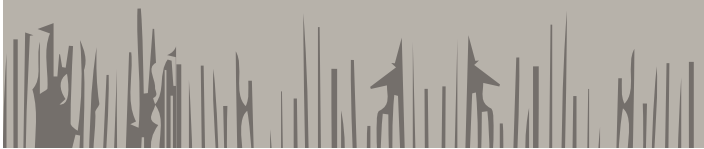




PCHR
المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**

**ONGOING
GENOCIDE
ON GAZA**





PCHR

المركز الفلسطيني
لحقوق الإنسان

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) – Paris; 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.

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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

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FOREWARD

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) presents its annual report for 2024, out of its commitment to an annual tradition it has upheld for over three decades since its founding. This year the report is released despite exceptional and tragic circumstances endured by the Palestinian people—particularly in the Gaza Strip—amid the ongoing genocidal war launched by the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) since 07 October 2023.

The report is an outcome of PCHR's work over a year and includes two parts. The first part addresses the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), mainly focusing on war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed by IOF in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The second part covers PCHR's varied activities at both the national and international levels occurred between 01 January and 31 December. It also outlines PCHR's creative and adaptive responses to the conditions imposed by the war on Gaza given the ensuing substantial changes in the scale and nature of its interventions.

PCHR could successively implement its activities according to its 5-year strategic plan (2020–2024) despite all the dire circumstances facing the Palestinian people, including ongoing killings, destruction and forced displacement that have forced 2.3 million Palestinians into a struggle for survival and uncertainty in the Gaza Strip amid the world's 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 damage as its Khan Younis and Jabalia offices had been completely destroyed while its head office in Gaza City has sustained severe destruction due to the relentless bombardment. 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 a year and a half 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. 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:

INTRODUCTION

In 2024, IOF continued its brutal war on the Gaza Strip and perpetuated its genocide—a crime unparalleled in human history that has been ongoing since 07 October 2023. Israel unabatedly used its war machine to turn the Gaza Strip into a scorched land where none could survive. This war has not been a mere military escalation, but a systematic policy of extermination intended not only to kill Palestinians but uproot their existence and expel them from their land while annihilating every connection to their homeland, history, and future. Moreover, Israeli political and military leaders have openly declared their intentions and incitements to the crime of genocide through mass killings, widescale destruction and the use of starvation as a warfare. All of this comes under a strangulating siege imposed on the Gaza Strip to render it uninhabitable.

Since the very beginning of this brutal aggression, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the people of Gaza on 08 October 2023, saying *“Get out of there now, because we will act everywhere and with all the strength. We will turn your city of evil into ruins.”* The next day, the Israeli Defense Minister stated: *“I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly.”*¹ This was not an ordinary war but it was a full-fledged genocide materialized in calculated policies of mass extermination at full view of the world. The bloody scenes unfolding in Gaza recall a dark chapter of human history but occurring now in the 21st century while world remains silent.

As 2024 entered, the genocidal war in Gaza marked its third month amid IOF’s ongoing

¹ Official statement on the Knesset’s YouTube channel (09 October 2023). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLX-Jx9C3Fgs>

“אנחנו מטילים מצור מוחלט על העיר עזה. אין חשמל, אין מזון, אין מים, אין דלק. הכל סגור. אנחנו נלחמים בחיות אדם ואנחנו נוהגים בהתאם.”

and accelerating military attacks claiming the lives of thousands and inflicting massive destruction and unbearable sufferings. The Gaza Strip has turned into an open field of massacres where IOF continued to bomb houses on top of its residents, burying entire families under the rubble. Tens of thousands of civilians were slaughtered for no reason and tens of thousands sustained severe injuries that have left them with permanent disabilities while thousands more remained missing under the rubble. Amid this living hell, Israeli prisons swung their doors wide open, detaining thousands of Palestinians into what became death cells– stripped of their humanity and subjected to brutal torture that claimed the lives of dozens, while the rest continue to endure unspeakable horrors behind bars.

Meanwhile, 2 million Palestinians were forced to flee under relentless fire and bombardment, forcibly displaced to areas designated by Israel as “safe”. However, they were anything but safe; they became zones of hunger, thirst, cold, and death. There, people were besieged by IOF without food or medicine while the policy of starvation has become a systematic weapon against those struggling to survive. Israel continued to destroy everything– neighborhoods were erased, hospitals were destroyed on top of the wounded while schools and universities were destroyed, including those that became shelters bombed while the displaced were inside. Water and electricity networks alongside roads were destroyed and economic, commercial, and agricultural infrastructure was systematically targeted. Every lifeline to survival was cut off, leaving Gaza’s residents slowly perishing in a land stripped of everything indispensable for survival.

In the West Bank, Israel’s violations against civilians in 2024 have reached unprecedented levels as IOF launched widescale military campaigns in northern West Bank, particularly Jenin and Tulkarm. IOF 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.

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 rightwing 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.



HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP IN 2024

This part presents a chronological overview of the most significant crimes committed by the IOF in the Gaza Strip during the 2024 genocidal war. It documents grave violations against the civilian population while the other part provides a legal characterization of these crimes based on Article (2) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and Article (6) of the Rome Statute. These acts include: the killing of large numbers of Palestinians; causing serious bodily and mental harm; deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to destroy the population in whole or in part; and imposing measures designed to prevent births within the group.

1.1 CHRONOLOGY OF CRIME OF GENOCIDE IN THE GAZA STRIP IN 2024:

Before the beginning of 2024, IOF launched a widescale assault on Khan Younis that continued for months and marked a pivotal phase in the crime of genocide. In the evening of 04 December 2023, IOF started an extensive offensive using warplanes and artillery. The relentless bombardment continued until the next morning, targeting several neighborhoods in Khan Younis with intense fire belts amid full blackout of communications and internet networks across the Strip. Under a heavy fire coverup, IOF expanded its ground assault advancing into the eastern towns of Khan Younis and al-Satar al-Gharbi area. IOF then deepened its assault to target all the city's neighborhoods, villages and refugee camp, leading to the extensive destruction of homes and infrastructure and remarkable increase of casualties trapped under the rubble. IOF also established a checkpoint near al-Aqsa University, west of Khan Younis refugee camp, and installed surveillance cameras, forcing the displaced to pass through the checkpoint and arresting hundreds of them.

IOF's ground invasion continued in Khan Younis until the beginning of April 2024; during which, they raided Naser Hospital, the second largest governmental hospital in the Gaza Strip, al-Amal Hospital run by the Red Crescent, al-Salam and al-Kheir private hospitals and other primary healthcare centers, inflicting massive destruction on them and forcing them to shut down.

