating context of violence that peaked during July and August 2025.<sup>6</sup>

By the end of 2025, the total number of Palestinian fatalities since the onset of the crime of genocide had risen to approximately 71,271, including tens of thousands of women and a significant number of children. By comparison, the number of Palestinian fatalities by the end of 2024 had reached approximately 51,042. These figures reflect the widespread and systematic nature of the targeting, confirming that civilians—particularly women and children—have remained at the center of the violence throughout all stages of the aggression.

Among those killed, 22,887 Palestinians whose bodies were recovered and transported to hospitals were officially recorded in the registers of the Palestinian Ministry of Health, including 7,900 children and 7,321 women. An estimated 10,000 additional individuals remain missing and are presumed dead beneath the rubble of their homes or in areas and facilities that rescue and civil defense teams have been unable to access, either due to a lack of equipment and resources or as a result of Israeli restrictions preventing entry into areas designated as active combat zones.

### ■ Destruction of Homes with Residents Inside

For an entire year, the Israeli war machine relentlessly rained fire on the whole Gaza Strip targeting civilians from Beit Hanoun in the far northern Gaza Strip to Rafah in southern Gaza Strip and from the western shoreline to the eastern borders. No area was safe, even those claimed by IOF as “safe humanitarian zones.” In reality, those zones became open fields of harrowing massacres. The most heinous crimes unfolded when entire residential squares were bombed, and houses and towers were destroyed on top of their residents without prior warning as part of a full-blown genocidal war on Gaza that spared nothing and none. Thousands of airstrikes pounded densely populated areas burying their

<sup>6</sup> WHO – Attacks on Health Dashboard: [https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza\\_health\\_attacks](https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza_health_attacks)



residents beneath piles of rubble. These strikes claimed the lives of thousands and injured many more, including hundreds of families wiped out from the civil registry, among them women, children and elderlies.

### ■ Targeting of Shelters

This year, IOF continued to target shelters, where tens of thousands of displaced people had sought refuge from bombing targeting their houses and residential neighborhoods across the Gaza Strip. Schools run by UNRWA in addition to government hospitals, field hospitals or churches that had become to shelters were under bombardment claiming many lives, including children, women and elderlies. However, may be the most harrowing scene was the bombing of displaced people's tents in the so-called "humanitarian zones", which were turned into fields of inevitable death. These tents made of worn-out cloth and frail plastic became constant targets of the Israeli brutal bombardment despite IOF's designation of these zones as "safe."



According to official statistics in the Gaza Strip, the IOF targeted 293 shelters,<sup>7</sup> including schools, hospitals, and municipal facilities, many of which were operated by government entities and UN. These facilities were housing civilians at the time of the attacks, including women, children, elderly persons, and patients. These attacks resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians. Notably, 845 Palestinians were killed and 2,554 others injured within facilities operated by UNRWA across the Gaza Strip.<sup>8</sup>

Israeli attacks were not confined to overcrowded shelters but extended to evacuation routes and areas designated by the IOF as “safe humanitarian zones,” to which civilians had been directed during displacement orders. In practice, these locations were subjected to intense and repeated attacks. Makeshift shelters, including tents made of cloth in which displaced persons had forcibly sought refuge, were directly targeted, resulting in the killing of civilians and the injury of thousands more.<sup>9</sup>

During this period, the IOF continued efforts to depopulate Gaza City by ordering residents and displaced persons to move toward the central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip, which were designated as “humanitarian zones.” In practice, these areas were repeatedly subjected to intensified attacks,

<sup>7</sup> <https://2u.pw/zZfFGV>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unrwa-situation-report-188-12sep25/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unrwa-situation-report-188-12sep25/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>9</sup> <https://2u.pw/YeGRAf>



including perpetration of mass killings by targeting the displaced themselves. On 6 September, the IOF designated al-Mawasi, in western Khan Younis, as a “humanitarian zone.” instructing residents of Gaza City and displaced persons to relocate there or to central Gaza Strip in search of shelter. However, these areas continued to be subjected to relentless attacks, reflecting a consistent pattern observed over the preceding two years that undermines claims of the existence of safe or humanitarian zones. These developments demonstrate the absence of any genuinely safe areas across the Gaza Strip, and that the ongoing acts constitute deliberate killings intended to terrorize and perpetrate genocide. According to official statistics, the IOF bombed the al-Mawasi area—designated by them as a “safe humanitarian zone”—more than 136 times, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians.

### ■ Killing Civilians in Aid Distributions, Field Kitchens and Water Distribution Points

The IOF continued to systematically target aid distribution centers, field kitchens, and water supply points, thereby reinforcing a policy of starvation and dehydration that has been in place since the outset of the war. As part of this policy, the IOF intensified attacks on humanitarian aid convoys and the personnel responsible for safeguarding them, while effectively enabling looting by thieves and bandits. These actions contributed to the creation of widespread

disorder and deliberate and systematic state of deprivation among civilians in the Gaza Strip. In this context, civilians were increasingly compelled to seek assistance from aid distribution centers established within areas under direct military control.

In this context, official government sources<sup>10</sup> in Gaza documented that the IOF targeted 47 field kitchens that were providing free food across the Strip. As a result, dozens of starving and vulnerable civilians were killed while waiting to receive food. The IOF also targeted 61 aid and food distribution centers, including facilities distributing infant formula, while humanitarian workers, relief personnel, and volunteers involved in aid delivery were not spared from attack. Overall, these incidents resulted in the killing of 540 Palestinians. In addition, the IOF carried out heavy attacks on aid convoys and humanitarian consignments, conducting 128 airstrikes that killed 787 police officers and members of teams responsible for securing aid.

PCHR documented numerous incidents in which the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) targeted civilians gathered in lines to receive food and water. Among these were attacks on displaced persons while attempting to access drinking water, resulting in the killing of 10 individuals, including 7 children, and the injury of 20 others.<sup>11</sup> In another incident on 2 September, a group of children and displaced persons were standing in line to collect water from taps installed between tents in the al-Mawasi area when they were targeted, resulting in the killing of 13 individuals, including 8 children and one woman.<sup>12</sup>

In a heinous crime on 10 July, IOF killed 14 individuals, including 9 children and 3 women, and injured dozens more with varying degrees of severity in an attack targeting a gathering of Palestinians—mostly children and women—waiting to receive nutritional supplements from a humanitarian organization operating in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.<sup>13</sup>

PCHR also documented dozens of attacks targeting personnel responsible for securing humanitarian aid convoys, alongside patterns indicating the facilitation of looting by armed groups, contributing to widespread insecurity and chaos. In one such incident on 22 May, the IOF carried out an attack against security

<sup>10</sup> <https://t.me/mediagovps/3904>

<sup>11</sup> <https://n9.cl/knppty>

<sup>12</sup> <https://h7.cl/1e-Yl>

<sup>13</sup> <https://pchrghaza.org/in-persistence-of-starvation-and-genocide-israel-kills-children-and-women-in-deir-al-bal-ah-while-searching-for-food/>

personnel and civilians tasked with safeguarding the passage of humanitarian aid trucks along Salah al-Din Road, south of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. The attack resulted in multiple casualties, with several individuals killed and others injured, while IOF turned a blind eye to the armed looters.<sup>14</sup>

### ■ Civilians Killed in Humanitarian Areas and Aid Seekers

Humanitarian aid distribution centers established by the IOF in areas under their full control in the Gaza Strip became sites where starving civilians were exposed to daily killings. These locations were effectively transformed into deadly and degrading traps.



In May, the IOF announced the establishment of four “humanitarian aid centers” for the distribution of food supplies, supervised by a U.S.-based entity known as the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), with joint U.S.-Israeli support. These centers were intended to replace the UN-led mechanism for delivering aid to those in need. Three of the centers were established in the western areas of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, while one was located near the Netzarim

<sup>14</sup> <https://n9.cl/822usw>

corridor in central Gaza. Tens of thousands of starving civilians were compelled to travel on foot to reach these distant and high-risk locations, which were under direct military control of the IOF and guarded by U.S. personnel. The absence of a clear and regulated distribution mechanism led to widespread chaos. In this context, security personnel and IOF opened fire on crowds of civilians, resulting in the killing of hundreds. These incidents were repeated on a near-daily basis, becoming a consistent pattern in which dozens of aid seekers were killed each day, in scenes reflecting extreme levels of inhumanity.

PCHR's investigations indicate that many incidents involving the shooting of starving civilians were carried out by security personnel affiliated with the so-called (GHF), resulting in dozens of civilian fatalities. These incidents occurred alongside other violations committed on a daily basis by IOF, which maintain full military and security control over the areas in which these centers operate.<sup>15</sup> In one such incident on 15 July 2025, GHF security personnel were involved in a massacre near an aid distribution point in western Rafah. The incident resulted in the killing of 18 individuals, including 5 children who died from suffocation, and left dozens more injured. Additional casualties were reported as IOF opened fire near the same distribution point, killing further civilians, including a woman.<sup>16</sup>

According to official government statistics, over a period of approximately five months—from the establishment of these centers on 27 May until the ceasefire in October 2025—the IOF killed 2,605 Palestinians and injured 19,124 others in the vicinity of the so-called “Israeli-U.S. aid” centers. In addition, approximately 200 individuals were reported missing during this period, many of them among civilians seeking humanitarian assistance.<sup>17</sup>

### ■ Deaths due to Starvation and Disease

In early March, the IOF imposed a tightened siege on the Gaza Strip, despite the first phase of the ceasefire agreement having entered into force on 20 January for a period of 42 days. This measure formed part of a broader policy of starvation that has been systematically enforced since the outset of the war. Under this policy, the IOF closed commercial crossings and blocked the entry of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods. The effects of this starvation policy quickly became evident, as bakeries were forced to shut down, essential goods disappeared from markets, and prices rose sharply. At the same time,

<sup>15</sup> <https://n9.cl/q7akwz>

<sup>16</sup> <https://n9.cl/q7akwz>

<sup>17</sup> <https://n9.cl/yooxe>



stocks of medicines and medical supplies were severely depleted due to the continued closure. These developments further exacerbated already dire living conditions, following more than a year and a half of genocide including the widespread destruction of homes, vital facilities, and the healthcare system, which has effectively collapsed.

The policy of closure and the deprivation of the population's access to essential food supplies led to a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation, resulting in the deaths of 460 individuals due to starvation and malnutrition. The impact of these measures has been most acute among vulnerable groups, including children, patients, and the elderly, who have been unable to access adequate food or healthcare. According to available data, 154 children died as a result of malnutrition, while approximately 42% of kidney patients died due to a combination of malnutrition and the lack of necessary medical care.<sup>18</sup>

Amid escalating levels of starvation and Israel's continued obstruction of the entry of goods and food supplies, some international actors resorted to conducting aid airdrops over the Gaza Strip in an attempt to alleviate the worsening

<sup>18</sup> Government reports, op. cit.

humanitarian catastrophe. However, these airdrops were largely insufficient, both in scale and effectiveness, and failed to meet even the minimum needs of the population. The aid delivered by air remained limited, poorly coordinated, and, in many cases, exposed civilians to additional risks when supplies landed in unsafe or inaccessible areas. According to official sources, aid airdrops resulted in the deaths of 23 civilians. These measures underscore the absence of effective and reliable humanitarian corridors and highlight the urgent need for more meaningful solutions that ensure direct, safe, and sustained access to humanitarian assistance for the besieged population.

### ■ Killing of Journalists

The IOF continued to target journalists as part of the crime of genocide against Palestinian civilians ongoing since October 2023. During 2025, this targeting escalated to unprecedented levels, with journalists killed in direct attacks while carrying out their professional duties in the field, as well as through strikes on their homes and displacement tents, often alongside their families. Other journalists were killed in the course of indiscriminate bombardments of residential buildings and civilian areas across the Gaza Strip.

In 2025, a total of 45 journalists were killed, according to documentation by the Government Media Office in Gaza. Of these, 15 journalists were killed in direct attacks while carrying out their professional duties in the field. Another 15 were killed in targeted strikes on their homes, tents, or buildings in which they were



present, of which the IOF had been aware. The remaining 15 journalists were killed while present in areas subjected to indiscriminate attacks across the Gaza Strip, in incidents that also resulted in civilian casualties.

In total, since the onset of the genocidal war on 7 October 2023, 254 journalists have been killed and 433 others injured, according to official government statistics.

The patterns of killings of journalists indicate that they have been directly and systematically targeted, with the apparent aim of removing them from the field and preventing the documentation and transmission of the reality of ongoing genocidal crimes to the world. These patterns form part of the broader violations committed against Palestinian civilians, reflecting a sustained and deliberate targeting that fails to distinguish between civilians and combatants. In this context, journalists were killed while carrying out their professional duties in the field, despite wearing clearly identifiable press vests and helmets and carrying cameras. Among them was journalist Sa'ed Abu Nabhan, who was shot and killed by Israeli sniper fire in al-Nuseirat refugee camp on 10 January 2025 while covering an incursion by the IOF into the northern part of the camp. Other journalists were killed in direct attacks, including while sheltering in designated press tents near hospitals. On 7 April 2025, an Israeli warplane struck a journalists' tent belonging to Palestine Today Agency located in front of Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis. The strike set the tent ablaze, killing three journalists and injuring several others, including journalist Hasan Islayeh, who sustained severe burns and the amputation of a finger. Less than a month later, Islayeh was killed after being targeted while lying on bed at the hospital. In addition, dozens of journalists were killed in attacks on their homes, where they were present along with their families, while others were killed in tents or shelters alongside family members. Many were also killed as a result of indiscriminate bombardments targeting houses, streets and shelters.

### ■ Killing of Medical Personnel and Civil Defense Crews

The medical personnel and civil defense teams in Gaza were subjected to systematic attacks within the military operations of the crime of genocide. These violations included direct shootings targeting emergency crews, as well as attacks on medical facilities, civil defense headquarters, and emergency vehicles, resulting in hundreds of casualties among them. According to the Government Media Office, 1,670 members of medical personnel were killed over

the course of the two-year period, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other healthcare professionals, in addition to 140 members of civil defense teams. The recurrent and sustained attacks on health institutions and infrastructure reflect the scale of the catastrophe affecting the health sector, which has led to its near-total collapse, alongside the killing of a significant portion of its workforce. Official statistics further document the targeting of 38 hospitals and 96 healthcare centers, which were bombed or destroyed and subsequently rendered out of service. In addition, 197 ambulances were targeted, while 788 attacks were recorded against healthcare services, including facilities, vehicles, personnel, and supply chains. Moreover, 61 civil defense vehicles, including rescue and firefighting, were destroyed. During 2025, the IOF perpetrated a particularly heinous crime against paramedics and civil defense teams, in which 15 personnel were killed in Rafah while carrying out a rescue mission in the Tal al-Sultan neighborhood in western Rafah. The details of this incident emerged eight days after the disappearance of civil defense ambulance crews on 23 March, while they were on a humanitarian mission in the al-Hashashin area in western Rafah. Contact with them was lost amid ongoing restrictions preventing access to the area, which was under full Israeli military and security control. After eight days, their bodies were discovered buried under sand following the withdrawal of IOF. The recovered bodies included eight paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), six civil defense personnel, and one journalist affiliated with UNRWA. The victims were found bound and buried, indicating detention prior to their killing. A video recovered from one of the paramedics' vehicles documented their final moments and showed direct firing by IOF, contradicting Israeli claims that the ambulances had approached in a suspicious manner without identifiable markings.



## 1.2.2 Causing Serious bodily or mental harm to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip:

### 1.2.2.1 Detention and Torture of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

Since the onset of the crime of genocide on 7 October 2023, Israel has conducted widescale arrest campaigns targeting thousands of Palestinian workers inside Israel, many of whom held valid work permits. These individuals were detained in prisons under the so-called “unlawful combatants law.” The scope of arrests was subsequently expanded across the Gaza Strip during IOF’s military operations. Mass arrest campaigns were carried out throughout the Palestinian territory against children, women, elderly persons, patients, persons with disabilities, medical personnel, journalists, lawyers, humanitarian workers, teachers, and others. According to official statistics, since 7 October, 6,700 Palestinian civilians have been arrested, including children and women. Among them are 362 medical personnel, 48 journalists, and 26 members of civil defense.

During the year, IOF released 1,788 detainees from its prisons as part of two prisoner exchange deals concluded under ceasefire agreements in January and October. By the end of the year, more than 1,340 detainees from the Gaza Strip remained in Israeli custody, including 1,205 individuals held under the “Unlawful Combatants Law.”<sup>19</sup>



<sup>19</sup> <https://cda.gov.ps/index.php/ar/ar-news-2/21451-2025-11-29-15-07-22>

## ■ Enforced Disappearance

Detainees are held in various facilities inside Israel, while access to them has been systematically denied to both their lawyers and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), preventing any monitoring of their detention conditions. As a result, the exact number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons remains unknown, despite the periodic release of some detainees through ceasefire-related exchange agreements and others. Such detention practices amount to enforced disappearance, significantly increasing the risk of torture, ill-treatment, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, in the absence of oversight by relevant monitoring bodies. Through its [online platform](#) for reporting cases of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance, PCHR has documented the continued disappearance of hundreds of Palestinians who have been forcibly disappeared by Israeli authorities since the onset of the genocidal war on Gaza. To date, no information has been provided regarding their fate or whereabouts, further substantiating the commission of the crime of enforced disappearance.

Over the past two years, PCHR has documented 383 cases of enforced disappearance in the Gaza Strip, including 15 children and 12 women. The victims include journalists, nurses, doctors, government employees, university students, farmers, and persons with disabilities. PCHR has also received dozens of reports concerning the disappearance of starving Palestinians, including children, while attempting to access aid at the deadly and degrading distribution sites operated by the so-called (GHF). To date, there is no accurate figure for the total number of forcibly disappeared Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. However, estimates indicate that the number has reached into the thousands. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), more than 11,000 Palestinians had been forcibly disappeared as of July 2025, including 4,700 women and children. Meanwhile, the [Government Media Office in Gaza](#) reported that at least 14,222 Palestinians were missing or remain trapped under the rubble as of February 2025.