Meanwhile, in northern Gaza Valley, famine returned to spread alarmingly following the end of the humanitarian pause and aid cutoff. As a result, many deaths were recorded due to malnutrition and dehydration, particularly among children, among 37 deaths reported by the governmental bodies but the true toll is likely much higher. Since late December, thousands of people gathered near the Kuwait and al-Nabulsi Squares searching for aid; however, IOF repeatedly targeted them leaving hundreds dead and wounded.

During its ground invasion, IOF conducted brutal arrest campaigns detaining thousands of Palestinians across the Gaza Strip, including women and children. They were taken from their homes, hospitals, shelters or even at checkpoints, depriving them of their families, forcibly disappearing them into the Israeli cells and disconnecting them from the outside world for months. Those who eventually emerged from the darkness of captivity bore visible scars of torture and spoke of the harrowing experiences they endured in detention, including ill-treatment, starvation, abuse, and even sexual violence. But not everyone was lucky to survive and narrate their story. Sixty Palestinians—48 of them from Gaza—died in Israeli custody, and their families never formally notified. News of their deaths spread quietly, passed on by survivors and lawyers, offering a haunting glimpse into the hidden horrors behind prison walls.

On 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a ruling in the South Africa Vs Israel Case, ordering provisional measures to prevent acts of genocide. The court determined the plausibility that Israel is carrying out genocide against the Palestinian people during its war on the Gaza Strip. However, this ruling, along with subsequent rulings, has not put an end to the Israeli military campaign, widespread killing of civilians and destruction of civilian infrastructure and essential foundations of life.

On 18 March 2024, IOF stormed al-Shifa Medical Complex— just as it was struggling to resume operations amid the massive destruction— and turned it into a scene of terror. Hundreds of displaced people, who had sought refuge inside, were arrested while others were executed in cold blood in a brutal spectacle of force. However, it did not end there. In a horrible scene reflecting their brutality, IOF dug up mass graves where victims had been buried in the hospital's courtyard.² The military campaign on al-Shifa continued for 14 days committing mass killings and systematic destruction. As a result, those who survived inside the hospital and in its proximity were forcibly displaced to southern Gaza Valley, leaving behind the bodies of their beloved ones and another massacre carved into the bloodstained history of Israel.

² Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (March 18, 2024). "The Attack on Al-Shifa Medical Complex and the Depopulation of Gaza Reflect Israel's Persistence in Genocide." <https://www.alhaq.org/ar/advocacy/22817.html>

Similar operations repeatedly occurred across Gaza and northern Gaza's neighborhoods, where IOF committed mass killings and calculated destruction of the remaining buildings and infrastructure. Even Cultural and historical sites were not spared, clearly proving that such targeted attacks intend to wipe out the cultural and historical identity of the Gaza Strip in an attempt to obliterate its entire heritage.

Ground Invasion of Rafah and Closure of the Crossing: Amid Israel's repeated statements to conduct a full-scale assault on Rafah and despite the chorus of local and international warnings about the serious consequences arising from conducting such an operation in there, where more than 1.7 million people are sheltering, mostly living in tents scattered across the small city, IOF began its military operation on 06 May 2024 and had issued evacuation orders for more than a quarter of a million people in eastern Rafah. This development came a week after IOF intensified bombardment of houses with residents inside, killing and injuring dozens, mostly children and women.

At dawn on 07 May, under heavy aerial and artillery bombardment, Israeli tanks advanced into the Palestinian side of the Rafah Crossing and raised the Israeli flag on it, forcing the crossing to close and cease travel. This step has further entrenched IOF's collective punishment policy against 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip. IOF have also destroyed facilities and halls inside the crossing, hindering any future attempts to reopen it. In blatant disregard for the ICJ's ruling on 24 May to stop the ground assault on Rafah, IOF advanced deeper into Rafah neighborhoods and unabatedly destroyed houses and infrastructure, including water tanks and civilian objects. As a result, hundreds of thousands were again forcibly displaced and had to seek refuge in Khan Yunis neighborhoods, from which IOF had withdrawn on 07 April 2024.

With IOF's ground invasion in Rafah, the flow of already limited aid into the Gaza Strip was cut off, while many humanitarian organizations had to cease their operations after relocating to Mawasi Khan Younis or Deir al-Balah. Later, the Israeli authorities allowed the entry of some aid and goods trucks through Kerem Shalom Crossing.

In parallel with the ongoing operation on Rafah, IOF continued their military attacks across the Gaza Strip and intensified their bombardment on houses and shelters. On 08 June 2024, IOF conducted a military operation backed by intensive land and air strikes on Nuseirat refugee camp and across the areas of central Gaza Strip. As a result, 244 Palestinians were killed and at least 400 more were injured, mostly children and women. The military attack, which lasted around 75 minutes, featured the use of deadly force and heavy firing in a densely populated area, primarily inhabited by civilians and internally displaced persons. Later, the IOF announced that the military attack led to the release of

four Israeli captives.³

Despite the IOF's declaration of the Mawasi area as a humanitarian zone for hundreds of thousands of displaced people, they have targeted it repeatedly. On 21 June, Israeli tanks stationed on sand berms overlooking the Mawasi area fired several shells at the displaced people's tents. As a result, 25 Palestinians were killed, and 45 others were injured, including women and children. The bloodiest attack occurred on 13 July when IOF's warplanes launched intense airstrikes on the displaced people's tents in al-Mawasi Khan Younis, killing 90 Palestinians and inflicting various injuries to more than 300 others.

On July 19, the International Court of Justice issued a historic advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The Court affirmed that Israel's continued presence in these territories is unlawful and must be brought to an end as soon as possible. It also emphasized the need to cease all new settlement activities and to evacuate all settlers from the occupied Palestinian territory. Furthermore, the Court ruled that Israel is also under an obligation to provide full reparation for the damage caused by its internationally wrongful acts to all natural or legal persons concerned.

From a legal standpoint, the Court's Advisory Opinion reaffirmed the Occupied Palestinian Territory constitutes a single territorial unit, the unity, contiguity and integrity of which is to be preserved and respected.