## ■ Use of Detainees as Human Shields

The use of Palestinian civilian detainees as human shields by the IOF, particularly in the Gaza Strip, has not been limited to isolated incidents but has constituted a systematic practice accompanying arrest operations and military raids throughout the war. This practice has exposed detainees to grave danger and

constitutes a serious violation of international law. Civilian detainees were repeatedly used to carry out military tasks on behalf of IOF, placing their lives at direct risk. One detainee, identified as M.'A.S. (21), stated:

*“I was used as a human shield during my detention around 15 times. In one instance, a soldier ordered me to go out alone, which was unusual as we were typically taken in groups of two or three. When I refused, he struck me with the butt of his weapon and forced me out. I was taken in a tank that moved for about 10 minutes before stopping. They ordered me to get down and photographed the tank, and when I refused, I was severely beaten. They then forced me to wear a military uniform and placed a helmet with a camera on my head. I was made to walk in front of the soldiers toward the tank. Shortly afterward, I felt a sharp pain in my chest and realized I was bleeding. I collapsed and lost consciousness. I later woke up in a hospital and learned, after my release, that I had been treated at Soroka Hospital in Israel for a gunshot wound that entered my back and exited through my chest.”*

### ■ Physical and Mental Torture

A large number of testimonies collected from former detainees reveals serious atrocities committed by the IOF, including the systematic use of physical and psychological torture, in some cases resulting in death. In its report,<sup>20</sup> PCHR documented testimonies from 130 released detainees, all of whom confirmed that they were subjected to torture and ill-treatment from the moment of arrest and throughout their detention across various facilities. The testimonies describe harsh detention conditions and a range of brutal methods of torture, including repeated beatings, *shabeh* (stress positions), electric shocks, and sexual violence. Detainees also reported being subjected to sleep deprivation and degrading treatment, such as being stripped naked for prolonged periods or restrained in humiliating positions. Further accounts indicate that detainees were subjected to prolonged suspension while bound by their hands behind their backs, as well as intimidation and attacks involving police dogs. Several testimonies also described the pouring of boiling water on detainees, causing severe burns. In addition, medical neglect was widespread, leading to the deterioration of detainees' health conditions, including the spread of diseases such as scabies due to the absence of basic hygiene.

The recently established Sde Teiman camp, located near the Gaza border, has

<sup>20</sup> <https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-releases-report-on-torture-and-genocide-against-palestinians-from-gaza/>

featured prominently in detainee testimonies. Former detainees reported being subjected to continuous beatings, prolonged restraint, and denial of medical treatment despite serious injuries, in addition to harsh detention conditions marked by severe overcrowding and inadequate food.

Throughout the year, PCHR documented several cases of arrest and torture, including children who were detained in the vicinity of humanitarian aid distribution centers.<sup>21</sup>

### ■ Sexual Violence and Rape

In 2025, PCHR documented testimonies from male and female detainees who were recently released from Israeli prisons. These detainees described a continuum of abuse during their detention, including torture, sexual violence, and rape. The testimonies revealed egregious practices, including rape, forced stripping, coerced photographing, sexual assaults involving objects and the use of dogs, as well as deliberate psychological humiliation. The consistency, nature, and repetition of these accounts indicate that such acts were not isolated incidents but rather part of a systematic pattern of abuse carried out within the broader context of ongoing violations against the population of the Gaza Strip. Among these cases is N. A., a 42-year-old Palestinian woman and mother, who reported being subjected to multiple forms of torture and sexual violence. Her testimony indicates that she was raped four times by Israeli soldiers, in addition to being repeatedly subjected to verbal abuse, forced stripping and photographing while naked, electric shocks, and severe beatings across her body. In another case, A. A., a 35-year-old Palestinian man and father, was subjected to severe forms of torture over a period of 19 months of detention. These included forced nudity, verbal abuse, and threats of rape against him and his family. His testimony further indicates that he was subjected to sexual assault, including rape by a trained dog, inside the Sde Teiman military detention facility.

### ■ Deaths in Prisons and Interrogation Centers

Dozens of Palestinians have died in both declared and undisclosed Israeli detention facilities and prisons as a result of severe torture, amid the widespread abuse to which thousands of Palestinian detainees have been subjected during the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza. According to Physicians for Human Rights–

<sup>21</sup> <https://pchrgaza.org/israeli-forces-arrest-and-torture-of-starved-children-seeking-food-is-a-heinous-act-demanding-accountability/>

Israel, 98 detainees have died since 7 October 2023. Of these, 46 deaths were recorded in facilities operated by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS), while 52 occurred in military detention centers, the majority involving detainees from the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of 2025 and until the end of August, 15 detainees have died in Israeli prisons and IPS facilities, including 5 from the Gaza Strip.<sup>22</sup> Palestinian organizations, including the Commission of Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs, have documented the deaths of 81 detainees from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including 27 reportedly dead during this year alone. These figures are shocking and unprecedented on a global scale and point to grave conditions within undisclosed facilities, particularly in locations that operate without effective oversight or monitoring.

Israeli authorities have thus far refused to provide any information regarding the circumstances surrounding the deaths of these detainees or to return their bodies to their families in a manner that allows for proper identification. However, all indicators strongly demonstrate that these deaths resulted from severe torture, medical neglect, and the inhumane conditions prevailing within Israeli prisons and detention facilities.

For its part, PCHR documented seven deaths among Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons in the course of its legal follow-up of dozens of cases. However, PCHR considers that a significant number of individuals whose cases were recorded as detainees may in fact have been killed by the IOF in the Gaza Strip. This includes individuals who attempted to move between the north and south via the Netzarim checkpoint, as well as those arrested during military incursions or in the vicinity of aid distribution centers, whose whereabouts remain unknown and whose fate has yet to be clarified.

### ■ Law on Death Penalty against Palestinian Detainees

In early November 2025, the Israeli Knesset's National Security Committee approved a draft law providing for the imposition of the death penalty on Palestinian detainees convicted of killing Israelis on a nationalistic basis. The draft law explicitly excludes Israelis convicted of killing Palestinians on similar grounds. This discriminatory law appears aimed at providing legal cover for extrajudicial executions within detention facilities, in contravention of international legal standards prohibiting the application of the death penalty in the occupied territory. If enacted and fully ratified by the Israeli parliament,

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.pchr.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/6538\\_Death\\_custody\\_Paper\\_Arab.pdf](https://www.pchr.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/6538_Death_custody_Paper_Arab.pdf)

the law would place thousands of Palestinian detainees at risk of execution, particularly in the current political climate marked by a far-right government enjoying broad support among religious constituencies. This risk is especially acute given that hundreds of detainees are accused of involvement in attacks against Israelis and are already serving lengthy sentences, including multiple life terms. In light of the harsh conditions prevailing in Israeli prisons and the systematic torture reported against detainees, PCHR expresses grave concern that such a law could facilitate the widespread application of the death penalty, potentially leading to mass executions of Palestinian detainees. One of the most alarming aspects of the draft legislation is its retroactive application, which is highly irregular and fundamentally at odds with established principles of criminal law. Penal legislation is generally prospective in nature, entering into force only after enactment and publication. However, this draft law, if adopted, would apply retroactively to Palestinian detainees already convicted and who have served long periods of imprisonment.



### 1.2.2.2 Inflicting serious bodily injuries to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

The widespread use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas of the Gaza Strip has resulted in the injury of tens of thousands of civilians, including children, women, and the elderly. Thousands have sustained severe injuries leading to permanent disabilities and long-term bodily harm. The IOF have employed unlawful methods of warfare in targeting civilians and civilian objects. This includes the use of heavy aerial munitions<sup>23</sup>—such as GBU-31, GBU-32, and GBU-39 bombs—against residential buildings, schools, markets, and displacement camps. These attacks have caused mass civilian casualties and led to the extensive destruction of urban areas and critical infrastructure across the Gaza Strip.

These attacks have resulted, in total, in 169,583 injured individuals who were able to reach hospitals. Among them, 19,000 require long-term rehabilitation, including 4,800 amputation cases—18% of whom are children, 1,200 cases of complete paralysis, and 1,200 cases of vision loss.<sup>24</sup> In a statement, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that 6,000 amputation cases have been officially registered and require urgent, long-term rehabilitation programs. Children account for approximately 25% of all amputation cases, while women represent 12.7%.<sup>25</sup>

The destruction of a large number of hospitals and healthcare facilities, coupled with the acute shortage of medicines, medical equipment, and rehabilitation aids—such as wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs—has severely worsened conditions for the wounded. Many injured individuals have been unable to access adequate or timely medical care, placing them at heightened risk of complications and increasing the likelihood of resulting in permanent disabilities. According to UNRWA,<sup>26</sup> 83% of people with disabilities in the Gaza Strip have lost their assistive devices and essential support tools. In addition, at least 35,000 people have reportedly suffered “significant hearing damage” as a result of repeated explosions. This widespread loss is directly linked to the escalating humanitarian crisis, compounded by starvation and the large-scale destruction of infrastructure amid Israel’s ongoing military aggression.

23 [https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-thematic-report-indiscriminate-attacks-in-gaza-19jun24/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-thematic-report-indiscriminate-attacks-in-gaza-19jun24/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

24 Government Media Office

25 Ministry of Health

26 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165661>



According to estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 42,000 people in the Gaza Strip have sustained life-altering injuries resulting in permanent disabilities since October 2023. This figure represents roughly one quarter of the total number of recorded injuries, which exceeds 167,000 cases.

WHO further reports that more than 22,000 individuals have suffered injuries to arms and legs requiring specialized surgeries and rehabilitation. Over 5,000 amputations have been recorded, the majority involving children. In addition, more than 2,000 cases involve spinal cord injuries, around 1,300 involve traumatic brain injuries, and over 3,300 individuals have sustained severe burns. Many others suffer from complex eye and facial injuries, which may lead to permanent disfigurement, long-term disability, and social stigma.

These injuries require comprehensive care, including rehabilitation, additional surgical interventions, long-term physiotherapy, provision of prosthetic limbs, and psychological support. However, a substantial portion of these essential services remain unavailable due to the destruction of the healthcare system and the continued restriction on the entry of medical aid.

### **1.2.3: Deliberately inflicting on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction, in whole or in part.**

The IOF has deliberately imposed slow death measures that do not immediately kill Gaza's population, but which, ultimately, seek their physical destruction. These measures included the forced displacement, the destruction of houses, infrastructure, and vital facilities, the targeting of healthcare system, the denial of medical treatment and aid, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war. The IOF has also systematically destroyed commercial, economic, agricultural, and educational facilities. These systematic practices have sought to destroy the means of survival of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, effectively rendering it uninhabitable and incompatible with human life, while eroding the very foundations of human dignity.

#### **■ Mass Forced Displacement and Evacuation Orders for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip**

In 2025, the Gaza Strip witnessed an unprecedented wave of forced displacement driven by ongoing military operations and the expansion of evacuation zones and areas under bombardment. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were repeatedly forced to flee in search of safety, amid the continued collapse of infrastructure and essential services, resulting in a severe humanitarian crisis. Over more than two years of the ongoing genocidal war, government estimates indicate that approximately 2 million Palestinians—around 90% of the Gaza Strip's population—have been displaced at least once since the beginning of the hostilities. This also means that approximately 288,000 families remain without adequate shelter.

Many displaced people sought refuge in so-called “shelters” in governmental and non-governmental organizations and UNRWA facilities such as hospitals, schools, and kindergartens, despite these facilities lacking the bare minimum life essentials. These shelters became overcrowded by tens of thousands crammed into narrow spaces without privacy or comfort. Even more tragic were those who were forced to set up makeshift tattered tents on roadsides and alleys, where there were no walls or ceilings to protect them from danger, the scorching



summer heat, or the bitter cold of winter. With the rainfall, many tents were flooded, worsening the suffering of the displaced people and claiming the lives of children who had nothing to keep them warm.

Although a ceasefire was declared at the beginning of 2025, Israel's policy of forced displacement did not fully cease. Israeli authorities permitted only limited and highly restricted returns for displaced persons to certain areas in northern Gaza. Return movements occurred on foot via al-Rasheed Street and by vehicles along Salah al-Din Street, subject to inspection procedures overseen by a private security company. At the same time, access to large parts of northern and eastern Gaza remained prohibited, while extensive areas of Rafah and Khan Younis—particularly along the Philadelphi Corridor—remained under Israeli military control. As a result, hundreds of thousands of displaced people have been left in an open-ended state of forced displacement with no end in sight.

Following the collapse of the ceasefire on 18 March and the resumption by IOF of intense bombardment and threats of forced evacuation, tens of thousands of civilians were forced to flee to southern Gaza and Gaza City. Waves of displacement continued in succession over the following months amid intense attacks devastating the Palestinian territory, particularly in northern Gaza.

By the end of May 2025, the scope of forced displacement expanded to include Khan Younis, when the IOF issued evacuation orders for residents of Khan Younis, Bani Suhaila, 'Abasan, and al-Qararah to move to al-Mawasi, in what appeared to be a prelude to a new military assault.<sup>27</sup> Tens of thousands of starving civilians were forced to flee under bombardment, carrying their belongings in a desperate search for shelter in the already overcrowded al-Mawasi area.

The evacuation orders were not limited to residential areas and neighborhoods, but also extended to vital facilities, including healthcare facilities. On 13 May 2025, IOF targeted the courtyards of the Gaza European Hospital with multiple airstrikes. As a result, a number of civilians were killed and others were injured, and the attacks caused extensive damage to the hospital's infrastructure. Shortly thereafter, IOF ordered medical personnel, patients, and displaced persons in the vicinity of the hospital to evacuate immediately under the pretext that the area had been designated a "dangerous combat zone," effectively forcing the hospital out of service and placing hundreds of patients—including cancer patients and those in critical condition—at immediate risk of death.

Residential neighborhoods surrounding Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis were also subjected to similar evacuation orders, directing residents to move westward toward al-Mawasi, raising serious concerns that the area could be raided or directly targeted.<sup>28</sup> PCHR warned of the catastrophic repercussions of forcing the complex out of service, particularly as it is the last major hospital still operating in the southern Gaza Strip. The ICRC also expressed concern over these orders, stating that suspending operations at Nasser Medical Complex is "isolating and undermining what little is left of the health-care system in Gaza." and endangers the lives of thousands of patients.<sup>29</sup>

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27 COGAT's official Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17j7r9boS3/>

28 PCHR, Press Release, "PCHR Sounds Alarm Over Potential Shut Down of Southern Gaza's Last Major Hospital After Israeli Evacuation Orders for Its Surrounding Neighborhoods," <https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-sounds-alarm-over-potential-shut-down-of-southern-gazas-last-major-hospital-after-israeli-evacuation-orders-for-its-surrounding-neighborhoods/>

29 ICRC, Press Statement, "ICRC extremely concerned about inability of Nasser Medical Complex to operate amid evacuation orders:" <https://www.icrc.org/en/statement/Israel-and-occupied-territories-Nasser-medical-complex>

Following Israel's announcement in August of an expansion of its military operations, and the launch of a large-scale offensive known as "Gideon's Chariots II," aimed at depopulating Gaza City, seizing control of it, and forcing its population toward the south—particularly into the Rafah area as a prelude to their displacement—hundreds of thousands of civilians were forced to flee southward. As a result, approximately 86% of the Gaza Strip's territory became designated either as evacuation zones or as military/prohibited areas. This forced the population into continuous displacement, moving repeatedly between the north and south and into temporary shelters.

As the ceasefire entered into force on 10 October, displaced persons who returned to their neighborhoods were forced to erect worn-out tents atop the rubble of their destroyed homes. Hundreds of these tents and makeshift shelters were subsequently flooded by rainwater during the winter season, exposing residents to harsh weather conditions. This occurred amid the absence of an effective humanitarian response and Israel's continued restrictions on the entry of mobile homes and temporary shelters, despite provisions in the humanitarian protocol that required their facilitation but was not adhered to.

The policy did not stop at preventing returns to many areas; rather, the IOF continued the demolition and destruction of homes and residential neighborhoods in areas that remained under their control during the temporary ceasefire. Repeated shooting incidents targeted civilians attempting to return to or check on their homes, resulting in the killing of dozens and the injury of many others. These actions reflect a continued pattern of using lethal force to enforce and entrench conditions of forced displacement.

By the end of 2025, approximately one million Palestinians—out of a total population of 2.1 million in the Gaza Strip—remained internally displaced, residing across 862 displacement sites throughout the territory. These included 180 sites in Gaza City and northern Gaza, 264 in Deir al-Balah, 410 in Khan Younis, and 8 in Rafah. Among the displaced population, around 75,000 individuals were living in 100 shelters operated by UNRWA in Rafah.<sup>30</sup>

The year 2025 was particularly harsh for the displaced people, especially during the winter months of January and December, when the Gaza Strip experienced severe storms and heavy rainfall. These conditions led to widespread flooding and the destruction of already fragile tents, leaving many families without

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-340-gaza-strip>



shelter. In addition, soil erosion contributed to the collapse of damaged buildings. These tragic circumstances resulted in the deaths of 12 individuals, including 3 children, due to the combined effects of rainy and cold weather and structural collapses.<sup>31</sup>

### ■ Use of starvation as a weapon of war against Palestinians

In 2025, the food insecurity crisis in the Gaza Strip deteriorated to an unprecedented and alarming level, amid the continued use of starvation as a systematic method of warfare by the IOF against the civilian population. This policy has been pursued within the broader context of the ongoing crime of genocide affecting the population of the Gaza Strip. Since the onset of the military aggression, Israel has consistently employed starvation tactics against civilians with exceptional severity. These measures appear aimed at subjecting the population to conditions of life intended to destroy them and undermine their capacity to survive, ultimately resulting in their destruction and the eradication of their existence.

This was evident from the outset of the military operations, through the widespread targeting of local food production capacities, including the destruction of the agricultural sector and sources of livestock and fisheries,

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-349-gaza-strip>

as well as production facilities. These actions were compounded by the closure of border crossings, the tightening of the comprehensive siege on the Gaza Strip, and blocking the entry of humanitarian aid, ultimately extending to the targeting of civilians seeking access to food. This policy followed a clear pattern of escalation since the beginning of the year, despite the announcement of an initial ceasefire agreement in January 2025, which provided for the large-scale and unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance. However, the situation on the ground demonstrated the continued imposition of strict restrictions on aid entry, with no tangible improvement in the humanitarian conditions or the level of food security among the population.

After only 42 days had elapsed from the first phase of the agreement, Israel unilaterally announced its termination and the resumption of military operations. On the morning of 2 March 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the closure of all crossings and the suspension of the entry of all humanitarian aid and goods into the Gaza Strip until further notice, including food, medicine, and essential supplies. This decision clearly reflected a deliberate intent to employ starvation as a method of warfare, in an even more brutal manner than before.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich described the decision to halt aid, stating:



*The decision we made tonight to completely stop the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza until Hamas is destroyed or fully surrenders and all our hostages are returned is an important step in the right direction—opening the gates of hell... Now these gates must be opened with maximum speed and maximum force against the enemy...* 🗨️<sup>32</sup>

The continued closure of crossings for successive weeks led to a sharp deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, particularly as remaining stocks of essential food supplies—such as meat, flour, sugar, vegetables, and rice—rapidly diminished. At the same time, prices of basic commodities rose to unprecedented levels. On 27 March 2025, the World Food Programme (WFP) reported that its remaining food stocks in Gaza—estimated at approximately 5,700 tons—would be sufficient to sustain operations for only

<sup>32</sup> Israeli Minister of Finance's account on X: <https://x.com/bezalelsm/status/1896110709269823511?s=20>

two weeks.<sup>33</sup>

Starting on 1 April 2025, the Association of Bakery Owners in the Gaza Strip announced the complete suspension of operations across all bakeries due to the depletion of flour and fuel supplies previously provided by WFP. In parallel, WFP confirmed that the 25 bakeries it had been supporting had ceased operations. At the same time, food parcels and essential commodities in warehouses were nearing exhaustion, resulting in the loss of approximately 50% of daily food sources for the population in Gaza.<sup>34</sup> In this context, the Israeli High Court rejected a petition filed by human rights organizations challenging the decision to block humanitarian aid. This ruling effectively provided legal cover for the continuation of the deadly starvation policy, leaving approximately two million people in the Gaza Strip under a total food blockade.