Despite Israel military withdrawal from Gaza, the Court emphasized the Gaza Strip is still under occupation particularly as Israel continued to exercise, certain key elements of authority over the Strip, even more so since 7 October 2023. The Court also indicated that Israel's policies aim to fragment the Palestinian people, in violation of their right to self-determination — a right protected under international law against any attempts to disperse the population or undermine its integrity as a people.⁴

On 25 September 2024, IOF sent a container truck carrying the bodies of 88 Palestinians through the Kerem Shalom crossing, handing it over to a local transport company without any coordination with the Ministry of Health or the International Committee of the Red

³ For more details: Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)'s press release (09 June 2024). Genocidal Massacre in Central Gaza: Israeli Forces Kill 274 Palestinians and Injure 698 in Attack Lasting 75 Minutes. <https://pchrgaza.org/genocidal-massacre-in-central-gaza-israeli-forces-kill-274-palestinians-and-injure-698-in-attack-lasting-75-minutes/>

⁴ for more details: PCHR's press release on 20 July 2024: End Israel's Illegal Occupation, Settlers Out, Palestinian Return, and Restitution of Property, Rules the International Court of Justice in Historic Decision. <https://pchrgaza.org/end-israels-illegal-occupation-settlers-out-palestinian-return-and-restitution-of-property-rules-the-international-court-of-justice-in-historic-decision/>

Cross (ICRC). Amid no information identifying the victims or clarifying the circumstances and time of their deaths or retrieval, the Ministry of Health initially refused to receive the bodies. With no way to return them to the Israeli side, they were buried in a mass grave the following day at the Turkish Cemetery in Khan Younis in a haunting scene that further embodies the ongoing crime of genocide.

Third Ground Invasion on Northern Gaza: With the Israeli military aggression marking its first year on Gaza, particularly on the evening of 05 October 2024, Israeli warplanes launched tens of intense airstrikes accompanied with artillery shelling and the firing of smoke and stun grenades on Jabalia and Beit Lahia, northern Gaza. IOF launched a ground invasion into eastern Jabalia and northwestern Beit Lahia in northern Gaza amid relentless air and artillery bombardment, killing and injuring tens. That was the third widescale invasion by IOF on northern Gaza across all its villages and neighborhoods. During their invasion, they conducted airstrikes, bombed houses on top of its residents, started to depopulate the whole areas, obstructed civil defense crews, raided hospitals, detained medical personnel, extensively destroyed and burnt Jabalia refugee camp.⁵

As Israel was imposing a strangulating siege on northern Gaza residents, hunger was looming amid no essential services. Around 50–75,000 people are trapped there without access to food, water or power. Israel claims them as combatants because they have not left or been able to. It is impossible to know how people are surviving there or how many are dying, including from malnutrition. Since 06 October, there have been no fully completed UN food missions into North Gaza governorate. All kitchens and bakeries have shut down and nutritional work suspended, including support programs for child malnutrition and for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Israeli authorities have rejected all UN attempts to send in emergency medics and provide fuel to keep water and sanitation services operating. This further worsened the health crisis, leading to the spread of diseases amid severe shortages of medical care and clean water.⁶ For 107 days, Israel's attacks turned northern Gaza into a living hell, leaving behind 5,000 dead or missing, 9500 injured and 2600 arrested, including women and children. Flames engulfed many houses and buildings amid destruction of total infrastructure, reducing the city to ruins buried beneath death and devastation.

5 For more details, PCHR's press release: <https://pchrgaza.org/israel-perpetuates-genocidal-acts-against-north-gaza-leaving-its-population-without-hospitals-and-lifesaving-services/>
<https://pchrgaza.org/between-forced-displacement-and-death-with-no-hospitals-israel-continues-its-ethnic-cleansing-of-north-gaza-2/>

6 Oxfam) 27 November 2024(No aid or access as Israel intensifies its ethnic cleansing of the North Gaza governorate, says Oxfam.
<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/no-aid-or-access-israel-intensifies-its-ethnic-cleansing-north-gaza-governorate-says>

As 2024 ended, Gaza was drowning into the darkness of the genocide in a city that had become lifeless. Ninety per cent of its population had been forcibly displaced wandering across a graveyard city and hunted by the savage beast of hunger in northern Gaza Valley, gnawing at the frail bodies of children until they faded and died. Meanwhile patients silently drew their last breath without food or medicine. In northern Gaza, destruction extensively struck every turn and corner while Israeli attacks turned the area into a living hell burning bodies and piling tens of thousands dead or missing beneath the rubble with no traces found of them. Hunger choked off survivors and bombardment mercilessly spared none, claiming lives, tearing bodies apart and leaving behind fragments. Meanwhile, the international community's silence was a stain of disgrace, complicit in its inaction which gave Israel a cover to continue its genocide against the people of the Gaza Strip as if they were not humans deserving to live.

1.2 ISRAELI ACTS OF GENOCIDE COMMITTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN THE GAZA STRIP IN 2024

1.2.1 Killing large number of Palestinians

IOF has 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 has dropped tens of thousands of tons of highly explosive bombs⁷ from air, land and sea on houses and residential neighborhoods while civilians inside, with each bomb weighing up to one or half ton. These crimes killed 32,887 Palestinians, including 22,887 whose deaths were officially recorded by the Palestinian Ministry of Health after their bodies reached hospitals. Among them were around 7,900 children and 7,321 women. Meanwhile, 10,000 people remain missing – killed in their houses, other facilities, or on the streets. The civil defense and ambulance teams could not retrieve them either due to limited resources or being denied access by IOF to specific areas the latter designated as inaccessible combat zones.

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 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.

Summary execution of civilians, including children and women, was a prominent pattern of mass killings unfolded during IOF’s ground assaults across the Gaza Strip. Civilians were killed in cold blood in their houses or neighborhoods, where IOF conducted raids. PCHR documented harrowing testimonies for survivors who emphasized that IOF would storm houses, take over them and then force children, women and men outside inline

⁷ OHCHR’s report on 19 June 2024: The report details six emblematic attacks on Palestinians by Israel involving the suspected use of GBU-31 (2,000 lbs), GBU-32 (1,000 lbs) and GBU-39 (250 lbs) bombs from 9 October to 2 December 2023 on residential buildings, a school, refugee camps and a market. The UN Human Rights Office verified 218 deaths from these six attacks, and said information received indicated the number of fatalities could be much higher: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/un-report-israeli-use-heavy-bombs-gaza-raises-serious-concerns-under-laws>

before the soldiers would open fire at them while lining up, leaving them to bleed to death.

Summary executions conducted by IOF at Gaza's hospitals revealed unprecedented serious violations of humanitarian law. The raids of al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City and Naser Hospital in Khan Younis were not mere military ground assaults but a systematic extermination of defenseless civilians, including doctors and nurses who were struggling to save lives. PCHR documented survivors' accounts unfolded horrible crimes where IOF executed tens in cold blood before being buried. After IOF's withdrawal, seven mass graves were detected in the hospitals' courtyards that included around 520 bodies. Some of these bodies were buried beneath sand with their limbs tied- undeniable evidence of executions carried out against victims after arrest.