These developments constituted early indicators that the Gaza Strip was entering a phase of mass hunger, particularly amid the parallel escalation of forced displacement. Thousands of families became entirely dependent on field kitchens and charitable food distribution points, which themselves began to collapse under the strain of rapidly depleting supplies.

As part of the continued implementation of the starvation policy, the IOF persisted in targeting civilians seeking access to food. PCHR field researchers documented, during March and April 2025, a series of attacks against civilian gatherings near field kitchens and food distribution points operated by local initiatives. These incidents resulted in the killing of 17 individuals, including children and women, and the injury of dozens more. The targeting of these sites—often the last remaining source of food for the population—underscores Israel’s deliberate pattern of actions aimed at intensifying hunger by using lethal force against those attempting to obtain food.<sup>35</sup>

On 16 April 2025, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated in a post on his official account on the X platform:

<sup>33</sup> WFP Palestine Emergency Response External Situation Report #50 (27 March 2025)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/wfp-palestine-emergency-response-external-situation-report-50-27-march-2025>

<sup>34</sup> WFP’s official account on X: <https://x.com/WFP/status/1907131156463825096?s=20>

<sup>35</sup> PCHR, Press Release: Israel Perpetuates its Starvation Policy, Targeting Field Kitchens and Gatherings of Civilians Desperately Lining Up for Simple Meals in Gaza:

<https://pchrgaza.org/israel-perpetuates-its-starvation-policy-targeting-field-kitchens-and-gatherings-of-civilians-desperately-lining-up-for-simple-meals-in-gaza/>



*“As I stated in my announcement, Israel’s policy is clear: no humanitarian aid will enter Gaza. Preventing humanitarian aid from entering Gaza is one of the main pressure tools that prevents Hamas from using this measure against the population... There are no plans to allow any humanitarian aid into Gaza.”<sup>36</sup>*

This statement constitutes a clear and explicit declaration of the use of humanitarian aid as a tool of warfare against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

By May 2025, the policy of engineered starvation had escalated to an even more critical level. In response to mounting criticism from the United Nations and the international community, particularly in light of the worsening humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, Israel announced on 18 May 2025 that it would allow the entry of a limited number of trucks carrying food aid into Gaza. However, according to PCHR field observations, only a small number of food and medical aid trucks were permitted entry, amounting to largely symbolic quantities that had no meaningful impact on conditions on the ground. In contrast, United Nations agencies have assessed that the Gaza Strip requires approximately 600 aid trucks per day to meet the population’s basic needs.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, “all the aid authorized until now amounts to a teaspoon of aid when a flood of assistance is required. The needs are massive, and the obstacles are staggering.”<sup>37</sup>

In mid-May 2025, Israel, in coordination with the United States, promoted a new mechanism for the distribution of humanitarian aid to the population of the Gaza Strip through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation GHF, a non-profit organization registered in Geneva, Switzerland.<sup>38</sup>

The so-called “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” represents a stark model of engineered starvation and the use of humanitarian aid as a tool of collective pressure and punishment. It also reflects its instrumentalization as a mechanism

<sup>36</sup> Official account of the Israeli Minister of Defense on X:  
[https://x.com/Israel\\_katz/status/1912420672401285534?s=20](https://x.com/Israel_katz/status/1912420672401285534?s=20)

<sup>37</sup> United Nations Media, Secretary General Statement, <https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d340/d3400440>

<sup>38</sup> Geneva Solutions Newspaper, Report, A Geneva-based foundation at the heart of Israel’s Gaza aid plan,  
<https://genevasolutions.news/peace-humanitarian/a-geneva-based-foundation-at-the-heart-of-israel-s-gaza-aid-plan>

aimed at legitimating the occupation and entrenching its control over the population of the Gaza Strip. This initiative effectively served as a direct cover for a U.S.–Israeli plan to restructure the humanitarian aid system in Gaza in a manner that marginalizes established UN agencies, particularly UNRWA, and replaces them with a non-humanitarian mechanism administered by the same actors involved in the ongoing genocide and the use of starvation as a method of warfare against civilians.

Statistics issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Health regarding malnutrition and starvation in the Gaza Strip during the period 2023–2025 reveal the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe resulting from the siege and the systematic targeting of essential life-sustaining resources. The total number of deaths associated with malnutrition and hunger reached 475 cases, the vast majority of which occurred in 2025, with 422 recorded deaths, compared to 49 deaths in 2024 and 4 deaths in 2023. This indicates a sharp and alarming escalation in starvation-related mortality. The data further show that elderly persons constitute the most affected group, accounting for 40.63% (193 cases), followed by children under the age of 18 at 34.74% (165 cases), adults at 15.37% (73 cases), and women at 9.26% (44 cases). This distribution highlights the disproportionate impact of hunger on the most vulnerable population groups, particularly at the social and health levels.<sup>39</sup>

Among children under the age of five, a total of 62,942 cases of malnutrition were recorded in 2025, including high proportions of both acute and moderate malnutrition. These cases represent approximately 19% of all malnutrition cases reported across different age groups. In addition, 13.5% of cases were recorded in the southern areas of the Gaza Strip, indicating a clear overlap between famine conditions, forced displacement patterns, and the collapse of food supply chains.<sup>40</sup> These figures, in their legal context, indicate that starvation has been used as an effective instrument to subject the population to life-threatening conditions, resulting in preventable deaths and causing severe long-term harm to the health of children and the elderly. This constitutes a serious violation of the rights to food and health and amounts to one of the most severe forms of collective punishment prohibited under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

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<sup>39</sup> Palestinian Ministry of Health, the health information unit, Health dashboard: <https://www.sehatty.ps/public/>

<sup>40</sup> Palestinian Ministry of Health, the health information unit, Health dashboard: <https://www.sehatty.ps/public/>



### ■ Destruction of Healthcare System and Targeted Attacks on Medical Personnel

The pattern of Israeli attacks in 2025 demonstrates clear consistency in the targeting of the healthcare system and its institutions as part of a systematic policy. The extensive destruction inflicted upon the health system can no longer be viewed as an incidental consequence of military operations; rather, it reflects a deliberate course of conduct aimed at dismantling the population's capacity to survive. This has been achieved through the targeting of essential health services, the obstruction of access to medical treatment, and the continued prevention of the entry of medicines and critical medical equipment. Accordingly, these actions align with the genocidal pattern of "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

During the year, the IOF resumed practices amounting to war crimes against the healthcare system following the re-escalation of military operations after the collapse of the ceasefire on 18 March 2025. PCHR documented a series of airstrikes and intensive bombardments targeting hospitals, clinics, and medical points, including the destruction of major hospitals in both the northern and southern Gaza Strip, forcing many of them out of service. As a result, thousands of patients and injured individuals, particularly those suffering from heart disease and cancer, lost any chance of receiving treatment inside the Gaza Strip, effectively facing a slow and preventable death.

The destruction of the Turkish–Palestinian Friendship Hospital on 21 March 2025 had a profound impact, as the hospital had previously served as the only specialized treatment facility and a critical source of hope for cancer patients in the Gaza Strip. PCHR documented that its destruction effectively deprived more than 12,500 cancer patients of access to essential treatment services within Gaza, leaving advanced cases without any alternative care, particularly in light of the slow referral procedures for treatment abroad amid the continued closure of border crossings.<sup>41</sup>

In the context of the forced displacement operations in northern Gaza, IOF reimposed siege on hospitals and medical centres to compel residents to evacuate once again, effectively stripping them of any remaining access to healthcare services. This recurring pattern of violations demonstrates a deliberate intent to commit the crime of genocide. During this period, PCHR documented multiple incidents in which patients died inside besieged hospitals due to oxygen shortages or the shutdown of medical devices caused by fuel and electricity cuts.

The scope of attacks on the health sector expanded significantly in May 2025, which witnessed some of the most severe assaults on hospitals and medical centers. Intensive airstrikes damaged parts of the Gaza European Hospital in southern Gaza, ultimately rendering it out of service, even after the ceasefire agreement in October 2025.<sup>42</sup> In the same month, Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis was directly struck, with its burns and orthopaedics departments

41 PCHR, Press Release, Blowing Up Gaza’s “Turkish–Palestinian Friendship” Hospital: A War Crime and Perpetuation of Genocide: <https://pchrgaza.org/blowing-up-gazas-turkish-palestinian-friendship-hospital-a-war-crime-and-perpetuation-of-genocide/>

42 PCHR, press release, Escalating Genocide: Israeli Forces Launch Deadly Carpet Bombing, Killing Dozens and Crippling Gaza’s European Hospital: <https://pchrgaza.org/escalating-genocide-israeli-forces-launch-deadly-carpet-bombing-killing-dozens-and-crippling-gazas-european-hospital/>



sustaining damage that caused injuries among patients and medical staff.<sup>43</sup> The attack further disrupted surgical services in southern Gaza and was accompanied by repeated strikes in the surrounding area, as well as deliberate targeting of journalists covering the Israeli crimes.

Also in May, Israeli tanks deployed in northern Gaza directly targeted both the Indonesian Hospital and Al-Awda Hospital. Shells struck the intensive care unit of the Indonesian Hospital and destroyed the specialized surgical department at Al-Awda Hospital, prior to their complete evacuation.<sup>44</sup>

43 PCHR, press release, Israeli Strike Targets and Kills Journalist Esleih While Receiving Treatment at Nasser Medical Complex: <https://pchrgaza.org/israeli-strike-targets-and-kills-journalist-esleih-while-receiving-treatment-at-nasser-medical-complex/>

44 PCHR, press release, Ongoing Genocide in Gaza: Israeli Occupation Forces Besiege Northern Gaza's Hospitals, Denying Hundreds of Thousands Access to Lifesaving Healthcare: <https://pchrgaza.org/ongoing-genocide-in-gaza-israeli-occupation-forces-besiege-northern-gazas-hospitals-denying-hundreds-of-thousands-access-to-lifesaving-healthcare/>

WHO data indicate that Gaza's health system endured one of the most intensive periods of attacks in 2025 since the beginning of the war, with 176 incidents recorded against health facilities, personnel, and services between January and the end of September 2025. This represents approximately 21% of the total 825 documented attacks since 7 October 2023, indicating a renewed escalation after months of intermittent strikes. The highest monthly peak was recorded in May 2025, with 44 attacks, followed by sustained high levels in subsequent months. These figures demonstrate not only the continuation of attacks but also the systematic targeting of the health system in a manner that prevents recovery or restoration of even minimal operational capacity, thereby deepening the collapse of healthcare services and severely undermining the population's ability to survive under conditions of war and siege.<sup>45</sup>

According to Palestinian Ministry of Health data, the number of operational health facilities in Gaza declined to record lows during 2025. By the end of the year, only 11 out of 36 hospitals remained partially operational, and even those were functioning with severely reduced capacity, not exceeding 30% in the best cases. Twenty-one hospitals were completely destroyed or permanently out of service, while four facilities operated intermittently throughout the year, often without essential services such as surgery or intensive care. As for primary healthcare centers, only 24 out of 100 previously functioning centers remained operational. Even these facilities suffered from disruptions in vaccination programmes, maternal care, and epidemiological surveillance across most areas of the Strip, particularly during the intensified siege imposed on 2 March 2025. This created conditions conducive to the spread of infectious diseases in parallel with widespread famine among the besieged population.<sup>46</sup>

Israeli attacks also extended to medical transport and ambulance services in a systematic manner that clearly indicates an intent to undermine the population's ability to access urgent care. According to WHO data, 211 attacks on medical transport were recorded since 7 October 2023, including direct strikes, interception of ambulances, and obstruction of access to the wounded. In addition, 985 health professionals were killed, 306 were detained, and 70 doctors, nurses and paramedics were injured while performing their duties.<sup>47</sup>

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45 WHO – Attacks on Health Dashboard. [https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza\\_health\\_attacks](https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza_health_attacks)

46 A statement provided by Engineer Zaher al-Wheidi, Director of the Health Information Unit at the Ministry of Health, 2 December 2025

47 WHO – Attacks on Health Dashboard. [https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza\\_health\\_attacks](https://extranet.who.int/ssa/atlas/public/emergencies/gaza_health_attacks)

Alongside hundreds of additional indirect attacks resulting from repeated incursions into hospitals and disruption of medical teams' work, the majority of the medical transport system was rendered inoperative. A large proportion of ambulances became unable to function, while the remaining vehicles operated under extreme risk and in conditions that severely hinder timely emergency response, particularly in northern Gaza, where a limited number of vehicles served a population of hundreds of thousands. This situation, combined with the killing, arrest, and injury of healthcare workers, has resulted in a severe professional depletion of the health sector, with long-term consequences that may persist well beyond the cessation of military operations. It has also rendered the reconstruction of the healthcare system an exceptionally difficult mission under the continued restrictions, even in the event of a ceasefire.

In 2025, hospitals in the Gaza Strip continued to receive large numbers of fatalities despite the collapse of their operational capacity. Major facilities, including Nasser Medical Complex, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, and Al-Shifa Medical Complex, treated thousands of casualties throughout the year under catastrophic conditions marked by severe shortages of medical personnel, fuel, and functioning emergency departments. This situation indicates that medical facilities were not treated as protected objects under international humanitarian law. Instead, they were compelled to bear the overwhelming burden of responding to the consequences of ongoing crimes and violence, while simultaneously being subjected to bombardment and siege, as documented by PCHR.

When these facts are considered collectively, it becomes increasingly difficult to dissociate the events of 2025 from the legal framework of genocide, particularly in light of the patterns established during 2023 and 2024. The deliberate destruction of specialized medical facilities, the targeting of ambulances, the killing of medical personnel, the obstruction of the entry of medicines, and the prevention of the rehabilitation of healthcare infrastructure—even during periods of ceasefire—together constitute a pattern of conduct amounting to the imposition of unbearable conditions of life on the Palestinian population.

The specific intent constituting a fundamental element of the crime of genocide is manifested through the repeated targeting of facilities indispensable to the survival of the population, including treatment of cancer, and cardiac surgery. This pattern indicates that the objective extends beyond merely undermining the healthcare system, instead pointing toward a deliberate policy aimed at subjecting the population to conditions leading to slow death and the infliction

of irreversible, long-term physical harm.

Accordingly, the totality of events documented in PCHR's reports demonstrates that the healthcare system in the Gaza Strip in 2025 was subjected to a systematic policy of destruction that directly impacted hundreds of thousands of lives. This pattern of conduct contributed to the imposition of conditions of life calculated to bring about the partial or total physical destruction of the population, thereby satisfying the material element (*actus reus*) of the crime of genocide under international law.

### ■ Depriving Palestinians of Access to Proper Treatment and Adequate Medical Assistance

In 2025, the population of the Gaza Strip endured systematic deprivation of proper treatment and adequate medical assistance within a broader framework of policies and measures that severely restricted access to essential and specialized healthcare services. This deprivation resulted directly from the degradation of the healthcare system, continued restrictions on the entry of medicines and medical equipment, and the obstruction of medical evacuation mechanisms and access to treatment abroad. These conditions led to preventable deaths and caused widespread, long-term physical and psychological harm among large segments of the civilian population, particularly patients, the injured, and persons with disabilities.

In 2025, the destruction of hospitals continued, forcing many out of service and leaving only a limited number of medical facilities partially operational, often without essential services such as specialized surgery and intensive care. As a result, thousands of injured individuals were deprived of timely medical intervention, while medical personnel were compelled to adopt emergency measures to preserve life amid severe resource constraints. These measures included resorting to amputations in place of reconstructive surgeries, postponing critical procedures, and reducing physiotherapy sessions for patients with chronic conditions. In this context, access to adequate medical treatment within the Gaza Strip became effectively unavailable for thousands of patients whose survival depends on advanced medical interventions not accessible locally.<sup>48</sup>

In the face of this profound collapse, seeking medical treatment abroad became

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48 A statement provided by Dr .Mohammed Abu Selmiyah ,Director of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City on02 December2025



the only remaining avenue of survival for thousands of patients. However, this pathway itself was subjected to systematic obstruction, transforming it from a humanitarian measure into a highly restrictive and selective mechanism. According to WHO data, the number of patients medically evacuated from the Gaza Strip between July 2024 and December 2025 did not exceed 3,069, including 2,665 patients during 2025 alone. In contrast, the Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed that at least 19,500 patients and injured individuals required urgent medical evacuation during the same period. This stark disparity demonstrates that fewer than one-sixth of those in need were actually able to travel, while the overwhelming majority were left within a collapsed healthcare system incapable of providing life-saving treatment.<sup>49</sup>

This obstruction has, in effect, become a direct deadly cause. WHO reported that 1,092 patients in the Gaza Strip died while awaiting medical evacuation between July 2024 and November 2025.<sup>50</sup> These deaths included patients suffering from cancer, kidney failure, heart disease, severe injuries, and critical neonatal conditions—cases that are generally treatable or whose survival prospects could

49 WHO, Medical Evacuations Dashboard – Gaza, Link: <https://response.reliefweb.int/palestine/health>

50 WHO official says about 1,092 patients in Gaza died while awaiting medical evacuation – Xinhua, Link: <https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/1213/c90000-20402043.html?utm>

have been significantly improved had timely access to specialized medical care been available. This figure underscores that the denial of medical evacuation constituted a direct violation of the rights to life and health.

According to PCHR's follow-up, the profile of those permitted to travel reveals a clear discriminatory pattern in access to medical evacuation opportunities. The majority of approved evacuation cases involved children, while men and younger adult categories were systematically denied permission to travel, even in cases requiring urgent treatment. This pattern left thousands of critically injured individuals and patients suffering from cancer, kidney failure, and cardiac diseases in the Gaza Strip without any viable therapeutic options. It indicates that medical evacuation was not administered on the basis of medical need or urgency but was instead subject to restrictive measures that effectively barred large segments of the population from accessing essential and life-saving healthcare.

This deprivation of cancer patients constitutes one of the most severe forms of medical denial, particularly given the presence of more than 12,500 cancer patients in the Gaza Strip who have been deprived of treatment. This situation followed the destruction and suspension of specialized medical facilities, particularly those providing chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, rendering them non-operational.