Hundreds of civilians were killed by artillery shells that targeted their houses after they were besieged with IOF's prior knowledge they were inside. Others were shot dead by quadcopters that roamed the skies searching for targets and opening fire on civilians in their houses, on the streets or at military checkpoints established by IOF to separate the north from the south. IOF also conducted summary executions, some of which were broadcast live on television for the entire world to watch. Following IOF's withdrawal from Netzarim, known as the "Corridor of Death", new atrocities unfolded as tens were found executed by sniper fire from long distances and left to bleed to death. Their identities remained unknown as only their bodies and remains were scattered among the rubble.

Hundreds of civilians were killed while trying to get humanitarian aid after months of a systematic starvation policy imposed by IOF through blocking food and medical supplies from entering particularly in northern Gaza Valley. IOF continued to maintain a tight military grip on the Netzarim corridor. Throughout the year, PCHR documented IOF's commission of 2 horrible massacres against starving civilians. The first occurred in February near al-Nabulsi Roundabout on al-Rashid Sea Street, western Gaza City while the second occurred in March at Kuwait Roundabout, east of Gaza on Salah Al-Din Street, eastern Gaza City. Both massacres claimed hundreds of civilian lives when tanks directly opened fire at them after desperately trying to approach to grab bags of flour from aid trucks coming from southern Gaza Strip.

Moreover, hundreds of civilians were killed due to heavy bombardment that targeted 180 shelters, where people had sought refuge from bombing and destruction in desperate search for a shelter to protect them. Most of these shelters were 155 schools either run by government or UNRWA in addition to hospitals, churches or buildings belonging to international and non-international organizations as their civilian nature did not protect them from IOF's attacks. 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." These attacks occurred mainly in al-Mawasi area, western Rafah and Khan Yunis, far southern



Gaza Strip, but the massacres had not also spared displacement camps across the whole Gaza Strip, unfolding the atrocious scale of these crimes that turned every refuge into a death trap.

Not a single group of society was spared from the Israeli attacks, which indiscriminately targeted everyone. Categories granted special protection under the international humanitarian law were under IOF's fire, including journalists, academics, medical teams, paramedics, civil defense personnel, and both local and international humanitarian aid teams, even members of the civilian police and teams securing the aid convoys. Their humanitarian role did not offer them protection, and they had the same fate other defenseless civilians faced. They were killed while carrying out their duty to save lives under the hellish bombardment.

IOF killed 140 journalists, including 13 females, as some were directly targeted while on duty covering events despite wearing their official press vests and their presence in areas supposed to be safe. Meanwhile, others were killed with their families in indiscriminate attacks on houses and residential neighborhoods as part of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza. Journalists were also killed while present in field for media coverage due to Israeli strikes that did not target them directly. Moreover, IOF assassinated tens of scholars, professors, teachers and academics, including deans and holders of higher degrees, after bombing their homes, where some of them were killed with their families. In systematic attacks, IOF killed 986 medical personnel members, including 146 doctors and 260 nurses from varied health specialties in Gaza's hospitals, in addition to 18 ambulance drivers during the ongoing military operations.

Also, 79 members of the civil defense teams were killed while 200 others were wounded after being directly targeted either in their headquarters that were bombed or during their rescue operations to retrieve the killed and wounded from under the rubble. IOF's crimes extended to municipal crews as 42 members of Gaza Municipality staff were killed, and tens were wounded, including 97 from the municipal crews while on their humanitarian duty, including operating water wells, repairing infrastructure, clearing rubble, and recovering victims.

In 2024, 254 humanitarian and relief workers were killed, including staff members of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations, amongst them 188 UNRWA employees.⁸ IOF intentionally and systematically conducted deadly attacks against convoys and facilities belonging to humanitarian organizations, including international ones, despite IOF's prior knowledge of their movements and locations.

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-israelis-attacking-known-aid-worker-locations-enarhe>

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

1.2.2.1 Detention and Torture of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

Widespread arrest campaigns continued in the Gaza Strip during IOF's ground invasion and raids on its Palestinian cities. Thousands were arrested from their houses, shelters and hospitals and then thrown in Israeli prisons. The number of detainees from the Gaza Strip is still unknown as the Israeli prison authorities refused to disclose any figures. IOF conducted mass arrests during their ground invasion, detaining children, women, elderlies, doctors and others. Those civilians were detained in extremely harsh and dehumanizing conditions, subjecting them to terror, intimidation and death threats. These detention conditions constitute a crime in all ways as detainees were stripped of their clothes, had their hands and feet bound, blindfolded, and left in open areas amid the destroyed houses in winter, before being loaded into vehicles and transferred to prisons inside Israel. Many Palestinian civilians were arrested from their homes and shelters and used as human shields by the Israeli soldiers during their detention, exposing their lives to extreme danger. Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinians, including medical personnel, were arrested from hospitals, which IOF had raided, destroyed and forced to shut down. Those detainees were added to hundreds of others who had been arrested in the last quarter of 2023 after October 7th. IOF conducted arbitrary mass arrests



against thousands of Palestinian workers who worked in Israel upon official work permits in addition to patients who were receiving treatment in Israeli hospitals, including women, children and elderlies. Later, IOF released thousands of workers in waves after spending periods in detention and enduring torture while others remained detained in detention camps that had been specifically established after October 7th. These camps have been turned into centers of torture and degrading treatment, depriving detainees of all their human rights, including access to food, water, medical treatment, clothing and sleep. They were held in unbearable inhuman conditions so many detainees lost alarming lots of weight, and their conditions deteriorated. As a result, 35 Palestinian detainees died, including a doctor, due to extreme torture.

Enforced Disappearance

The accurate number of Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip in the Israeli prisons remains unknown as they had been subjected to enforced disappearance in the beginning by the Israeli authorities when the latter refused to give any information about the detainees, including their numbers, locations and detention conditions in detention facilities. PCHR established an online platform for people to report cases of forced disappearance and missing detainees as PCHR received hundreds of reports in this regard. Meanwhile, by time, PCHR could gather information on some cases, and further information started to leak on secret detention facilities such as “Sde Teiman” and others. More details emerged about the dire conditions inside these detention facilities when hundreds were released via the Kerem Shalom border crossing or through the borders. Despite hundreds being released in waves, there are still hundreds of others held in Israeli prisons enduring degrading and humiliating conditions. Moreover, tens of Palestinians remain missing with no information about them so far although their families confirmed they had been arrested by the IOF during ground invasions or were present in invaded areas.

Use of Detainees as Human Shields

IOF used Palestinian civilian detainees as human shields to conduct military missions for the IOF, extremely endangering their lives. The Israeli soldiers forced those civilians after arresting and tying them to go into active combat zones, including compelling them to enter houses before the soldiers fearing they would find armed Palestinians or making them walk ahead to inspect presence of armed individuals. Some civilians who were used as human shields were subjected to



IOF's gunfire. Recently, Israeli media revealed that IOF had used an 80-year-old man as a human shield in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in southern Gaza City and then executed him in cold blood during the fighting rounds in the neighborhood last May. According to the report based on Israeli military testimonies, an Israeli officer tied an explosive cord around the elderly's neck and forced him to walk ahead during house raids, threatening to blow off his head if he did not obey the orders. After eight hours of using him in the mission as a human shield, soldiers ordered the man to flee with his wife to another area in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood; however, when another Israeli force spotted the elderly couple on the street, they were shot dead on the spot.

1.2.2.2 Inflicting serious bodily injuries to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

In 2024, 66432 Palestinians were injured; more than two thirds of them were children and women. IOF have used weapons designed to spray high levels of shrapnel on a wide scale to inflict the maximum destruction and damage to the people of the Gaza Strip, particularly among children. According to the World Health Organization's analysis on the types of injuries resulting from the Israeli attack, at

least a quarter of the injured people in Gaza, around 22,500 injured as of 23 July 2024, suffer from life-altering injuries that require rehabilitation services now and in the future. The analysis found that severe limb injuries, estimated to be between 13455 to 17550, are the main driver of the need for rehabilitation. Many of those injured have more than one injury.⁹ According to the report, between 3105 and 4050 limb amputations have also occurred. Large surges in spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury and major burn injuries all contribute to the overall number of life-changing injuries, which includes many thousands of women and children.¹⁰

The total collapse of Gaza's healthcare system has drastically worsened conditions for the wounded, forcing the doctors into limited options and carrying out unnecessary amputations given the severe shortages of supplies and equipment and fearing patients' conditions to get worse simply to prevent the spread of infections caused by injuries from internationally prohibited munitions. In many cases, doctors had to perform amputations and other major surgeries without anesthesia, increasing the wounded's suffering and worsening their pains.

Foreign surgeons who have operated in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli military aggression stated that many of the amputations and life-altering injuries to the children they have treated have been caused by missiles and shells packed with additional metal designed to fragment into tiny pieces of shrapnel that cannot be easily detected while examining a patient. Despite its small size, the shrapnel inflict extensive destruction inside the body, often resulting in fatal injuries or necessitating forced amputations. Injuries have been seen in adults and children but with more damage inflicted on younger bodies, causing severe and often irreparable damage.

Moreover, patients and the injured in the Gaza hospitals' departments, that were besieged and evacuated, are enduring challenging and unbearable conditions incommensurate with their serious injuries. PCHR's staff has documented horrible testimonies of people wounded who were left to bleed on their beds without treatment or painkillers due to severe shortages of fuel and medical supplies in addition to the overcrowding. Hospitals are overwhelmed with a sheer number of injured people exceeding hospitals' capacity amid a strangulating siege and deliberate attacks on medical facilities. The few doctors and nurses who managed to remain at hospitals found themselves besieged by a hell of relentless shelling

9 World Health Organization (WHO), Estimating Trauma Rehabilitation Needs in Gaza using Injury Data from Emergency Medical Teams, September 2024, link: <https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/Rehab-injury-estimate-Gaza.pdf>

10 Ibid.

and intense shooting, unable to move between patients' rooms to save lives. Hospitals had turned from a safe haven to a death ambush, and movement through its corridors had become a deadly gamble— you are either shot by sniper's fire or lethal shrapnel.

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.

» Mass Forced Displacement and Evacuation Orders for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip

By the end of 2024, about two million Palestinians had been forcibly displaced, fleeing their houses under intense bombardment and mass killings. Throughout the year, the IOF escalated their policy of systematic displacement by issuing hundreds of evacuation orders to Palestinians as digital posts on social media, text messages, voice messages, and air-dropped leaflets from drones, forcing civilians into two choices between multiple displacements or death under the rubble.





Palestinians did not endure a single displacement journey, but rather, hundreds of thousands were forcibly displaced multiple times, moving between rubble, tents, and inhumane temporary shelters across the Gaza Strip in a desperate search for haven. Throughout their displacement journeys, they were relentlessly pursued by IOF's artillery shelling and ground assaults across the Strip, including areas the IOF has claimed "safe." On 13 October 2023, the IOF ordered the residents of northern Gaza valley to evacuate to the south, forcibly uprooting 1.2 million Palestinians from their houses during the first days of the war. However, the southern Gaza Strip soon turned into another field of massacres and widespread destruction, leaving the displaced with no protection from death.

Many displaced people sought refuge in "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.

The polluted environment, combined with the lack of clean water and proper sanitation, turned the shelters into hotspots for diseases. Epidemics such as acute diarrhea, respiratory infections, and skin diseases spread rapidly, particularly among children, who became the most vulnerable victims of the collapsed healthcare system. With a severe shortage of medicine and medical care, even minor illnesses become life-threatening.

As for famine, the displaced endured severe hunger under Israel's systematic starvation policy, receiving only little sporadic aid, insufficient to feed their hunger or sustain their lives. Death surrounds them from all sides, whether from indiscriminate bombardment, deadly hunger, or illness with no available treatment.

In early October 2024, the IOF declared the launch of a military operation on the northern Gaza Strip, including the Gaza and North Gaza governorates, as part of the so-called "Generals' Plan" to forcibly displace northern Gaza Strip's residents and establish a buffer zone in northern Gaza valley. The military operation began on North Gaza governorate, including Beit Hanoun, Jabalia and its refugee camp, Beit Lahia, and Beit Lahia Housing Project. Evacuation orders were issued for residents remaining in these areas, as part of the IOF's widescale military assault, during which the remaining houses were destroyed and the civilians who remained were killed. The IOF also imposed a tight siege on North Gaza governorate, separating it from the south and Gaza governorate and cutting off food, fuel, and medical supplies into it. Additionally, the IOF committed horrific massacres in North Gaza, killing thousands of civilians by bombing homes with their residents still inside. Dozens of dead bodies were seen scattered on the streets, scavenged by dogs, after the IOF prevented ambulance and civil defense crews from reaching or transporting those killed and injured. The IOF besieged hospitals in North Gaza and later raided them, killing many of those who remained inside and expelling others from the city. As a result, these hospitals were rendered non-operational. The starvation and siege led to the deaths of many Palestinians, including children, due to hunger and the spread of disease. The conditions of around 400,000 Palestinians in northern Gaza remained dire until the end of the year, particularly amid the ongoing military operation. They endured severe famine, horrific massacres, and widespread destruction of houses and infrastructure until 20 January 2025, when a ceasefire agreement came into effect and the IOF withdrew from the area.