The suspension of therapeutic protocols and the obstruction of travel for treatment led to a rapid deterioration in patients' conditions, with a corresponding increase in mortality due to lack of treatment, shortages of essential medicines, and widespread malnutrition. This has effectively transformed treatable diseases into prolonged and preventable fatal conditions as a result of systematic medical deprivation.<sup>51</sup>

Similarly, patients with kidney failure faced an immediate risk of death due to the reduction or suspension of dialysis sessions, in the context of the destruction and downsizing of dialysis units, the depletion of medical solutions, and recurrent electricity and fuel outages. This led to deaths caused by the accumulation of toxins in the blood and cardiac arrest—medically well-known outcomes that are entirely preventable under conditions of regular and adequate care. The crisis also extended to patients with thalassemia, who were deprived of iron-chelat-

51 PCHR, Report: Silent Death: <https://pchrgaza.org/israel-kills-cancer-patients-through-deliberate-delay-committing-an-act-of-genocide/>

ing medications and safe blood transfusions,<sup>52</sup> as well as patients with celiac disease who rely entirely on therapeutic food products that were prevented from entering the Gaza Strip. This resulted in severe malnutrition and deaths among children.<sup>53</sup>

The deprivation of treatment becomes even more severe in the case of amputees and patients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. According to official statistics issued by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2,889 such severe cases were recorded, including 1,830 amputations and 1,059 spinal cord injuries. Despite the severity of these conditions, only 1,718 patients underwent medical assessment, while just 953 received official referrals for treatment abroad, and only 54 patients were ultimately permitted to travel for medical care outside the Gaza Strip.<sup>54</sup> This situation, compounded by the destruction of orthopedic departments and rehabilitation centers, as well as the prohibition on importing prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, assistive devices, and related manufacturing materials, has left thousands of injured persons without any follow-up treatment. Consequently, injuries that could have been partially rehabilitated have been transformed into permanent disabilities with profound physical, psychological, and social consequences. This is particularly significant given that the majority of cases involve males aged 18–59, in addition to hundreds of children.

This deprivation has been further exacerbated by the severe shortage of medicines and medical supplies. Statistics on drug and medical consumables shortages during 2025 indicate that the average stock-out rate for essential medicines reached approximately 47% by the end of September, while the average stock-out rate for medical consumables reached 65%.<sup>55</sup> These shortages included oncology drugs, dialysis solutions, cardiac medications, antibiotics, anesthetics, surgical supplies, and laboratory materials. As a result, life-saving procedures were severely disrupted, and hospitals were rendered unable to provide alternative treatment options, even where medical personnel were available.

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52 PCHR, press release: Mass Death Awaits Thousands of Gaza Patients as Israel Continues Its Starvation Policy and Denial of Medical Treatment, <https://pchrgaza.org/mass-death-awaits-thousands-of-gaza-patients-as-israel-continues-its-starvation-policy-and-denial-of-medical-treatment/>

53 PCHR, Press release: PCHR Issues Urgent Appeal to Save Lives of Celiac Patients in Gaza Amid Catastrophic Denial of Therapeutic Food Supplies, <https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-issues-urgent-appeal-to-save-lives-of-celiac-patients-in-gaza-amid-catastrophic-denial-of-therapeutic-food-supplies/>

54 Ministry of Health, Health Information Unit, Health information dashboard: <https://www.sehatty.ps/public/>

55 A statement provided by Engineer Zaher al-Wheidi, Director of the Health Information Unit at the Ministry of Health, 02 December 2025.

Taken together, these facts—including the systematic undermining of the healthcare system, the obstruction of medical evacuations, restrictions on travel for treatment abroad, and the deprivation of medicines and assistive devices—reveal a comprehensive pattern of deliberate medical deprivation. Under the standards of international humanitarian law and international human rights law—particularly the Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—this pattern constitutes a grave violation of the rights to health and rehabilitation.

Given its scale, persistence, and lethal consequences, this conduct amounts to the imposition of conditions of life on the Palestinian population calculated to bring about their partial destruction by transforming disease, disability, and medical deprivation into sustained instruments of mass harm.

### ■ **Palestinians in Gaza Deprived of Access to Adequate Shelter, Clothes, Hygiene and Sanitation Supplies**

In 2025, the IOF continued to impose unlawful and tightened restrictions on the entry of shelter materials, clothing, and hygiene supplies, in violation of their obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. This deprivation constituted one of the most severe dimensions of the humanitarian crisis, particularly in the context of widespread destruction of dwellings, ongoing mass displacement, and the absence of any safe or adequate alternatives for housing.

During the period from the beginning of the year until October 2025, particularly following the imposition of the siege on 2 March, PCHR's press releases documented the near-total suspension of the entry of shelter materials and essential hygiene supplies, including soap, detergents, sanitary pads, and blankets. The restrictions were not limited to reducing quantities; they extended to the effective prohibition of entire categories of items classified as basic humanitarian necessities. This resulted in a significant deterioration in the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of displaced families.

In 2025, approximately 288,000 families were forced to live in extremely dangerous conditions, residing in worn-out tents or in damaged buildings at risk of collapse, without meeting even the most basic standards of adequate shelter. United Nations agencies estimated that the Gaza Strip required at least



300,000 tents and temporary housing units; however, only a limited number were permitted to enter, covering only a small fraction of the actual need. As a result, thousands of families were compelled to remain in structurally unsafe homes, posing a direct and ongoing threat to their lives.<sup>56</sup>

Although a ceasefire was declared on 10 October 2025, the IOF continued to impose strict restrictions on the entry of adequate shelter materials. The spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, stated that the Israeli authorities had rejected 23 requests to bring in nearly 4,000 pallets of critical supplies, including tents, sealing and framing kits, bedding, kitchen sets, blankets, and other essential items required to improve living conditions in displacement camps. These materials constituted urgent humanitarian necessities that could not be delayed.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Government Media Update 1010: A total of only 986 aid trucks has been allowed to enter the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire came into force, including 14 carrying cooking gas and 28 carrying diesel fuel.

<sup>57</sup> United Nations ,Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary General, Daily Press Briefing, link: <https://press.un.org/en/2025/db251114.doc.htm>

In the same context, UN reports indicated that the shelter supplies permitted to enter the Gaza Strip following the ceasefire covered only a very small fraction of the actual needs. These reports emphasized that Gaza required hundreds of thousands of temporary housing units, rather than a few thousand additional tents that provide no effective protection against rain, wind, or cold. According to official government data, only 13,511 trucks entered the Gaza Strip over a 60-day period, out of an expected 36,000 trucks. This represents a daily average of no more than 226 trucks, compared to the planned 600 trucks per day—amounting to no more than 38% of the required amount.<sup>58</sup>

As winter set in, particularly amid changing weather conditions accompanied by heavy rainfall, thousands of trucks carrying humanitarian aid remained stalled at border crossings, awaiting Israeli approval to enter the Gaza Strip. These consignments included approximately 6,000 UNRWA trucks carrying food supplies sufficient to meet the needs of the population for over six months, in addition to hundreds of shipments of tents and shelter materials, the need for which had sharply increased due to worsening climatic conditions and intensified displacement.<sup>59</sup>

This deliberate deprivation of the entry of shelter materials, combined with severe weather conditions in the last quarter of 2025, contributed to a new humanitarian catastrophe marked by the collapse of 80 structurally damaged buildings across the Gaza Strip. These incidents resulted in the deaths of 18 individuals<sup>60</sup> in events that could have been avoided had reconstruction materials and adequate temporary shelters been permitted entry in a timely manner. These facts underscore a direct causal relationship between restrictions on shelter supplies and the heightened risk to civilian lives, particularly among those forced to remain in structurally unsafe buildings or makeshift tents.

PCHR called in its press releases throughout the year for the urgent need to allow the entry of more adequate shelter solutions beyond temporary tents, including mobile housing units capable of providing effective protection from climatic conditions and ensuring minimum standards of safety and privacy.

58 Government Media Office update No. (1030): Sixty days after the ceasefire, 738 violations by the Israeli occupation continue to keep the Gaza Strip under a suffocating siege, while the level of humanitarian commitment has not exceeded 38%.

59 PCHR, Press release: PCHR Calls for Urgent Entry of Relief Aid into Gaza and Restoration of UNRWA's Full Mandate in Line with ICJ Ruling:  
<https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-calls-for-urgent-entry-of-relief-aid-into-gaza-and-restoration-of-unrwas-full-mandate-in-line-with-icj-ruling/>

60 Statistics provided by Mahmoud Basal, Spokesperson of the Civil Defense, 21 December 2025

It emphasized that reliance on tents alone did not constitute an adequate humanitarian response and failed to meet the basic needs of the civilian population amid widespread destruction and extremely harsh living conditions in the Gaza Strip.<sup>61</sup>

From March 2025 until the end of September 2025, the population of the Gaza Strip endured an acute shortage of basic hygiene supplies and clothing, amid ongoing restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid and the breakdown of essential services. According to international reports, nearly 63% of households—approximately 1.3 million people—lacked access to soap and personal hygiene products. In addition, more than half a million women and girls faced a shortage of essential sanitary supplies by September 2025, directly affecting their health and daily dignity.<sup>62</sup> A critical scarcity of hygiene products was also reported in local markets, where the price of basic items, such as dishwashing liquid, rose to unprecedented levels (approximately 30 USD per bottle), rendering them unaffordable for most affected families. Furthermore, the suspension of humanitarian imports since 2 March 2025 led to the depletion of clothing and hygiene stockpiles in UN agency warehouses, leaving families unable to replace hygiene products and essential clothing lost during prolonged displacement and amid the collapse of water, sanitation, and health services.<sup>63</sup>

According to the Health Cluster, Acute Respiratory Infections remain the most frequently reported conditions, accounting for 68 per cent of all reported cases in 2025. Moreover, overcrowding due to displacement across the Gaza Strip, a collapse of water and sanitation systems and the resulting spread of infectious diseases have triggered an uptick of Guillain-Barré Syndrome cases, according to the Rehabilitation Task Force. Acute Watery Diarrhoea, and Acute Jaundice Syndrome (which can be caused by Hepatitis A), are also on the rise.

in the absence of minimum hygiene and public health conditions.<sup>64</sup>

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61 PCHR, Press Release: PCHR Warns of Worsening Conditions for Displaced Persons in Gaza Due to Continued Israeli Restrictions on the Entry of Adequate Shelter Supplies:

<https://pchrgaza.org/pchr-warns-of-worsening-conditions-for-displaced-persons-in-gaza-due-to-continued-israeli-restrictions-on-the-entry-of-adequate-shelter-supplies/>

62 UNFPA in Palestine, <https://palestine.unfpa.org/en/publications/silent-struggles-menstrual-hygiene-crisis-gaza>

63 OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 31 August – 13 September 2025:

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-31-august-13-september-2025>

64 UNRWA Situation Report #199 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-199-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>



### ■ Extensive Destruction to Gaza Strip's Cities and Infrastructure

The year 2025 witnessed an unprecedented escalation in the policies of destruction carried out by the IOF across cities in the Gaza Strip. This destruction was no longer confined to areas of active hostilities or alleged military targets; rather, it evolved into a systematic pattern targeting urban and civilian infrastructure on a wide scale, directly undermining the essentials of life. This pattern was marked by geographic expansion, temporal progression, and the use of multiplicity of methods, indicating that it was not merely an incidental consequence of hostilities, rather a policy in its own right.

Since March 2025, following the resumption of large-scale ground operations, cities across the Gaza Strip entered a new phase of deliberate destruction accompanied by widespread waves of forced displacement. Reports by the United Nations, as well as PCHR press releases, indicate that this phase was marked by the systematic retargeting of residential neighborhoods that had already sustained damage in 2024, escalating them from partial or moderate damage to complete destruction. This pattern reflects a deliberate policy aimed at further destroying the civilian sphere, rather than addressing immediate military threats.

According to satellite imagery analysis by UNOSAT, as of 11 October 2025, approximately 81% of all buildings in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed or damaged as a result of ongoing military operations and conflict. This included 123,464 buildings completely destroyed, 17,116 severely damaged, 33,857 moderately damaged, and 23,836 classified as “possibly damaged,” bringing



the total number of affected structures to approximately 198,273 buildings. In addition, around 320,622 housing units within these buildings were affected—an increase of nearly 12% compared to the assessment of 8 July 2025—with the highest rates of increased damage recorded in Gaza and North Gaza governorates.<sup>65</sup>

In April and May 2025, military operations expanded to include northern Gaza and the eastern areas of Gaza City, particularly the neighborhoods of Shuja'iyya and al-Tuffah, as well as Jabalia al-Balad. The expansion also extended to eastern Khan Younis and the vicinity of the Gaza European Hospital in the south. This phase was accompanied by intensive bombardment, large-scale razing, and the demolition of entire residential blocks, resulting in widespread destruction of the urban fabric and critical infrastructure, including road networks, water systems, and electricity grids. These actions effectively contributed to the depopulation of Gaza City and northern areas.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Satellite Analysis Programme (UNOSAT), Link:

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/unosat-gaza-strip-damage-assessment-31oct25/>

<sup>66</sup> PCHR, Press Release: Israel Intensifies Airstrikes, Expands Ground Assault, and Continues Killing and Terrorizing Civilians in Gaza Strip <https://pchrgaza.org/israel-intensifies-airstrikes-expands-ground-assault-and-continues-killing-and-terrorizing-civilians-in-gaza-strip/>

By August–September 2025, the western neighborhoods of Gaza City—Sheikh Radwan, al-Nasr, al-Rimal, Tal al-Hawa, and the Industrial Area—experienced a significant escalation in the targeting of residential towers and multi-story buildings. These areas had previously been among the least affected during 2024 and had been sheltering displaced persons from the eastern and northern areas of the Gaza Strip. During this phase, dozens of residential towers were completely destroyed, including Al-Roya Tower in the al-Rimal neighborhood, which housed the headquarters of PCHR. The tower collapsed entirely following an Israeli airstrike on 8 September 2025, representing a significant loss for civil society organizations in Gaza. Field reports by PCHR further documented that, since early September 2025 alone, at least 70 multi-story residential buildings were completely destroyed, in addition to 120 others that sustained severe damage. This resulted in the displacement of thousands of families and formed part of a broader pattern aimed at depopulating Gaza City—an objective that progressed rapidly until it was halted by the ceasefire agreement in October 2025.<sup>67</sup>

By the end of the year, particularly in December 2025, the impact of this widespread destruction was further exacerbated by harsh weather conditions. Heavy rainfall and storms led to the collapse of buildings that had already been structurally damaged by previous military operations, resulting in additional civilian casualties, including deaths and injuries.

In the context of this widespread destruction, essential infrastructure in the Gaza Strip was not spared from systematic targeting but rather became a direct objective of military operations throughout 2025. More than 85% of water and sanitation facilities were rendered inoperative, including desalination plants, treatment and pumping stations, wells, reservoirs, and main transmission lines, according to international reports. This resulted in a sharp decline in water availability, dropping to between 3 and 5 liters per person per day—far below the minimum humanitarian standard of 15 liters, leaving the population exposed to severe water scarcity, poor hygiene, and the spread of disease.<sup>68</sup>

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67 PCHR, Press Release: Mass Killings and Widespread Destruction Are Israeli Occupation Forces' Brutal Tools to Forcibly Displace Gazans and Destroy Their City in the Perpetuation of Genocide, <https://pchrghaza.org/mass-killings-and-widespread-destruction-are-israeli-occupation-forces-brutal-tools-to-forcibly-displace-gazans-and-destroy-their-city-in-the-perpetuation-of-genocide/>

68 PCBS and the Environment Quality Authority issue a press release on the occasion of World Environment Day: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/postar.aspx?lang=ar&ItemID=5999>



The crisis deepened with the destruction of 73 out of 84 pumping stations and damage to more than 650,000 linear meters of water and sewage networks, leading to the overflow of wastewater into residential areas and around displacement shelters. This situation exposed over 78% of the population to serious health risks associated with environmental contamination and the spread of rodents and disease-transmitting insects, amid the near-total collapse of sanitation and preventive health services, as repeatedly warned by relevant UN bodies.<sup>69</sup>

In parallel, data from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicate that the Gaza Strip is facing one of the most severe environmental and urban disasters globally, with more than 57.6 million tons of debris accumulated as a result of the destruction of approximately 80% of buildings. Despite efforts made during 2025, which addressed only around 225,000 tons of rubble, the

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.



scale of destruction far exceeds current response capacities. As a result, debris removal, clearance of unexploded ordnance, and the reopening of roads constitute a long-term challenge that may take years, if not decades.<sup>70</sup> This environmental catastrophe has been compounded by the near-total collapse of the waste management system following the destruction of most waste collection vehicles, maintenance workshops, and damage to road networks. Municipalities were forced to establish temporary dumping sites near residential areas, leading to air and groundwater pollution and increased rates of skin and respiratory diseases, particularly among children and the elderly.

The electricity and energy sector was among the most heavily targeted, with Israeli authorities employing the outage of electricity and fuel as a direct tool of coercion against the population. From the early days of escalation, all ten

70 UNDP, Gaza Debris Management Situation Report – December 2025: <https://www.undp.org/papp/publications/gaza-debris-management-situation-report-december-2025>

electricity lines supplying the Gaza Strip were cut, and fuel entry to the sole power plant was blocked, resulting in a complete and prolonged blackout. Additionally, more than 3,780 kilometers of electricity networks and 2,105 transformers were destroyed, approximately 70% of the electricity distribution company's buildings were damaged, and 90% of its warehouses and maintenance facilities were destroyed. Direct losses in this sector alone are estimated to exceed USD 450 million.<sup>71</sup>

The systematic targeting extended to the telecommunications sector, as its infrastructure suffered severe damage that resulted in an almost complete outage of mobile phone and internet services, as well as emergency communication networks, particularly in mid-September 2025.<sup>72</sup> This disruption cannot be regarded as an incidental consequence of bombardment; rather, it reflects a deliberate policy aimed at isolating the population from one another and from the outside world, while depriving them of the ability to report incidents, document violations, or issue distress calls. The collapse of communication networks led to a serious paralysis in rescue operations, as medical teams and civil defense units were unable to coordinate or promptly access sites of bombardment. In many cases, the injured had to be transported on primitive animal-drawn carts, in the absence of communications and functional transportation systems. This breakdown also significantly hindered the documentation of serious violations at the time, thereby enabling further crimes to be committed with reduced visibility.

In the same context, municipal heavy vehicles were not spared from direct targeting, as bulldozers, trucks, and engineering equipment used for road clearance and rubble removal were rendered largely inoperable. This resulted in an almost complete paralysis of local teams' capacity to rescue individuals trapped under debris, respond to distress calls, and secure safe corridors. As a result, streets were transformed into blocked corridors of rubble, and entire urban areas were effectively isolated, reflecting a sustained pattern aimed at prolonging human suffering and obstructing any meaningful recovery or restoration of normal life.<sup>73</sup>

71 PCHR: Gaza on the Brink of Total Collapse: Israeli Occupation Forces Systematically Destroy Electricity Infrastructure and Cut Off Energy Sources, <https://pchrgaza.org/gaza-on-the-brink-of-total-collapse-israeli-occupation-forces-systematically-destroy-electricity-infrastructure-and-cut-off-energy-sources/>

72 OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #323 | Gaza Strip: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-323-gaza-strip>

73 PCHR, Press release: Israel Persists in Genocide by Deliberately Destroying Bulldozers and Rescue Equipment, <https://pchrgaza.org/israel-persists-in-genocide-by-deliberately-destroying-bulldozers-and-rescue-equipment/>

Even alternative energy sources were not spared from this pattern, as more than 1,695 solar panels used to power essential facilities, homes, and displacement shelters were destroyed. This reflects a clear and deliberate policy aimed at plunging the Gaza Strip into darkness and depriving the population of any alternative sources of energy.<sup>74</sup> This comprehensive collapse has had far-reaching consequences across all vital sectors, including health, education, municipal services, and telecommunications, all of which now operate at severely limited capacity, meeting only a fraction of the minimum humanitarian needs.