Despite declaring certain areas as “safe”, Israel has deliberately bombed these places, turning the so-called “safe corridors” into death traps. Civilians have been bombed during their displacement, even in areas IOF previously designated as “safe”, turning humanitarian centers and shelters into targets. A large number of Palestinian civilians have been reportedly killed in these areas, deliberately turning the “safe zones” into sites of mass killings.¹¹

» Use of starvation as a weapon of war against Palestinians

Israeli officials have explicitly declared their intent to starve Gazans, as including the statement of the Israeli National Security Minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, who said: “As long as Hamas does not release the hostages – the only thing that needs to enter Gaza are hundreds of tons of explosives from the Air Force, not a gram of humanitarian aid”¹².

Throughout 2024, the IOF brutally and unprecedentedly continued their starvation policy against the Gaza Strip’s population, systematically targeting nearly 93% of the agriculture and fishing sectors.¹³ This effectively paralyzed the local food production sources. Moreover, the IOF deliberately destroyed Gaza’s vital infrastructure, including water stations, bakeries, and food storage facilities. In a horrifying escalation of excessive use of force, the IOF killed dozens of Palestinian civilians who were queuing to obtain bread or fill drinking water. They also continued to deprive Palestinians of their right to access safe drinking water, pumping only one-fifth of the population’s normal needs. This catastrophically worsened the already dire humanitarian crisis. In this context, UN economic agencies stated that the shock to Gaza’s economy as a result of the ongoing conflict is one of the largest observed in recent economic history, requiring the most substantial recovery effort since 1945.¹⁴

On the other hand, the IOF imposed severe restrictions on the entry of aid trucks through a slow and exhausting mechanism, subjecting each truck to thorough inspection before

11 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese, submitted to the security council at its fifty-fifth session on 26 February– 5 April 2024.

12 Official Twitter account of Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, 17 October 2023. Statement text: <https://x.com/itamarbengvir/status/1714340519487176791>
 “כל עוד חמאס לא משחרר את החטופים שבידינו - הדבר היחיד שצריך להיכנס לעזה הם מאות טונות חומר נפץ של חיל האוויר, לא גרם של סיוע הומינטרי”.

13 World Bank, GAZA STRIP INTERIM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, Page 6, March 2024, link: https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/14e309cd34e04e40b90eb19afa7b5d15-0280012024/original/Gaza-Interim-Damage-Assessment-032924-Final.pdf?_gl=1*rcg66j*_gcl_au*MTI1MDQzODkzLjE3MjA3ODI4NzE.

14 World Bank, GAZA STRIP INTERIM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, Page 6, March 2024, link: https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/14e309cd34e04e40b90eb19afa7b5d15-0280012024/original/Gaza-Interim-Damage-Assessment-032924-Final.pdf?_gl=1*rcg66j*_gcl_au*MTI1MDQzODkzLjE3MjA3ODI4NzE.

allowing it into southern Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, only negligible amounts of aid reached Gaza City and North Gaza, further deepening the hunger crisis. This harsh reality forced the residents to risk their lives to obtain bags of wheat flour, despite being directly targeted by the IOF. One of the most horrific crimes was the massacre that took place in late February 2024,¹⁵ when the IOF killed about 100 Palestinian civilians in cold blood while trying to obtain flour bags. The IOF exploited the residents' desperate need for aid, which they fully control, to achieve military gains, using humanitarian aid as a bargaining chip throughout the military aggression.¹⁶



15 Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, press release: 'Flour Massacre': Impunity Persists as Israeli Forces Open Fire On Starving Palestinians Seeking Vital Aid. Link: <https://pchrgaza.org/flour-massacre-impunity-persists-as-israeli-forces-open-fire-on-starving-palestinians-seeking-vital-aid/>

16 OHCHR (March 5, 2024).UN experts condemn 'flour massacre', urge Israel to end campaign of starvation in Gaza.
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/un-experts-condemn-flour-massacre-urge-israel-end-campaign-starvation-gaza>

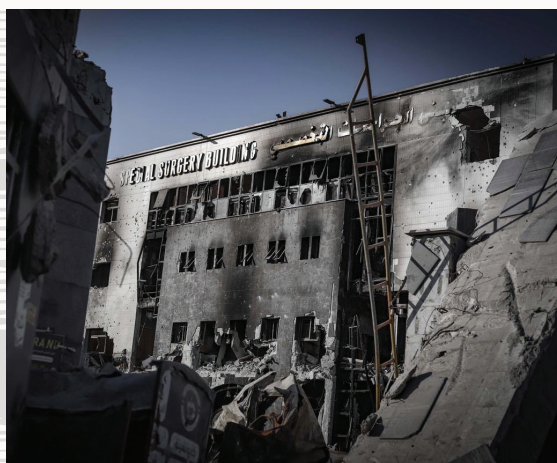
In an attempt to forcibly displace the residents of Gaza City and North Gaza to the south, the IOF tightened restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid and launched dozens of deadly attacks on aid convoys to spread chaos and block the delivery of food. Although limited airdrops of aid by external parties were permitted, they were insufficient and even resulted in the deaths of 18 civilians due to malfunction and uncontrolled landings. As famine worsened during the first quarter of 2024 and reached its peak in the northern Gaza Strip, residents were forced to grind animal feed to make bread, while hundreds were forced to flee under the grip of hunger and dehydration.

Simultaneously, the IOF intensified their targeted attacks on UNRWA, the largest relief organization in the Gaza Strip, by inciting against it, bombing its headquarters, and targeting its staff, to halt its operations in the Strip.

The IOF's systematic policies have led to severe food insecurity in the Gaza Strip, according to a report by international relief organizations. The report highlighted that over 70% of families in Gaza City and northern Gaza, and around 50% in the central and southern areas, are enduring catastrophic hunger, classified as Phase 5 on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), and warned that these percentages may increase as the aggression on Gaza continues. The report also stated that all residents of Gaza are facing varying levels of food insecurity, and that half of the population, 1.1 million people, are enduring catastrophic hunger and have been classified under Phase 5 of the (IPC)¹⁷. The starvation policy has also led to the death of 14 people, the majority of whom were children, according to the Palestinian MOH in Gaza Strip.¹⁸

¹⁷ United Nations, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Report for the Gaza Strip, link: https://www.un.org/unispa/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/IPC_Famine_Committee_Review_Report_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Feb_July2024_Special_Brief.pdf

¹⁸ Wafa News Agency, press release, 07 July 2024, link: <https://www.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/98959>



» Destruction of Healthcare System and Targeted Attacks on Medical Personnel

During their military aggression, IOF conducted targeted attacks on Gaza's healthcare system, including health facilities and medical personnel, leading to its collapse amid an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe on the Gaza Strip. This collapse came after 18 years of an ongoing Israeli-imposed siege that had already severely weakened the health sector.¹⁹ It became clear that the IOF systematically and deliberately targeted healthcare facilities, including medical staff and patients, as part of their genocidal war committed with complete disregard for international and humanitarian laws. IOF have targeted the healthcare facilities across the Gaza Strip, forcing them out of service. Although some of these facilities partially resumed their operations, they were unable to provide even the bare basic healthcare services for the wounded and patients.

Throughout this year, IOF has destroyed many hospitals in the Gaza Strip after storming them, most notably was al-Shifa Medical Complex, the largest medical complex in the Strip. On 18 March 2024, IOF stormed the al-Shifa Medical Complex for the second time as part of a military operation that lasted until dawn on 01 April 2024, inflicting mass killings and widespread destruction. As a result, at least 20 patients have reportedly died due to the lack of access to care and limited movement of the health personnel.²⁰

¹⁹ Before the Israeli war, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights issued several reports highlighting Israel's violations and restrictions which had prevented Gaza residents from enjoying their right to health. Those included Israeli restrictions on the travel of Gaza patients and the entry of medicines and medical equipment, which had serious consequences on the lives of thousands of patients in the Gaza Strip. For more details, see PCHR's reports: <https://pchrgaza.org/category/publications/thematic-reports/right-to-health>

²⁰ World Health Organization (WHO), Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission report published on 06 April 2024.



Furthermore, IOF's crimes unfolded following their withdrawal from the al-Shifa Medical Complex and its proximity as the World Health Organization (WHO) has described Israel's destruction of the complex as "ripping the heart out" of the enclave's healthcare system.²¹ All buildings of the al-Shifa Complex were extensively damaged by explosions and fires, burning at least 115 beds in what was once the emergency department and 14 incubators in the neonatal intensive care unit, among other assets. This destruction has left Gaza City and northern Gaza without CT scanning services and significantly diminished laboratory capacity, severely compromising effective diagnosis, which will increase avoidable deaths.²²

In southern Gaza Strip, the IOF stormed Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, the largest medical facility in the southern Gaza Strip after besieging it for weeks and committed horrific massacres inside. They also deliberately destroyed large sections of the hospital and forcibly evacuated displaced people and medical staff. Summary executions were carried out within the building, and dozens of bodies were buried in its courtyards before being exhumed and transferred into Israel for examination, in a desperate attempt to match some of them with soldiers and settlers who went missing in Gaza.

In the last quarter of the year, during the military assault on northern Gaza, the IOF

21 WHO, Destruction of Al-Shifa hospital 'rips heart out of Gaza health system', April 2024, Link: <https://www.unognewsroom.org/story/en/2123/gaza-al-shifa-hospital-destroyed-who-02-april-2024>

22 Ibid, (WHO), Six months of war leave Al-Shifa hospital in ruins, WHO mission reports, published on 06 April 2024.

launched a fierce and bloody attack on 27 December 2024, targeting Kamal Adwan Hospital, the most vital medical facility in the northern governorate. The hospital had been operating with limited human and medical resources due to the ongoing siege and repeated attacks throughout 14 months of Israeli aggression. In a brutal escalation of the crime of genocide and a blatant defiance of international norms and laws, the IOF stormed the hospital, forcibly evacuated it, and then completely burned its departments in a savage manner. They also carried out deadly assaults and detonated surrounding buildings using booby-trapped robots, resulting in the killing and wounding of dozens, including medical personnel. This military assault left the residents of northern Gaza without hospitals, while patients trapped in Al-Awda and the Indonesian hospitals were evacuated under harsh conditions to hospitals in Gaza City, with some of them being detained at Israeli military checkpoints.

Overall, 23 out of 38 governmental and non-governmental hospitals have gone out of service due to IOF's targeting of healthcare centers and hospitals over nearly a year, with only 15 hospitals partially functioning. Additionally, 80 out of 90 healthcare centers went out of service, and more than 130 ambulances were destroyed.²³

» **Depriving Palestinians of Access to Proper Treatment and Adequate Medical Assistance**

Israel has mercilessly created a catastrophic humanitarian situation and deadly environment for the wounded and sick in the Gaza Strip amid no hospitals equipped to receive them after most had been destroyed while the remaining operational hospitals have been crippled by lack of medicines and medical supplies and equipment due to the restricted flow of aid into the Gaza Strip. Moreover, Israel uses starvation as a tool of war with an intent to gain a military advantage, including depriving Gaza population of nutritious food and restricting the entry of hygiene products and disinfection supplies into the entire Strip, particularly Gaza City and north Gaza. As a result, people and patients of the Gaza Strip live in conditions ripe for epidemics, becoming a looming threat to their lives.

Due to the collapse of hospitals in Gaza City and northern Gaza alongside the absence of alternatives such as field hospitals established in southern Gaza, hundreds of sick and injured Gazans lost their lives in a slow and painful manner, with no chance for treatment or even painkillers to alleviate their suffering. Doctors were left with no choice but to watch patients breathing their last, while the hospitals turned into silent graves, filled with corpses and cries.

²³ Ministry of Health 16 September 2024, Health Emergency Sector Report on Day 347 of the war: <https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/5828>



At the same time, the Israeli restrictions on travel for medical treatment sentenced a premeditated death against tens of thousands of patients and injured people who could have been saved if they had been allowed to travel for treatment.

Due to these brutal policies, hundreds of patients were sentenced to a slow death. During the year, 436 cancer patients died, along with around 300 kidney patients, 26 thalassemia patients, and 23 cystic fibrosis patients. All of them passed away after being deprived of the necessary medical care and being prevented from traveling abroad for treatment, while essential medicines and treatments ran out, and all types of therapeutic milk and vitamins became unavailable. This left behind a recurring tragedy for patients who now await the same fate.

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

IOF have banned the entry of a long list of commodities, including personal hygiene supplies such as anti-lice shampoo, clothes, diapers, dignity kits, cleaning products, hygiene kits,



scabies medication, shampoo, soap, spare parts for WASH equipment, tents, vaccines, water tanks, and water treatment equipment.²⁴ All these materials and equipment are indispensable for the survival of the population at this stage and curb the spread of diseases and epidemics. Also, IOF have deliberately imposed conditions ripe for the spread of diseases after all vital sectors had been destroyed and the entry of lifesaving aid, basic needs and medical supplies had been blocked amid the systematic attacks on the health system, destruction of water and sanitation systems, collapse of the waste collection system, blocking the entry of personal hygiene products, and strangulating and cramming about 2.2 million people in an area of only 15 square miles, which does not exceed 11% of the Gaza Strip area by the end of August 2024. All this combined has rendered these areas down in epidemics and infectious diseases, with ineffective action taken to combat them.