This pattern of destruction—given its geographic scope and systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure—constitutes a grave breach of Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It also amounts to the large-scale destruction of property prohibited under international humanitarian law and intersects with the crime of forced displacement, particularly where destruction is used as a tool to empty civilian space of its residents and eliminate the conditions necessary for life.

#### **1.24 Imposing Measures Intended to Prevent Births within Gaza Strip**

IOF continued practices that directly targeted women in the Gaza Strip, forming a systematic policy that appears to undermine the possibility of childbirth within the Strip. Israel imposed catastrophic living and health conditions that significantly increased the risks associated with pregnancy and severely disrupted its normal progression. This situation coincided with widespread indiscriminate bombardment, the near-total collapse of the healthcare system, and a deliberate policy of starvation and dehydration, which together transformed pregnancy and childbirth into life-threatening conditions. Pregnant women were exposed to multiple violations, including lack of protection from military attacks, restricted access to safe medical care, repeated displacement, and exposure to toxic fumes. These conditions contributed to miscarriage, premature birth, neonatal deaths shortly after delivery, or deaths within hours due to the absence of functioning neonatal intensive care units, themselves disabled by power outages and fuel shortages. These outcomes cannot be understood as incidental consequences of military operations but rather form part of a broader policy aimed at affecting reproductive capacity for Palestinians as an act of genocide.

In 2025 in particular, indicators of this deterioration rose sharply. The Ministry of Health recorded approximately 17,000 births during the first half of the year, including 2,600 miscarriages, 220 fetal deaths prior to delivery, and 21

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

neonatal deaths within the first day of life. In addition, 1,600 infants were born underweight, and more than 2,500 were admitted to neonatal intensive care units operating at 14.91% above capacity. Premature births accounted for 1,460 cases, representing 8.59% of total deliveries.

Pregnant women were further subjected to conditions that significantly increased the risks of reproductive harm, as thousands were forced to give birth inside overcrowded tents and shelters, often without access to clean water, adequate nutrition, or any form of prenatal or postnatal care. In many cases, women delivered without anesthesia or underwent emergency procedures, including hysterectomies, due to severe shortages in blood supplies and medical resources, resulting in the permanent loss of fertility for some.

These conditions worsened following the closure of border crossings in March 2025 and the prevention of food and medicine entry, which led to widespread malnutrition and severe anemia among pregnant women. Some reportedly lost more than ten kilograms during pregnancy and suffered significant deterioration in vital functions, contributing to higher rates of miscarriage, congenital abnormalities, and premature births. Consequently, infants were born underdeveloped, underweight, or with impaired organ growth, with severely reduced survival prospects due to the absence of essential medical care.

Mortality rates among premature and low-birth-weight infants increased to two to three times the normal level due to preventable causes, including overcrowded incubators, multiple infants sharing single devices, and the spread of infections and disease. The targeting of hospitals and the ongoing electricity shortages further prevented the operation of incubators and essential neonatal equipment, leading to additional preventable deaths in the early days and weeks of life.

Taken together, these practices cannot be viewed as incidental consequences. Rather, they form part of acts that fall within the scope of the crime of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including (a) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, and (b) deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part. The events of 2025 clearly demonstrate the scale and severity of this pattern, particularly through the erosion of reproductive capacity and the systematic deprivation of conditions necessary to protect the lives of women and newborns amid ongoing aggression, starvation, and denial of healthcare.

# 2.

## Human Rights Situation in the West Bank in 2025

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The West Bank, including Jerusalem, witnessed an unprecedented escalation in both the scale and nature of violations carried out by IOF and settlers, rendering this year one of the bloodiest and most destructive in the occupied Palestinian territory in recent years. Israeli policy during this year was characterized by heightened violence and increasing restrictions on Palestinians through a series of military and field measures that directly impacted their daily lives and targeted their physical and demographic presence on the ground.

These violations ranged from direct killings during repeated incursions and military operations, to accelerated settlement expansion, including the approval of thousands of settlement units and the establishment of new outposts; as well as systematic violence and assaults perpetrated by settlers under the protection of IOF. This was accompanied by widespread arrest campaigns targeting hundreds of Palestinians on a monthly basis, in addition to home demolitions and forced displacement affecting dozens of families, particularly in Jerusalem and areas classified as “Area C.” These policies were further compounded by the widespread perpetration of settler attacks against civilians and their property, carried out with the support and protection of occupation forces, thereby exacerbating the suffering of the Palestinian people.



## 2.1 Acts of killing and injuries

The West Bank witnessed, during 2025, an unprecedented wave of killings and injuries committed by IOF during incursions and military operations, in an escalation that coincided with the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip. IOF relied on the use of excessive force and advanced lethal means within densely populated civilian environments, including drones, warplanes, tanks, bulldozers, and heavy machinery, which were deployed into narrow alleys within cities and refugee camps, resulting in increased civilian casualties.

Among the most notable of these military operations was a large-scale offensive launched by IOF in the northern West Bank. It began in Jenin on 21 January, and in Tulkarm and its refugee camp on 27 January, and continued for 22 days. The operation was accompanied by aerial bombardment and the commission of killings and widespread destruction, resulting in the killing of dozens of Palestinians, including 10 civilians, among them 4 children, in addition to the injury and arrest of hundreds of others, and the displacement of 40,000 residents.



Throughout the year, patterns of killings of civilians persisted, including acts of extra-judicial execution, the shooting of civilians during incursions and invasions, targeted killings of individuals under the pretext that they were “wanted” by IOF, and killings carried out by settlers. Among these crimes was the execution of two Palestinians following their arrest in the Abu Dhahr area of Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank on 27 November. A video circulated showing a military bulldozer demolishing the entrance of a storage room in a besieged house, after which two Palestinian young men emerged with their hands raised in surrender. After they were fully subdued, they were ordered to return inside the house, where they were summarily executed. The footage also documented an Israeli bulldozer desecrating the body of one of the victims.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2025/11/28/%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%85-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%AC%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%86>

In total, these crimes resulted in the killing of 219 Palestinians, including 114 civilians, among them 41 children and 5 women. Among the total fatalities, 14 Palestinians were killed by settlers. Additionally, 14 Palestinians, including one child, died in Israeli prisons. Of the total number of fatalities, 41 Palestinians were killed as a result of airstrikes targeting individuals inside homes, facilities, and vehicles, including 9 civilians, among them 4 children. Furthermore, 1,331 Palestinians were injured during the year, including 301 children and 65 women.

## 2.2 Demolition of Houses and Civilian Property and Objects

The year 2025 marked one of the most destructive years in relation to policies of demolishing homes and property in the West Bank and Jerusalem. IOF destroyed hundreds of homes and structures, deepened settlement-related segregation policies, and caused severe humanitarian and economic harm. These practices confirm that demolitions are not isolated measures, but rather a systematic policy targeting Palestinian presence and the Arab identity of the West Bank and Jerusalem and constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

During 2025, IOF demolished 1,166 homes and civilian structures in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, distributed as follows: 643 homes were demolished, including 68 cases of self-demolition, 189 homes demolished under



the pretext of lack of permits, and 27 homes demolished as a form of collective punishment, in addition to 358 homes destroyed in the context of ground military assaults on cities and refugee camps in the northern West Bank. IOF also demolished 493 civilian structures, including commercial, industrial, and agricultural facilities, a water well, as well as educational and religious facilities.

Demolition crimes escalated to an unprecedented level in the northern West Bank, particularly in Jenin refugee camp, Tulkarm and its camp, and Nur Shams camp. At the beginning of the year, IOF carried out a large-scale military operation that lasted for several months, during which hundreds of homes were destroyed, thousands of civilians were displaced, and these areas were transformed into depopulated zones resembling ghost towns. In Nur Shams camp, between 20–27 June 2025, IOF carried out a systematic destruction campaign targeting dozens of residential buildings, particularly in the neighborhoods of Al-Manshiya, Al-Maslakh, Al-Ayada, and Al-Jami' neighborhoods, leading to the destruction of entire streets and the fragmentation of neighborhoods. In Tulkarm camp, IOF demolished more than 50 buildings during the second half of June. This destruction was carried out in implementation of a plan announced by the occupation authorities in May 2025, which provided for the demolition of 106 buildings in both camps. Between 1–16 June, IOF demolished 76 homes in Tulkarm camp and 48 buildings in Nur Shams camp.



In a related context, Israeli occupation authorities continued to implement a systematic policy of demolishing residential homes and other civilian objects. These violations were carried out either through direct demolition and confiscation of property, or by forcing Palestinian residents to self-demolish their homes under the threat of heavy financial penalties.

The occupying authorities also continued to apply a policy of collective punishment targeting families of Palestinians accused of carrying out acts of resistance against occupation forces or settlers, by demolishing or sealing their homes. A notable focus this year was observed in targeting East Jerusalem in particular, within the broader framework of efforts to Judaize the city in its entirety. The targeting extended to include commercial, industrial, agricultural, service, health, educational, religious, and sports facilities across various areas of the West Bank.

Moreover, demolition and land-leveling operations continued across different parts of the West Bank in order to implement illegal Israeli settlement projects. These actions coincided with ongoing and repeated settler attacks against Palestinian civilians and their property, often carried out under the protection of Israeli military forces, constituting grave violations against the civilian population, particularly in areas classified as “Area C.”

### **2.3 Escalation of Settlement Expansion and Settler Violence**

Israeli policies aimed at fragmenting Palestinian geography and suffocating Palestinian population centers have not been limited to the northern West Bank. Rather, this systematic assault has extended to various Palestinian cities, as well as villages behind the Annexation Wall, in and around Jerusalem, and within Area C. These measures form part of a broader strategy calculated to isolate Palestinian cities and villages from one another and transform them into disconnected cantons through the intensification of military checkpoints, expansion of settlements, and destruction of infrastructure. Such practices are paving the way for the imposition of coercive realities intended to undermine any Palestinian geographic or demographic continuity. Jerusalem and its surrounding areas stand out as among the most heavily targeted examples within this comprehensive policy. During 2025, the occupied Palestinian territory witnessed a significant escalation in Israeli settlement policies and settler violence, as part of a broader strategy aimed at consolidating control over land, fragmenting Palestinian geography, and altering the demographic composition.

These policies were implemented through a combination of official measures led by Israeli authorities and systematic attacks carried out by settlers under the protection of occupation forces, affecting various areas of the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

### ■ **Jerusalem**

Jerusalem witnessed a marked escalation in Israeli policies aimed at tightening control over the city and deepening its isolation from its Palestinian surroundings. Demolition operations under the pretext of unlicensed construction continued amid restrictive planning policies that effectively prevent Palestinians from urban development. At the same time, occupation authorities intensified repression of cultural and social life, banning more than seven cultural, professional, and social activities, and imposing restrictions on the Palestinian Bar Association in Jerusalem, including preventing it from holding elections at its headquarters in Beit Hanina.

As part of a broader policy of geographic isolation, on 20 September 2025, IOF imposed strict restrictions on residents of Beit Iksa, Nabi Samuel, and Al-Khalayleh neighborhood, requiring them to obtain special permits to access or stay in their own communities after declaring these areas “closed contact zones” until the end of 2027. This has effectively subjected thousands of residents to continuous inspection and prolonged waiting at checkpoints.

The year also witnessed accelerated implementation of the E1 settlement project, one of the most dangerous settlement plans aimed at linking the settlement of Ma’ale Adumim to Jerusalem and severing the geographic contiguity between the northern and southern West Bank. To facilitate this project, hundreds of demolition orders were issued, and hundreds of dunums of land were confiscated for the expansion of roads and infrastructure in preparation for the construction of thousands of settlement units.

### ■ **Al-Aqsa Mosque: Unprecedented Violations**

Al-Aqsa Mosque witnessed unprecedented serious violations during 2025, including two documented incidents involving the introduction of animal sacrifices into the mosque, marking a significant step toward fulfilling central objectives of Temple Mount groups. These incidents coincided with an increase in the raising of Israeli flags within the mosque courtyards, settlers wearing



religious garments (“tallit” and “tefillin”), and performing religious rituals, alongside repeated incursions led by the far-right Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, in attempts to impose a new status quo within the holy site.

### ■ Settler Attacks

Settler violence against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, escalated to unprecedented levels. The occupation authorities enabled settlers, including organized extremist groups such as the “Hilltop Youth” and “Price Tag” groups, to carry out attacks against Palestinians on roads, in homes, and against property, in full view and under the protection of IOF.

Human rights organizations documented killings carried out by settlers against Palestinian civilians across the West Bank under the protection of Israeli forces. These crimes resulted in the killing of 14 Palestinians and the injury of others. Attacks included assaults on agricultural land, destruction of crops and uprooting of trees, physical assaults on civilians, arson attacks against homes and vehicles, and widespread destruction of property.



## ■ Expansion of Settlement Outposts and New Projects

The year 2025 witnessed a rapid increase in the establishment of 81 illegal settlement outposts, primarily agricultural and pastoral in nature. On 11 February 2025, the Israeli government authorized the allocation of 16,121 dunums of land for settler grazing activities in the northern West Bank, including areas previously designated as military firing zones.

On 25 May 2025, the Israeli government approved the establishment of 22 new settlements, some of which aim to formalize and expand outposts established after the October war, as part of a broader policy of unlawful expansion.

In terms of settlement modalities, the year saw the expansion of so-called “tourism settlement” through the takeover of archaeological sites across the West Bank. Israeli authorities issued 59 military orders to seize archaeological sites, including the site of Sebastia in June. In addition, a 4-kilometer “tourist road” was constructed on lands in Yatta, south of Hebron, alongside the confiscation of 288 square meters in the upper level of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron for so-called restoration purposes.

On 3 February 2025, a Knesset member from the Likud party proposed a plan to annex 29 settlements, inhabited by approximately 118,000 settlers, covering an area of 180,000 dunums, to Jerusalem, transferring their jurisdiction from the Civil Administration to the Israeli civil government.

Furthermore, on 30 March 2025, the Israeli Cabinet approved the allocation of 330 million shekels to construct a road near Al-Za'ayyem and Al-Eizariya, aimed at separating Palestinian and settler movement corridors and annexing hundreds of dunums of land behind it. This road, known as the "Fabric of Life" road, complements the E1 project, which also includes continuous expansion works along the Jerusalem–Hebron road, seizing hundreds of dunums for settlement bypass roads.

### ■ Urban and Settlement Expansion

The year witnessed the implementation of construction and expansion projects, including: 109 IDA plans, 75 of which were officially licensed or activated; approval of a large-scale construction plan in the E1 area east of occupied Jerusalem, encompassing the construction of more than 3,401 housing units; and the establishment of a new settlement called "Asha'al," comprising 342 housing units and public buildings, between the settlements of Ma'ale Adumim and Pisgat Ze'ev, within Area C, which is under Israeli control.

The E1 project represents a core component of Israel's settlement expansion strategy aimed at consolidating control over Jerusalem, severing it from the rest of the West Bank, and preventing the establishment of a geographically contiguous Palestinian state.

## 2.4 Deportation and Forced Displacement Policy

During 2025, Israeli occupation authorities continued to implement a systematic policy of transfer and forced displacement of Palestinian populations in various areas of the West Bank, as part of a broader campaign aimed at seizing land, expanding settlements, and imposing a new demographic reality. These arbitrary policies resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of Palestinians from their homes due to widespread demolition and destruction affecting hundreds of houses and residential structures across the West Bank.

## ■ Displacement of Thousands of Palestinian Families in the Northern West Bank

Cities and refugee camps in the northern West Bank, including Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and Tubas, witnessed large-scale incursions by IOF, accompanied by the demolition of homes and civilian structures, resulting in the forced displacement of approximately 40,000 persons. Under the pretext of security operations and searching for “wanted individuals,” IOF destroyed homes over the heads of their residents or forced them into self-demolition under the threat of heavy fines. Among the most notable operations:

- » In January 2025, Jenin refugee camp and Tulkarm camps witnessed unprecedented large-scale military operations. The operation began in Jenin camp on 21 January, followed by operations in Tulkarm camps on 27 January. These operations resulted in widespread destruction, the displacement of more than 5,000 families (25,000 persons), the complete destruction of more than 500 homes, and partial damage to 2,573 homes. Entrances to the camps were sealed off, effectively transforming them into areas largely devoid of life due to the earth mounds and military barriers.
- » On 9 June, a decision was issued to demolish 90 additional homes in Jenin camp, as part of the ongoing demolition campaign since January. On 30



June, IOF issued a further order to demolish 104 additional buildings in the camp, which were destroyed by bulldozers three days later. These demolitions led to the displacement of hundreds of Palestinians. In total, more than 600 homes were demolished, accompanied by full military control over the camp and the installation of gates at its entrances.

### ■ **Displacement of Bedouin Communities in Jericho and the Jordan Valley**

The Palestinian Jordan Valley, particularly east of Jericho, has witnessed a dangerous escalation in violations by IOF aimed at emptying the land of its original inhabitants through various forms of forced displacement targeting Bedouin communities. Among the most prominent cases is that of the Arab al-Mleihah al-Tahta community, southeast of Al-Auja village, where systematic pressures forced residents to abandon their homes and grazing areas in one of the most severe recent instances of forced transfer.

This displacement occurred amid a sharp increase in settler attacks, particularly through so-called “pastoral settlement,” whereby livestock are used as a tool to assert control over Palestinian land and deny access to its owners. These policies targeted Bedouin communities in Jericho through the demolition of traditional homes and agricultural structures, land confiscation, and the imposition of strict restrictions on construction and movement, forcing dozens of families to relocate to overcrowded or restricted areas.

### ■ **Displacement of Arab al-Mleihat – The Jordan Valley**

A total of 18 families (123 individuals, including 28 women and 61 children) from the Arab al-Mleihah al-Tahta community, southeast of Al-Auja village, were forced to dismantle their homes and livestock shelters and relocate them approximately 5 kilometers away from their original lands following a series of settler attacks.

This policy has been replicated in other communities such as Wadi al-Siq (east of Ramallah) and Shalala al-Auja (north of Jericho), ultimately reaching Arab al-Mleihat, one of the largest and most significant Bedouin communities along the corridor between Jericho and Ramallah. This pattern cannot be separated from a broader strategy aimed at emptying the area of Palestinian presence in favor of large-scale settlement projects. According to information and



testimonies collected by the PCHR’s staff, the community originally consisted of approximately 70 families (500 persons), most of whom had already been forced to leave over the past three years due to harassment by IOF, including restrictions on access to grazing lands in the northern area—classified as firing zone No. 906—and prohibition of grazing in areas south of the settlement “Me’ot Jericho,” located approximately 500 meters from the community.

### ■ Displacement of Citizens in Masafer Yatta–Hebron

Masafer Yatta remains one of the Palestinian areas most severely affected by systematic and ongoing displacement policies. Israeli occupation authorities have sought for decades to depopulate the area through a combination of military, administrative, and economic measures. Since the 1970s, large areas of Masafer Yatta have been designated as so-called “Firing Zone 918,” in a move aimed at delegitimizing the permanent Palestinian presence and facilitating settlement expansion.

This designation has been accompanied by severe restrictions, including prohibitions on construction and rehabilitation, demolition of homes and agricultural structures, and denial of basic infrastructure such as electricity, water, and roads, with the aim of forcing residents to leave.



During 2025, IOF continued their efforts to displace residents of Masafer Yatta through measures that directly impacted their lives and stability, most notably:

- » On 17 June, the occupation army issued an order to expel residents from 13 villages, classifying them as “non-permanent residents,” covering an area of approximately 33,000 dunums. The order also introduced new measures allowing retroactive rejection of planning and construction applications to accelerate demolitions. This decision is based on the Israeli Supreme Court ruling of 4 May 2022, which authorized the evacuation of residents from the area known as Firing Zone 918.

The area includes 13 Palestinian communities within Masafer Yatta, which have long been subjected to systematic policies involving settlement expansion, establishment of new outposts, strict building restrictions, and denial of basic services such as electricity and water. These conditions have significantly deteriorated the living conditions of approximately 1,200 residents, who rely primarily on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods.

While the occupation army justifies displacement plans by designating the area as a “firing zone,” settlers have established 11 outposts in the area, including 6 outposts established since 7 October 2023, whose residents (settler groups) constitute the core of daily attacks targeting the local population.

### ■ Forced Displacement and Expulsion in Area C

Areas classified as Area C in the West Bank, which remain under full Israeli control since the Oslo Accords, continue to face systematic policies of demolition, restriction, and forced displacement. These policies constitute one of the primary tools used by the occupation to reshape the demographic and geographic reality of the West Bank.

For years, the occupation authorities have imposed strict restrictions on Palestinian construction, rejecting most planning and development applications and preventing residents from building homes, infrastructure, or agricultural facilities, while simultaneously expanding settlements and outposts at an accelerated pace. As a result, thousands of Palestinian communities in Area C have become permanently at risk of demolition, deprived of basic services, and subjected to conditions that render daily life nearly impossible.



These policies extend beyond demolition and construction bans to include land confiscation, road closures, restrictions on access to water sources and grazing areas, and repeated settler attacks, often carried out under the protection of Israeli military forces. This integrated policy framework aims to reduce Palestinian presence in these areas and forcibly displace residents, thereby facilitating settlement expansion and the imposition of a new reality aligned with long-term Israeli objectives.

Since the beginning of 2025, Israel has demolished more than 1,000 Palestinian structures in Area C under the pretext of lacking building permits—permits that are nearly impossible to obtain—resulting in the displacement of hundreds of Palestinian families.

## 2.5 Restrictions on Freedom of Movement in the West Bank

IOF continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank, as part of a systematic policy of collective punishment and consolidation of settlement control. Military checkpoints constitute one of the primary tools of control, used to fragment Palestinian geography and transform cities, towns, and refugee camps into isolated enclaves with severely



restricted movement between them. These measures are implemented in parallel with ongoing settlement expansion, the construction of bypass roads, and the deepening impact of the Annexation Wall within the West Bank.

During 2025, the total number of military checkpoints reached 793, including 89 permanent checkpoints located within the interior of the West Bank. In addition, IOF installed 1,008 permanently closed iron gates at the entrances of cities and towns located along main roads or near settlements, established 158 earth mounds to block roads, and set up 103 partial checkpoints, in addition to ad hoc checkpoints that have effectively become almost permanent. These measures were accompanied by the continued ban on workers, traders, and businesspersons from entering Israel since 7 October 2023, further exacerbating the impact of collective punishment on the population.

IOF also closed numerous roads to Palestinian traffic for extended periods while allowing exclusive access for settlers. Furthermore, parts of the checkpoint system are operated by private Israeli security companies under the supervision of the occupation army, negatively affecting the regular functioning of the education system and disrupting the work of health and service institutions across the West Bank.



In East Jerusalem, 2025 witnessed a marked escalation in checkpoint policies and movement restrictions. Occupation authorities closed roads leading to the Old City and Al-Aqsa Mosque during Fridays and religious occasions, imposed stringent inspection measures, and deployed mobile checkpoints. Many Muslim worshippers were denied access to Al-Aqsa Mosque despite holding permits, while others were subjected to degrading identity checks. Restrictions also affected Christians during religious holidays, such as Holy Saturday, when limitations were imposed on the number of worshippers allowed entry and additional checkpoints were deployed around churches.

These measures had a profound impact on the daily lives of Jerusalem residents, hindering their access to workplaces, schools, and healthcare facilities, and restricting their ability to practice religious rituals and maintain social ties within the city.

At the King Hussein Bridge, the sole exit point for West Bank residents to the outside world, occupation authorities continued to subject Palestinian travelers to degrading treatment, including intrusive searches, security interrogations, and prolonged waiting times. Thousands of Palestinians were also denied their right to travel, with some turned back at the crossing or arrested while attempting to cross.

## **2.6 Arrest, Torture, and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment in Israeli Prisons**

The West Bank witnessed, during 2025, an unprecedented increase in the number of Palestinian detainees, amid intensified military campaigns carried out by IOF in cities and refugee camps, particularly in Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nablus in the northern West Bank. As of the end of November 2025, more than 9,300 Palestinian prisoners were held in Israeli prisons, including 3,368 administrative detainees held without charge or trial. More than 350 children and over 50 women remain behind bars<sup>76</sup>. Arrest operations were accompanied by serious violations, including physical assault, ill-treatment, threats of killing directed at detainees and their families, destruction of property, looting of personal belongings, and even the use of family members as human shields during raids.

The policy of administrative detention—one of the most arbitrary forms of detention—witnessed a marked escalation. This form of detention is carried out

<sup>76</sup> <https://cda.gov.ps/index.php/ar/ar-news-2/21451-2025-11-29-15-07-22>

without charge or trial, based on so-called “secret files” that neither the detainee nor their lawyer is permitted to access. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been subjected to this form of detention since the beginning of the occupation. In 2025 alone, approximately 3,428 administrative detainees were held, including 100 children and 22 women. Since the onset of the genocide, more than 10,000 administrative detention orders—including new and renewed orders—have been issued, affecting children and women alike, reflecting the scale of escalation in this policy.

The same year also witnessed unprecedented punitive measures imposed against detainees inside prisons. Rights that had been secured over decades were significantly curtailed, and detainees were subjected to various forms of repression and abuse, including repeated collective and individual beatings in prison yards, which in some cases led to deaths under torture. Prison authorities also reduced food rations, resulting in noticeable weight loss and signs of malnutrition, alongside widespread medical negligence that further deteriorated detainees’ health conditions, particularly among the sick, the elderly, and pregnant women who were detained during pregnancy. Severe overcrowding in cells, poor ventilation, and lack of hygiene further contributed to the deterioration of detainees’ health and the spread of diseases.

In parallel, occupation authorities expanded the use of solitary confinement against hundreds of detainees and prevented many from communicating with the outside world, including denying them access to lawyers and family visits. These inhumane conditions led to a sharp increase in deaths inside Israeli prisons, where 10 Palestinian detainees died during 2025<sup>77</sup>, some as a result of torture and physical abuse, while others died due to medical negligence.

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77 Ibid,PHR



# PCHR Organizational Report 2025

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## Challenges and Operational Opportunities Amidst the Genocide

The year 2025 marked a critical turning point in the 30-year journey of the PCHR. Throughout the year, as Israeli occupation forces continued to perpetrate acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip at their peak intensity, PCHR—alongside its national and international partners—intensified efforts to challenge the entrenched system of immunity and impunity enjoyed by Israel. In doing so, PCHR and its partners paid a heavy price, facing direct and aggressive political targeting. Notably, the United States administration imposed unjust sanctions on PCHR, Al-Haq, and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights—leading Palestinian organizations spearheading legal action before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

These sanctions were imposed under [U.S. Executive Order No. 14203](#), under the pretext of “International Criminal Court-Related Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 528.” targeting entities have directly engaged in efforts by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute Israeli nationals, without Israel’s consent. Through this [punitive measure](#), the United States has clearly chosen to shield and entrench Israel’s settler-colonial regime, founded on apartheid and unlawful occupation, thereby undermining the very foundations of the rule of law and the international justice system. This dangerous step constitutes a direct assault on the independence of international judiciary mechanisms, reinforces impunity, and criminalizes legitimate human rights advocacy.

As a result, PCHR faces an unprecedented existential challenge following its designation under U.S. sanctions. The coercive measures imposed included the

complete freezing of its financial assets, effectively paralyzing its financial system. Several international partners and institutions immediately terminated their cooperation with PCHR, while others suspended partnerships to avoid legal repercussions. Consequently, PCHR has been rendered unable to receive external funding or meet its basic obligations, foremost among them the payment of staff salaries.

Beyond financial restrictions, PCHR faces escalating technical risks threatening its digital presence and online platforms, further complicating operations under such hostile conditions. Despite this systematic pressure aimed at dismantling the institution, PCHR remains steadfast in fulfilling its humanitarian and legal mandate, continuing its efforts toward accountability and combating Israel's entrenched impunity, including its engagement with the ICC. This perseverance is underpinned by the unwavering commitment of its staff, who have continued their work on a fully voluntary basis, driven by the conviction that sanctions cannot silence the mission, nor extinguish the pursuit of justice.

Throughout the year, PCHR operated under extraordinary and unprecedented conditions, as the genocide and large-scale military offensive launched by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023 persisted, rendering 2025 one of the most severe and dangerous periods in PCHR's history.

In response, PCHR adopted a flexible emergency plan capable of responding rapidly to evolving field developments, while maintaining alignment with its strategic framework (2020–2024), which was extended for an additional year. Despite immense challenges, PCHR successfully mobilized its available resources and capacities to carry out its mandate effectively. As Israel's military machine continued to claim tens of thousands of lives, destroy civilian infrastructure, impose siege and starvation policies, and render Gaza increasingly uninhabitable, PCHR persisted in fulfilling its human rights and humanitarian role. This task was compounded by the direct threats faced by its staff, who operated under indiscriminate bombardment that spared no area of Gaza. Nevertheless, they demonstrated remarkable resilience, balancing their own survival as victims with their professional duty to document violations and respond to victims.

The challenges faced by PCHR were not merely logistical but profoundly human. PCHR mourned the loss of colleague Ihab Faisal, Administrative Assistant, who was killed along with his wife and two daughters following the bombing of their shelter in Gaza City in January 2025. This follows the killing of two lawyers from

the Women's Rights Unit, Nour Abu Al-Nour and Dana Yaghi, who were killed with their families in similar attacks in 2024. These losses coincided with the forced displacement of most staff members after the destruction of their homes, forcing them to live in makeshift tents lacking basic living conditions—reflecting the reality of the entire population of Gaza—and imposing severe constraints on movement and mobility.

Operationally, PCHR continued implementing its adaptive plan despite extensive damage to its offices. Following the destruction of its Jabalia office, damage to its Khan Younis office, and the complete destruction of its main headquarters in Gaza City, PCHR maintained operations through a temporary office in Deir Al-Balah. It further strengthened its operational capacity by recruiting 30 additional staff members across field research, legal, economic and social rights, and women's units—demonstrating a firm commitment to sustaining its mission and responding to victims' needs despite systematic attempts to undermine its work.

Monitoring and documentation—forming the backbone of PCHR's work—posed one of the greatest challenges due to the scale of destruction and escalating mass killings. Field researchers faced severe movement restrictions due to security risks. To overcome these barriers, particularly in isolated northern Gaza, PCHR mobilized trained assistant researchers from the “Friends of PCHR Club,” ensuring continuity of documentation under extreme conditions. Through this integrated approach, PCHR successfully documented emblematic cases of genocide crimes, including mass killings, destruction of infrastructure, forced displacement, starvation policies, and systematic attacks on medical, educational, and justice facilities, as well as torture practices.

Methodologically, PCHR advanced from general monitoring to specialized documentation of patterns of violations, aiming to produce robust legal evidence capable of substantiating the elements of genocide before international forums. In doing so, PCHR positioned itself as a defender of victims, a guardian of objective narrative, and a human rights lens exposing attempts to distort the truth.

Parallel to field documentation, PCHR strengthened its legal work by developing comprehensive criminal case files addressing war crimes and grave breaches of international humanitarian law. A strategic shift was observed in 2025, focusing on building integrated case files demonstrating the elements of genocide.

The legal team prepared hundreds of specialized files for engagement with international accountability mechanisms, particularly the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC), and UN independent investigative bodies.

In response to the rise in enforced disappearances, PCHR established a specialized digital platform for reporting cases of torture, missing persons, and enforced disappearance, creating a vital database to track detainees and monitor detention conditions in Israeli detention centers. This initiative reinforces international legal and moral accountability. PCHR also issued thematic reports, notably “Torture and Genocide,” featuring testimonies of released detainees, and pursued legal action through formal communications with Israeli authorities and advocacy at international platforms, including the “Gaza Tribunal” and People’s Tribunals.

On the international advocacy front, PCHR intensified its efforts, utilizing field data and testimonies to influence international accountability mechanisms. PCHR conducted extensive international missions, holding dozens of meetings with policymakers and key stakeholders to mobilize pressure for an immediate ceasefire and activation of accountability measures. Advocacy delegations challenged misleading Israeli narratives by presenting evidence-based, legally grounded accounts, contributing to placing the reality of genocide before the global conscience and reinforcing accountability as the only path to breaking the cycle of impunity.

PCHR also continued documenting grave violations against women and girls, aligning its work with international standards and reinforcing its role as a credible source for justice, protection, and accountability advocacy. Its participation in international forums in Geneva, Italy, and the Netherlands amplified Palestinian women’s voices and highlighted the urgent need for international intervention.

The year also witnessed significant developments in international justice, as the ICJ moved from provisional measures to examining genocidal intent, while the ICC issued arrest warrants against Israeli leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity. PCHR played a central role in supporting these processes by submitting well-documented legal files and evidence.

At the community level, PCHR prioritized vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced persons and women facing compounded violations. Its lawyers maintained a continuous presence in shelters, providing legal aid,

awareness sessions, and hotline services addressing domestic violence, loss of documentation, housing issues, and procedural representation. Despite the destruction of Sharia courts and loss of archives, PCHR strengthened coordination with legal actors to ensure access to justice and contributed to reviewing personal status laws from a gender perspective.

PCHR also played a key role in protecting children's rights by documenting violations, supporting family reunification, and facilitating the issuance of guardianship documents, birth certificates, IDs, and travel permits, alongside referrals to protection and psychosocial services. Awareness activities and educational materials were also developed to promote access to civil documentation.

At the community level, PCHR deepened engagement through protection groups in displacement settings, enabling access to cases and building a rights-based database of humanitarian priorities. It also sustained child participation through the "Palestine Children's Council."

Institutionally, PCHR reinforced unified action with human rights organizations and UN bodies. Despite funding gaps caused by partner withdrawal, PCHR successfully diversified funding sources, attracting new partnerships and restoring previous alliances—reflecting sustained trust in its credibility and effectiveness.

Simultaneously, Israeli occupation authorities escalated their systematic targeting of human rights defenders and Palestinian civil society organizations, particularly human rights organizations, through wide-scale incitement campaigns led by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs. In this context, the occupying power mobilized propaganda arms operating under a civilian guise, most notably NGO Monitor, which has specialized in disseminating falsehoods and distorting facts against national and international organizations that have dared to expose the crimes of the occupation.

These aggressive campaigns, aimed at undermining the credibility of human rights work and cutting off its sources of support, served as the primary precursor to the imposition of U.S. sanctions on PCHR and its partners. This demonstrates that these unjust sanctions were not an isolated measure, but rather the product of a systematic Israeli policy intended to silence the voice of truth and obscure witnesses to the crime of genocide.

In light of the above, this annual report presents a comprehensive overview of PCHR's activities and interventions in 2025, demonstrating alignment with its strategic objectives despite the genocide context. Beyond presenting figures, the report highlights tangible results and success stories achieved under extreme conditions, particularly in providing legal assistance to victims and displaced persons.

Through this report, PCHR reaffirms its longstanding commitment—since its establishment in 1995— to transparency, institutional accountability, and adherence to the highest standards of human rights professionalism.



## Strategic Priority 1

### Working Towards Accountability for Perpetrators of the Most Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights against Palestinians

#### Objective 1.1

By 2025, PCHR worked with international bodies and mechanisms to support investigations into perpetrators of grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, while pursuing accountability through international legal remedies.

#### Outcome 1.1.1

*International investigations into perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights before the ICC and under the principle of universal jurisdiction are supported by PCHR.*

PCHR employed international law tools and legal advocacy to support ongoing investigations before ICC concerning the situation in Palestine, while deepening its institutional engagement with the Court in cooperation with its international partners. PCHR also activated the principle of universal jurisdiction through the submission of legal complaints and the pursuit of criminal cases in several European countries targeting Israeli political and military leaders suspected of involvement in the commission of international crimes.

In parallel, PCHR continued its engagement with ICJ in relation to the case brought by South Africa seeking to halt the crime of genocide perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. These efforts, undertaken in partnership with national and international organizations, contributed to unprecedented and substantive breakthroughs in international accountability pathways and helped move these crimes from the realm of human rights documentation into the sphere of actual judicial follow-up.

International investigative bodies engaged with the materials submitted by PCHR through requests for further information and witness statements, technical briefing sessions, and the use of the PCHR's documentation in preliminary legal analyses and assessments. This reflects tangible reliance on PCHR's role as a trusted partner in supporting investigation and accountability processes.

## Indicators

- » On 25 December, ICJ confirmed the arrest warrants it had issued the previous year against the Israeli Prime Minister and his Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant.
- » ICC and the Office of the Prosecutor continued their investigation into the situation in Palestine, despite U.S. sanctions targeting ICC judges and staff.
- » In October, ICJ issued an advisory opinion affirming that Israel, as the occupying power, is under an obligation not to obstruct humanitarian relief operations carried out by the United Nations and its agencies, including UNRWA, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to ensure that the population's basic needs are met.
- » A judgment issued by the Hague Court of Appeal in November 2025 recognized the existence of a serious risk that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and violating international humanitarian law. Although the Court did not grant the coalition's request to revoke the arms export license, it affirmed that the government cannot wait for a final ruling from the ICJ before taking preventive measures—constituting an important precedent under the Genocide Convention.

### Output 1.1.1

**Legal memoranda were submitted and cases were filed before the ICC and under international jurisdiction based on evidence collected by PCHR's staff.**



PCHR lawyer Mohammad Atallah during a meeting with the families of victims killed as a result of the IOF'S targeting of Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, 02 August 2025.



Lawyer Ibrahim Sourani while documenting the cases of victims from al-Astal family who were evacuated from the Gaza Strip due to their critical health conditions, Konya, Türkiye, 07 July 2025.

Amid the continued military aggression and genocide in the Gaza Strip, PCHR devoted its full capacities to monitoring and documenting crimes committed, and to building comprehensive legal files relating to civilian victims and their property, in cooperation with specialized international organizations. PCHR's Legal Unit prepared high-quality legal complaints based on documented testimonies, material evidence, and in-depth legal analysis.

### Indicators

- » A total of 139 legal files were developed and followed up.
- » On 31 August, PCHR and Hind Rajab Foundation submitted two complaints to the ICC: the first concerning the massacre at Nasser Hospital, aimed at identifying the chain of command responsible for the killing of 22 civilians on 25 August 2025; and the second concerning the killing of Al Jazeera journalists in Gaza City while sheltering in a tent at Al-Shifa Hospital.
- » In June, PCHR, in cooperation with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and other partners, submitted a complaint in France requesting the opening of an investigation against two French-Israeli soldiers, Sasha A. and Gabriel B. The complaint was filed before the War Crimes Unit of the Paris Court.
- » PCHR provided United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the UN Special Procedures and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, with several legal memoranda containing evidence of genocidal acts committed by Israel in Gaza, while linking these submissions to Palestinian survivors, including witnesses and victims in Gaza. These efforts contributed, among other things, to the growing consensus that Israel's conduct in Gaza amounts to genocide, as also recently found by the Commission of Inquiry in its September 2025 report.
- » In cooperation with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) and other partners, PCHR submitted a criminal complaint in September 2025 to the German Federal Public Prosecutor. The complaint names a member of the Israeli occupation forces from Munich suspected of involvement in the targeted killing of unarmed Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

- » On 3 December, PCHR and its partners—Hind Rajab Foundation and Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights—submitted a complaint to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Section of the Department of Justice, ahead of the visit of former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni to Toronto. The complaint details their alleged involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 2008–2009 Gaza war.

### **Outcome 1.1.2**

#### ***The international legal and political environment supportive of investigation and accountability pathways has been strengthened.***

Amid the continued commission of grave crimes against the Palestinian people, the legal, documentation, and advocacy efforts led by PCHR, in cooperation with its national and international partners, contributed to strengthening an international environment that is increasingly receptive and prepared to support international investigation and accountability pathways. This was reflected in the widening legal and political recognition of the gravity of the violations committed, and in the growing willingness of states and international bodies to take positions and measures in support of international law and against policies of impunity.

This evolving environment also helped create a more supportive framework for the work of international judicial mechanisms by conferring broader legal and moral legitimacy on investigative pathways and by increasing the political pressure necessary to enable these mechanisms to continue performing their mandates, including in the face of attempts to undermine or obstruct them. It also enhanced prospects for holding perpetrators of international crimes accountable, whether before international courts or through national proceedings based on the principle of universal jurisdiction.

### **Indicators**

- » The State of Belgium formally joined South Africa’s genocide case before the ICJ.
- » The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) declared that what is taking place in Gaza meets the legal criteria of genocide.

- » The Spanish Parliament approved a ban on arms sales to the occupying power and the cancellation of existing military contracts.
- » Spain decided to ban the entry of individuals implicated in genocide and war crimes.
- » Issues raised by PCHR were included on the agendas of official discussions and international forums.
- » International officials and bodies requested follow-up and additional information after advocacy meetings.
- » PCHR's reports and positions were used as references in interventions or documents issued by international partners or UN bodies.
- » PCHR received official invitations to participate in subsequent sessions, events, and consultations related to international accountability.

#### **Output 1.1.2.1**

##### **High-quality and timely knowledge products were produced and used in international advocacy highlighting violations committed by the occupation.**

PCHR intensified its initiatives and activities at the international level to confront the system of immunity and impunity enjoyed by the occupying power, particularly in the context of the ongoing genocide. In this regard, PCHR conducted a series of international advocacy missions to decision-making capitals and major human rights forums, where it met with UN officials, diplomats, and leading legal actors to present live evidence of the atrocities committed and to call for support to the proceedings before both the ICJ and ICC.

These missions were accompanied by the issuance of regular and comprehensive legal and documentation reports on the constituent elements of genocide, which became key reference materials relied upon by UN mechanisms, international commissions of inquiry, and Special Rapporteurs in their characterization of the crimes committed by the occupation. This contributed to strengthening the Palestinian human rights narrative and ensuring continued international pressure for accountability and the prevention of recurrence.

These engagements focused on three core issues: the legal characterization of genocide; halting arms exports to the occupying power; and confronting international sanctions imposed on Palestinian human rights organizations.

### Indicators

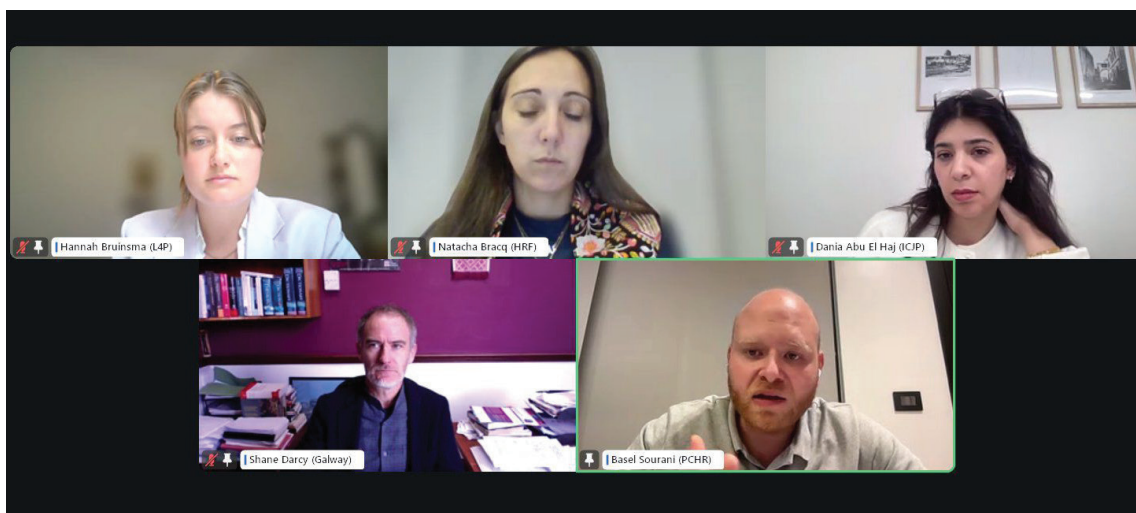
- » Twelve (12) international advocacy missions were carried out across 15 stops in European capitals.
- » Forty-five (45) bilateral and multilateral meetings were held with high-level official, UN, and legal actors.
- » Participation in 14 conferences and speaking events as part of international advocacy efforts.



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, during his participation in a side event entitled "Practical Measures to Protect the International Criminal Court," held on the sidelines of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, 02 December 2025.



Hamdi Shaqqoura, PCHR's Deputy Director for Programs, during a joint seminar organized by PCHR, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, Geneva, 03 July 2025.



An online webinar organized by the Law for Palestine entitled "Strategic Litigation in Focus: Individual Criminal Liability and Pursuing Accountability For Palestine" with the participation of experts and representatives of various human rights organizations, including the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the Hind Rajab Foundation. Participants discussed avenues for achieving justice and holding those responsible for crimes committed against Palestinian civilians accountable amid the continuing policy of impunity, 11 September 2025.

- » Active participation in 38 international and judicial forums, including meetings with prosecution teams at the ICC.
- » Delivery of 34 academic and human rights interventions in universities and international forums.



Ra'ji Sourani, PCHR's Director, during his reception by the Human Rights Committee of the Basque Parliament, where he delivered a presentation on the crimes of genocide committed against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, 08 October 2025.



Ra'ji Sourani, PCHR's Director, during his participation in the Palestine X ACT event, a global mobilization campaign headquartered in Barcelona that brings together Palestinian and European organizations, as well as human rights groups, to oppose the war in Gaza, challenge the apartheid regime, and call for the imposition of an arms embargo on Israel, 14 November 2025.

- » Implementation of international and Arab media outreach activities, including television, radio, press, and podcast interviews.



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, and Shawan Jabarin, Director of Al-Haq, during an interview with France 24 as part of an advocacy mission in France, 20 March 2025.



Basel Sourani, International Advocacy Officer, during an interview with Al Jazeera highlighting the unjust U.S. sanctions imposed against the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and other human rights organizations, 05 September 2025.

- » Publication of 4 knowledge products and legal/documentation reports supporting advocacy efforts.
- » International recognition of PCHR's efforts through the receipt of the Spanish Human Rights Association Award (APDHE).



Hamdi Shaqqoura, Deputy Director for Programs, delivering a speech in Madrid during the award ceremony of the Spanish Association for Human Rights, which was granted to the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and the Al-Haq, 09 December 2025.

- » Publication of the report “Torture and Genocide in the Gaza Strip” on 21 May.
- » Publication of the annual report “Ongoing Genocide on Gaza” on 21 July 2025.
- » Publication of the report “Voices of the Genocide” on 28 August 2025.
- » Publication of the report “Assassination of Truth: Killing of Journalists amid Genocide in Gaza War” on 8 September.

- » Implementation of 7,109 information-gathering activities concerning Israeli violations of civil and political rights, and documentation of 4,792 violations.



Field researcher Imad Abu Hawash while documenting settler attacks against civilians and sheep herders east of Yatta, south of Hebron, 20 August 2025.



Field researcher Hanadi Al-Barghouthi documenting the forcible displacement of residents of a Bedouin community in Ramallah due to settler attacks, 31 May 2025.



Field researchers Walid Zaqout and Muhammad Ghannam documenting IOF's crime of targeting journalists' tents at the gate of Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, 25 August 2025.



Field researcher Sabrin Al-Tartour documenting the case of the child Sara al-Barsh, who had her hands amputated as a result of the IOF's shelling of her family's home in Gaza City, 23 October 2024.

- » Implementation of 173 information-gathering activities concerning Palestinian violations of civil and political rights, and documentation of 133 violations.
- » Preparation of 20 monthly reports documenting Israeli violations in the occupied West Bank.
- » Issuance of 115 press releases on Israeli violations of civil and political rights.
- » Publication of 46 victim testimonies regarding crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces.
- » Completion of 1,456 forms for children exposed to violations.
- » Issuance of 3 field reports: (1) Escalating Occupation Aggression in the West Bank; (2) Rafah's Renewed Nakba: A Rubble-Strewn Ghost City Under Israeli Occupation; and (3) *Rafah Under the Grip of Fire and Siege*.

### Output 1.1.2.2

**Coordination and communication with partners and stakeholders on legal and advocacy work were improved.**

PCHR strengthened coordination and communication with partners regarding legal and advocacy work at the international level, particularly in light of the continuing genocide waged by Israeli occupation forces against the Gaza

Strip since 7 October. PCHR held meetings and consultations with international partners on legal action and international advocacy across a number of European countries. PCHR's Director and International Advocacy Unit undertook international missions to mobilize efforts to halt the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, pursue Israeli war criminals, bring them to justice, and ensure that they do not enjoy impunity.

### Indicators

- » PCHR staff participated in a series of coordination meetings at the judicial level and with international courts.
- » A coordination meeting was held with the official legal team of the State of South Africa concerning the case before the ICJ (March 2025).
- » Participation in the joint roundtable meeting between the ICC and non-governmental organizations (June 2025).
- » Participation in the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in The Hague (December 2025).



Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, delivering a speech on behalf of Palestinian human rights organizations at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court, 02 December 2025.

- » Participation in the 58th, 59th and 60th sessions of the Human Rights Council, including the delivery of two oral statements on occupation crimes, settlement activity, and genocide.
- » Contribution to organizing three major side events within the Human Rights Council:
  - Targeting Knowledge (March 2025)
  - The Israeli Genocide in Gaza (July 2025)
  - The Gendered Impact of Famine (September 2025)
- » Holding 4 series of coordination meetings with partners and international human rights organizations working on the Palestine file (June 2025).
- » Conducting dozens of coordination meetings with partner human rights organizations, including Palestinian institutions such as Al-Haq and Al Mezan, to address the U.S. sanctions imposed, as well as international networks such as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the International Federation for Human Rights.
- » Participation in international conferences and seminars in Brussels, Madrid, and Istanbul as part of joint coordination and advocacy efforts.
- » Organizing and participating in a seminar within the Mediterranean Film Festival in Brussels, which included the presentation of a paper on genocide following the screening of a documentary on Gaza (November 2025).
- » Participation in a seminar at the European Parliament Liaison Office in Barcelona, sponsored by members of parliament, on European complicity with the occupation (December 2025).

## Strategic Priority 2

### Strengthening the Rule of Law and Expanding Access to Justice for Palestinians and Victims of Human Rights Violations, Including Victims of Gender-Based Violence

#### Objective 2.1

**By 2025, PCHR facilitated Palestinian victims' access to justice through the Palestinian judicial system, including women victims of gender-based violence.**

#### *Outcome 2.1.1*

*Victims of human rights violations have access to legal remedies.*

Amid the ongoing war and the crime of genocide in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the resulting widespread disruption of courts, judicial institutions, and enforcement bodies in the Gaza Strip, PCHR focused on facilitating victims' access to available legal remedies through flexible and alternative pathways that ensured a minimum level of legal protection and prevented the loss of rights.

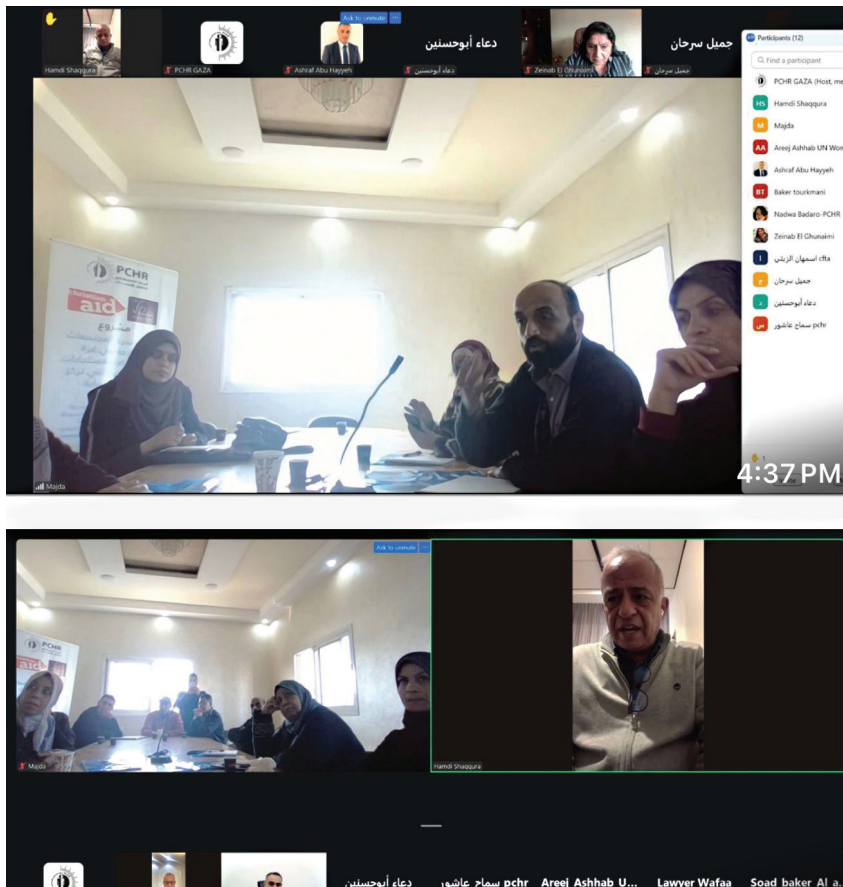
Within this context, PCHR played a pivotal role in providing legal support to women, particularly internally displaced women and survivors of gender-based violence, through the issuance of legal deeds, direct and indirect legal counselling, individual case follow-up, and the provision of safe communication channels. This enabled women to better understand their legal rights and make informed decisions amid an extremely harsh humanitarian reality and the collapse of conventional justice mechanisms.

In parallel, PCHR continued its legal and human rights work in following up on the conditions of Palestinian detainees—both men and women—held in Israeli prisons, through direct communication with the relevant Israeli authorities, submission of formal requests to trace places of detention, facilitation of lawyer visits, and monitoring of detention conditions and detainees' safety, including in cases of enforced disappearance and torture. This track constituted one of the few available avenues of redress in the absence of immediate access to judicial recourse, and contributed to enabling detainees and their families to exercise their basic rights while preserving continuity of legal protection despite the coercive restrictions imposed by the war and genocide.

### Output 2.1.1.1

#### Access to legal protection mechanisms for detainees and forcibly disappeared persons in Israeli prisons was strengthened.

PCHR played a key role in following up on the conditions of Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons amid restrictions on communication, the absence of legal guarantees, and the inability to resort to judicial remedies. PCHR worked to facilitate access to available protection mechanisms through direct legal communication with the relevant Israeli authorities, the submission of formal requests to trace places of detention, the facilitation of lawyer visits, and the monitoring of detention conditions and detainees' safety, including cases of enforced disappearance, torture, and ill-treatment.



During a panel discussion on “Sexual assaults against male and female prisoners in Israeli prisons,” held in person and via Zoom, 06 December 2025.



Ahlam Al-Aqra while taking the testimony of the child Karam Hussein after his release from Israeli occupation prisons, 28 July 2025.

## Indicators

- » Documentation and built 93 case files concerning persons detained in Israeli prisons, including detainees with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial conditions, who were subjected to psychological and physical torture during detention.
- » Submission of 831 requests concerning detainees, through PCHR's delegated lawyer inside Israel, to the Israel Prison Service and the Office of the Military Commander in order to determine detainees' fate and place of detention, facilitate visits, and follow up on their health and legal status.
- » Identification of the places of detention of 498 detainees.
- » A total of 102 detainees were visited by PCHR's delegated lawyer.

### Output 2.1.1.2

#### **Women, including internally displaced women, were enabled to access protection and legal counselling.**

Amid the near-total collapse of courts and judicial bodies in the Gaza Strip as a result of the war and genocide, PCHR focused on providing practical alternatives that enabled women to access legal protection. This included the provision of individual legal counselling, direct case follow-up, and safe communication channels through field presence in shelters and through the toll-free hotline, in a manner that safeguarded women's privacy and safety and enabled them to understand their legal rights and address urgent family and legal matters.

#### **Indicators**

- » Provision of 3,314 legal consultations.
- » The total number of beneficiaries reached 2,916, including 2,819 women and 97 men.
- » The toll-free hotline received more than 500 direct calls from women during the period from February to December 2025.

### Output 2.1.1.3

#### **Safe and systematic referral of victims of human rights violations to specialized service providers was strengthened.**

PCHR worked to activate safe and systematic referral mechanisms for victims of human rights violations, particularly women and survivors of detention-related violations and gender-based violence, to specialized service providers. These referrals included psychosocial support, healthcare, relief assistance, and protection services, in coordination with local and international partners, and in line with the principles of confidentiality, do no harm, and informed consent. This approach contributed to ensuring a multi-sectoral response to victims' needs, strengthening their resilience, and safeguarding their basic rights.

## Indicators

- » Referral of 340 women to specialized legal, health, and relief services.
- » Two hundred and two (202) women benefited from psychosocial support services, including 11 former female detainees.
- » Forty-six (46) men, including 36 former detainees, benefited from psychosocial support services.
- » Forty-two (42) children, including 3 former child detainees, benefited from psychosocial support services.
- » Activation of referral and coordination mechanisms with protection and mental health service providers.
- » Regular participation in GBV Sub-Cluster meetings to support referral pathways and coordination.



Participants from Sharia courts and civil society organizations during a workshop on the challenges facing the work of Sharia courts and mechanisms of intervention to enhance women's access to justice amid the war, 18 February 2025.



Majda Shahada, Acting Director of the Women's Unit, during a training entitled "Legal Intervention Mechanisms with Survivors of Gender-Based Violence," 01 January 2026.

#### Output 2.1.1.4

##### **Rights-based community protection initiatives were implemented in shelters.**

In the context of mass displacement and the collapse of formal protection systems, PCHR implemented community protection initiatives in shelters based on community-led and rights-based approaches. These initiatives aimed to enable internally displaced persons to identify their priorities and participate in the design and implementation of interventions that enhance human dignity, protection, and risk reduction, particularly in relation to gender, health, shelter, water and sanitation, and dignified livelihoods.

These initiatives were implemented in partnership with community protection groups and in coordination with duty bearers and relevant actors, in accordance with the principles of participation, do no harm, and community accountability.

##### **Indicators**

- » Implementation of 12 rights-based community protection initiatives in shelters across the Gaza Strip. These initiatives addressed shelter, the right to health, water and sanitation, the right to food, and dignified livelihoods.
- » Training of 7 community protection groups in the northern and southern Gaza Strip, with the participation of 45 displaced persons, women and men.

#### **Objective 2.2**

**By 2025, the Palestinian judicial system is more responsive to human rights cases, including gender-based violence.**

##### **Outcome 2.2.1**

*The responsiveness of the judicial system to human rights cases, particularly women's rights cases, has improved.*

Amid the widespread collapse of governance institutions and the Palestinian judicial system as a result of the war and genocide, PCHR worked to support a flexible justice response that would ensure the continuity of minimum legal protection, particularly for women and survivors of gender-based violence. PCHR's

efforts focused on activating the remaining operational judicial frameworks, developing temporary procedural alternatives, and strengthening coordination with partially functioning Sharia and official bodies to prevent the loss of rights.

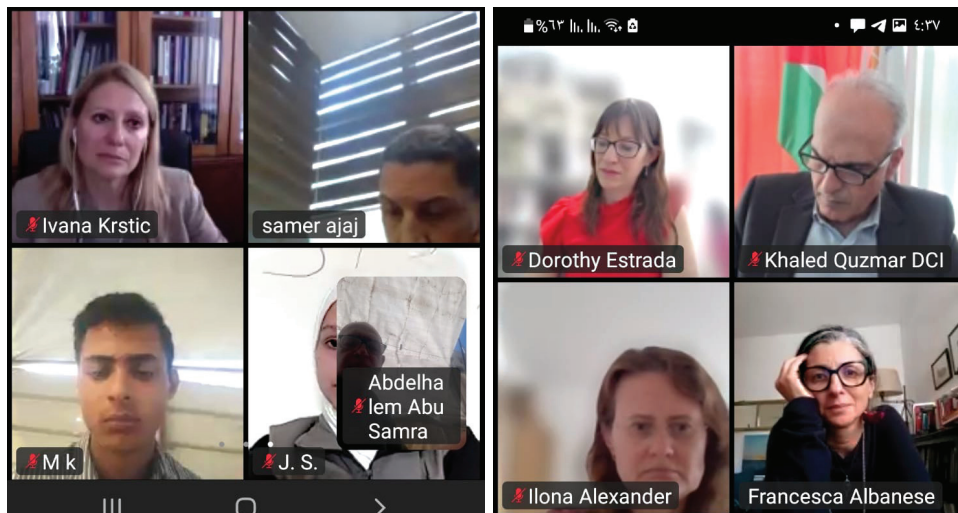
### Output 2.2.1.1

**Alternative and flexible legal representation for women before Sharia courts was provided, and procedures protecting rights in emergency settings were developed.**

PCHR played a leading role in ensuring continuity of women’s access to justice despite the disruption of the Sharia courts, through legal representation before those courts, follow-up of urgent cases, and the development of expedited procedural alternatives, such as abandonment and suspension endorsements, to protect separated and abandoned women from lengthy procedural complications. PCHR also worked to safeguard women’s legal entitlements, particularly widows, women with missing family members, and survivors, by facilitating the issuance of Sharia deeds and civil documentation in coordination with the Sharia judiciary administration and partially functioning official authorities.

### Indicators

- » Completion of 4,121 legal proceedings and official documents, including widowhood, custody, inheritance, guardianship, and legal guardianship.



Meeting between Dr. Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and members of the “Women Against Violence against Women and Girls” group, with the Palestine Children’s Council in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The meeting was organized by the Defense for Children International – Palestine and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 07 May 2025.

- » Issuance of 517 official documents for internally displaced women.
- » Issuance of 92 abandonment and suspension transactions without the need for litigation.

### Output 2.2.1.2

**Youth, including lawyers and qualified children, were trained and engaged in human rights advocacy, including for women’s and children’s rights.**

PCHR trained a number of lawyers within its staff on how to collect testimonies from victims, including female detainees, women cancer patients deprived of medical treatment, and women injured as a result of the aggression. Female lawyers were also trained on how to extract official documentation related to women and children, including birth certificates, identity cards, and death certificates.

### Indicators

- » Implementation of 3 training programmes for 10 lawyers on gender-based violence, protection, case management, testimony collection, and legal interventions.
- » Participation of the Palestine Children’s Council – Gaza in 3 meetings with UN entities.



Press conference held by the Palestine Children’s Council – Gaza Strip on the occasion of Universal Children’s Day, marked annually on 20 November. The event was organized by the Palestine Children’s Council – Gaza Strip in front of a building destroyed by the Israeli Occupation Forces in Khan Younis, 20 November 2025.

- » Implementation of 3 press conferences and media initiatives calling for the protection of rights.
- » Facilitation of 2 international child participation events through Zoom.

### **Output 2.2.1.3**

#### **High-quality and timely knowledge products were produced and used in advocacy campaigns.**

PCHR continued monitoring and documenting violations targeting women and girls, and utilized this data to produce high-quality reports, fact sheets, and media materials used in national and international advocacy campaigns. These products helped shed light on the compounded impact of war and genocide on women and supported evidence-based human rights discourse on gender-based violence.

#### **Indicators**

- » Collection of 129 testimonies relating to gender-based violence.
- » Issuance of 11 press releases.
- » Publication of 3 thematic legal reports on the situation of women during the war.
- » Issuance of 1 fact sheet used as a reference source in subsequent reports and statements.
- » Production and dissemination of 5 awareness-raising and human rights videos.

### **Output 2.2.1.4**

#### **Community awareness of women's rights increased.**

PCHR continued implementing legal awareness activities despite the harsh field conditions resulting from the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip for the second consecutive year. Amid widespread destruction of infrastructure, insecurity, and the dispersal of women across shelters, the staff of the PCHR's Women's Unit remained committed to directly reaching internally displaced

women and girls across the Gaza Strip—from Gaza City to Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah—to provide them with essential legal knowledge that would enable them to protect their rights amid extremely difficult humanitarian conditions.

### Indicators

- » Implementation of 522 awareness sessions.
- » Participation of 8,245 persons, the majority of whom were internally displaced women and girls.
- » Delivery of sessions in 22 shelters and camp locations.
- » Referral of 89 cases for legal follow-up.

### Output 2.2.1.5

**Networking was strengthened and safe platforms were created to amplify women's voices.**

PCHR continued its efforts to amplify the voices of Palestinian women by shedding light on their stories, experiences, and daily suffering under the ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip. In this extremely harsh humanitarian context, these testimonies and media materials became essential tools for documenting violations from a feminist perspective and for conveying the voices of women facing compounded violence resulting from war, displacement, bereavement, and the collapse of justice and service systems. PCHR also continued strengthening networking with local institutions and holding meetings with duty bearers.

### Indicators

- » Implementation of 24 local and international networking meetings.
- » Networking with 12 partner institutions and entities.
- » Participation of the Women's Unit in 21 GBV Sub-Cluster meetings.
- » Publication of 26 testimonies and field stories, as well as 16 media posts.

## Strategic Priority 3

### Working to Increase Respect for Human Rights, Dignity, Gender Equality, and Freedoms for Palestinians

#### Objective 3.1

By 2025, PCHR established an active network of human rights defenders (50% women) across the Gaza Strip, capable of promoting community participation and defending civil and political rights, gender equality, dignity, and freedom.

#### Outcome 3.1.1

*The knowledge and capacities of targeted communities and grassroots human rights networks have been strengthened to better understand their rights and identify avenues for civic and community participation.*

Amid the continuation of the war and widespread violations, PCHR worked to strengthen community awareness of human rights culture and to empower community actors and human rights defenders, particularly women, to better understand their civil rights and their role in community participation. PCHR's interventions focused on supporting safe spaces for expression, facilitating the exchange of human rights knowledge, and enhancing the capacity for peaceful civic engagement, thereby contributing to the protection of human dignity and the promotion of equality and fundamental freedoms in an environment marked by extreme repression and fragility.

#### Output 3.1.1.1

**Awareness and capacities of community networks and human rights defenders were strengthened regarding rights concepts and civic participation.**

PCHR supported grassroots networks and human rights defenders through awareness-raising activities, legal and human rights education, and the provision of platforms for expression and participation, thereby enhancing their ability to understand their rights, claim those rights, and engage in public affairs in peaceful and organized ways, with particular emphasis on women's empowerment.

## Indicators

- » Training was provided to 17 staff members of women-led organizations on legal intervention mechanisms in emergency settings.
- » A dedicated working group of the PCHR's partners was formed to provide diverse services to women and children, monitor recent developments, and facilitate referral processes.
- » Seven (7) community protection committees were established in displacement camps.
- » Fourteen (14) awareness workshops were conducted on human rights and protection principles.
- » Four (4) training programmes were implemented with the participation of 40 members from the community protection committees established in shelters across different areas of the Gaza Strip.
- » A referral network was established comprising 12 accredited shelters across various areas of the Gaza Strip to monitor and report human rights violations and refer cases to the Centre's different services.

## Objective 3.2

**By 2025, PCHR contributed to strengthening the protection of Palestinians' economic and social rights, particularly the right to health, in the context of occupation, blockade, and war.**

### *Outcome 3.3.1*

*Awareness and responsiveness of relevant actors, including international stakeholders, toward violations of economic and social rights in Gaza have been strengthened.*

In light of the severe deterioration of economic, social, and health conditions in the Gaza Strip as a result of the aggression and blockade, PCHR worked to highlight violations of economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly the rights to health, food, and livelihood. Through its documentation and advocacy efforts,

PCHR contributed to increasing the awareness of relevant actors regarding the gravity of these violations and their humanitarian consequences, while supporting evidence-based human rights discourse on the responsibilities of the occupying power.

### **Output 3.3.1.1**

**Reliable information on violations of economic and social rights was collected, analyzed and used in advocacy.**

#### **Indicators**

- » Four thousand two hundred and sixty-six (4,266) information-gathering activities were carried out concerning Israeli violations of economic and social rights, resulting in the documentation of 4,259 violations.
- » Thirty-nine (39) information-gathering activities were carried out concerning Palestinian violations of economic and social rights, resulting in the documentation of 10 violations.
- » Four field reports were prepared on:
  - The escalation of settlement activity in Hebron Governorate (6 January)
  - The isolation of Sinjil village – Ramallah (13 January)
  - The intensification of checkpoints and gates in the West Bank (30 January)
  - The escalation of aggression in the West Bank (8 February)

### **Output 3.3.1.2**

**High-quality knowledge products on economic and social rights were produced and used in advocacy and pressure campaigns.**

#### **Indicators**

- » Publication of the report “We Will Leave Them Nothing” on the destruction of the agricultural sector (5 May 2025).
- » Publication of the report “The Silent Death” on the denial of treatment to cancer patients (10 May 2025).

- » Publication of the report “Kidney Failure Patients Without Healthcare” (May 2025).
- » Issuance of 35 press releases on violations of economic and social rights and the crime of genocide.
- » Conduct of 13 media interviews on economic and social rights in Gaza.

## Strategic Priority 4

### Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Maximize Resources and Continuously Improve Performance in Service of the Community

#### Objective 4.1

By 2024, PCHR has strengthened its institutional capacity in key areas to remain accountable, transparent, sustainable, and responsive.

#### Outcome 4.1.1

PCHR has enhanced its capacities in business development, fundraising, human resources, leadership, and advocacy.

Throughout the year, PCHR worked to strengthen its institutional performance by enhancing staff capacities, optimizing the use of available resources, and adopting robust human resource governance policies, alongside reinforcing its digital presence. However, the imposition of U.S. sanctions created a new coercive reality that directly undermined these achievements. The freezing of bank accounts resulted in a complete financial paralysis, preventing the payment of salaries and halting funding flows. Consequently, some partners terminated their agreements, while others suspended their partnerships.

Despite this financial and legal blockade, PCHR resolved to continue its human rights work on a voluntary basis, reaffirming that its mission to advance justice is not contingent upon resources or political decisions.

#### Output 4.1.1.1

**The capacity and skills of PCHR's staff have been strengthened.**

In 2025, and under a continued state of emergency, PCHR invested in strengthening the capacities and skills of its staff and volunteers in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through the implementation of a range of training programmes. These covered topics including risk management and compliance, data protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), psychological debriefing and support, legal and psychosocial aspects of torture and its consequences, working dynamics and interventions with women

survivors of gender-based violence, emergency response strategies for GBV cases, project management, emerging protection risks and GBV response, and classification of testimonies by content and categories.

### Indicators

- » Ten (10) training courses were implemented, amounting to 70 training hours.
- » Thirty-one (31) staff members participated in these training courses, including lawyers, field researchers, advocacy staff, and administrative personnel, representing approximately 60% of PCHR's workforce.

### Output 4.1.1.2

**An effective Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system, including regular reporting and lessons learned, has been strengthened.**

During 2025, PCHR made tangible progress in strengthening its MEAL system, contributing to improved project implementation quality, enhanced transparency, and evidence-based decision-making in a rapidly evolving humanitarian context.

### Indicators

- » Regular preparation and implementation of monthly and quarterly reports, including analysis of progress, challenges, and corrective actions.
- » Conduct of 25 periodic review sessions with project teams to analyze MEAL findings.
- » Standardization of internal monitoring tools and templates, improving data consistency and ease of analysis across projects.
- » Strengthened alignment between work plans, indicators, and actual results on the ground.
- » Use of a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, including surveys, individual interviews, and focus group discussions.

- » Regular data analysis linked to the humanitarian context, enabling timely adjustment of activities and improved responsiveness.
- » Development of practical, evidence-based recommendations integrated into implementation plans.
- » Systematic documentation of lessons learned and best practices, and their use in improving ongoing interventions and informing future programme design.
- » Promotion of a learning culture within teams as a continuous development tool rather than merely a reporting requirement.
- » Integration of beneficiary feedback and complaints into ongoing monitoring processes.
- » Increased participation of field teams in reviewing results and implementing corrective actions.
- » Improved mechanisms for sharing findings with management to support timely decision-making.

### **Output 4.1.1.3**

#### **Administrative manuals and policies reflect modern approaches aligned with international standards.**

In 2025, PCHR worked to enhance the quality and efficiency of its institutional governance system through the development and updating of administrative policies using modern, flexible management tools and approaches. These efforts ensured alignment with emergency response requirements and the ability to address evolving operational challenges. This included the review and update of administrative, human resources, and financial policies, thereby strengthening institutional performance, compliance, and operational effectiveness, while embedding flexibility and resilience.

#### **Indicators**

- » Development of 1 Safety and Security Manual.

- » Development of 1 Emergency Human Resources Manual.
- » Development of 1 Whistleblowing Policy.
- » Review and update of 1 Human Resources Policy Manual.
- » Update of 3 job descriptions for selected positions.
- » Review and update of 1 Financial Policy Manual.
- » Review and update of 1 Procurement Manual.

#### Output 4.1.1.4

##### Staff Resilience and Operational Continuity

Throughout 2025, PCHR continued to prioritize staff resilience and wellbeing, recognizing the extreme risks and challenges posed by the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. Staff faced continuous exposure to direct targeting, loss of life, severe restrictions on movement, and unsafe operating conditions. PCHR mourned the loss of its colleague, Administrative Assistant **Ihab Marwan Faisal**, who was killed along with his wife and two daughters in an Israeli attack on 16 January 2025.

The Centre also faced major operational challenges, including repeated disruptions to internet and telecommunications services across Gaza, the complete destruction of its three main offices in Gaza City, Jabalia Camp, and Khan Younis, and extensive damage to the homes of most staff and volunteers. These conditions resulted in repeated displacement under extremely harsh humanitarian circumstances.

##### Indicators

- » Engagement of 30 paid volunteers in Gaza and the West Bank across various disciplines, contributing to documentation and monitoring of Israeli violations while gaining professional experience.
- » Continued operation from a temporary office in Deir Al-Balah following the destruction of all main offices, with provision of necessary logistical and

office support to ensure continuity of professional operations.

- » Provision of monthly financial allowances for housing and cost of living to all staff in Gaza, as part of the Centre's institutional and ethical commitment to supporting staff resilience. This contributed to maintaining a balance between work and life demands and positively impacted staff performance and productivity.
- » Implementation of specialized psychosocial support and debriefing sessions for staff.

## Information Technology

In 2025, PCHR witnessed notable progress in the field of information technology, focusing on upgrading its digital infrastructure and adopting modern systems to enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.

### Indicators

- » Development of several digital platforms and tools to facilitate PCHR's work during the war, most notably the full redevelopment of the online platform for reporting detainees and missing persons.
- » Upgrading and modernization of server and storage systems to ensure data stability, security, and system readiness in emergency contexts.
- » Strengthening protection against cyberattacks and unauthorized access attempts.
- » Maintenance and upgrading of the PCHR's official website, including improvements to user experience.
- » Enhancement and development of databases.
- » Development of additional digital platforms.