²⁴ International Organizations, Gaza Humanitarian Access Snapshot #3 (30 July – 12 August), link: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-humanitarian-access-snapshot-3-30-july-12-august>

During summer 2024, the scarcity of shampoo and cleaning products worsened conditions in the shelters, where maintaining cleanliness has become nearly impossible, turning these shelters into an environment ripe for diseases. With water scarcity and the absence of cleaning supplies, families cannot wash their few remaining clothes and vegetables or shower. Meanwhile, health facilities faced a severe shortage of disinfectants, putting patients and medical staff at risk of infection. Amid this challenging reality, access to soap and basic hygiene items has become an urgent necessity, as their absence poses a real threat to public health, especially for children, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems.

The outbreak of epidemics and infectious diseases was the inevitable result of the catastrophic deterioration in humanitarian conditions. Meanwhile, Israel deliberately ignored all UN warnings and intentionally created this disastrous situation as part of its genocide. This was explicitly stated by General Giora Eiland, former head of the Israeli National Security Council, in an article published in mid-November 2023: “**The international community warns of a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and of severe epidemics. We must not shy away from it. Severe epidemics in the south of the Strip will hasten victory**”.²⁵

²⁵ Photocopy of an article published by General Giora Eiland,
link: <https://twitter.com/QudsNen/status/1726239911013982326/photo/1>



» Extensive Destruction to Gaza Strip's Cities and Infrastructure

A year of Israeli military aggression left unprecedented widespread destruction across the Gaza Strip. Entire cities and neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble by the IOF. Gaza Strip's four governorates, including Gaza City, North Gaza, Khan Yunis, and Rafah, have been classified as devastated areas due to the extensive destruction, much of which has been deemed nearly total. Although the central Gaza Strip governorate also suffered severe damage, the level of destruction there is somewhat less than in the other governorates. Additionally, the infrastructure and vital facilities in all Gaza Strip's governorates have been almost entirely destroyed.

According to reports issued by UN specialized agencies, IOF, until December 2024, destroyed about 245,000 housing units, corresponding to around 69% of the total structures in the Gaza Strip.²⁶ The damage distribution was as follows: 46,223 destroyed structures, 18,478 severely damaged structures, 55,954 moderately damaged structures, and 35,754 possibly damaged structures.²⁷ The Gaza Governorate has experienced the highest rise in damage with 45,649 damaged structures, followed by Khan Yunis with 40,704 damaged structures, while 34,324 structures were damaged in northern Gaza Governorate. Moreover, Rafah and central Gaza Strip witnessed the destruction of 19,694 and 16,038 structures, successively.²⁸ Moreover, according to the Gaza Government Media Office, 2.8 million meters long of road networks have been destroyed.²⁹ These

26 UNRWA Situation Report #152 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip, link: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-152-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>

27 United Nations Programme on Space Applications, satellite imagery analysis for destruction in the Gaza Strip until the end of July 2024, link: https://unosat.org/static/unosat_filesystem/3904/OCHA-OPT-015_UNOSAT_A3_Gaza_Strip_OPT_CDA_06072024.pdf

28 Ibid.

29 Gaza Government Media Office, update on the Israeli attacks, Day 345, 15 September 2024: <https://t.me/mediagovps/3148>

figures remain preliminary due to lack of accurate damage assessment of the destroyed structures as field documentation by PCHR's staff indicate that almost no building remains undamaged in areas that were invaded by IOF.

In perpetuation of this policy, IOF have intentionally destroyed the infrastructure of residential neighborhoods across the Gaza Strip governorates, rendering it extremely impossible for Gaza residents to return to normal life for many years. After forcing the sole power plant in the Gaza Strip to shut down on 11 October 2023, the bombardment targeting the plant's proximity has caused the four generators to catch fire and go out of service³⁰. Moreover, IOF have deliberately destroyed the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO)'s networks with all their infrastructure, facilities, warehouses and machinery operating this sector. The destruction included 830 km of medium-voltage networks and 2300 km of low-voltage networks, as well as 1950 overhead distribution lines, 120 underground distribution lines, 245,000 digital meters, 6 structures and headquarters of the company, 6 warehouses, and 51 cars and heavy vehicles³¹. Therefore, no reliable source of electricity was left to operate thousands of vital facilities essential for the lives of 2.3 million people, including the health sector, water and sanitation, communications, education, and bakeries. This situation has severe negative repercussions which directly contribute to perpetuating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, inflicting deaths among children, women, and elderlies.

Additionally, IOF's widespread and unprecedented military attacks have destroyed about 67% of water and sanitation facilities and infrastructure, with damage to mobile assets yet to be assessed. The damaged facilities included 194 water production wells, 40 high volume water reservoirs, 55 sewage pumping stations, 76 municipal desalination plants, four waste water treatment plants and nine spare part warehouses, in addition to destroying the two main water quality analysis laboratories.³² Also, IOF have destroyed about 70% of the total sewage pumps in central and southern Gaza Strip, while 100% of wastewater treatment plants were intentionally destroyed by IOF in northern Gaza Strip and Gaza City.³³

30 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel | Flash Update #89, link: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-89>

31 GEDCO Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/66V5echrcsaw8Cb4/>

32 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Situation Update #179 | Gaza Strip, link: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-179-gaza-strip>

33 Oxfam, "Israel Systematically Uses Water as a Weapon of War Against Palestinian Population in Gaza," 18 July 2024.



Moreover, the infrastructure of Gaza Strip telecommunications companies was deliberately and directly targeted by IOF, destroying and disrupting the main and sub-switches, transmission towers, fiber optic networks, as well as the transmission lines and international routes connecting the Gaza Strip to the outside world. As a result, about 75% of the cellular communication towers in Gaza, out of a total of 841, were out of service, completely cutting off telecommunication services 10 times.³⁴ This coincided with intense Israeli airstrikes, reflecting IOF's deliberate attacks to isolate the population from the outside world, severely limit internal communication, and impede them from calling for assistance in emergencies. The airstrikes have also hindered journalists' work, and made international organizations, including WHO, lose contact with their teams during the most challenging circumstances, particularly when IOF stormed Gaza hospitals.³⁵

Moreover, the IOF have destroyed educational buildings and headquarters, directly targeting 274 school buildings, causing damage and destruction to 85.8% of schools; at least 72.5% of the schools need either total reconstruction or major rehabilitation works to be functional. It is noteworthy that UNRWA operates about 29% of these schools. In addition, 12 universities in Gaza have been targeted, either through destroying them or turning some into military bases and interrogation and detention centers,³⁶ in addition to

³⁴ WAFA news agency, Israel has cut off communications in the Gaza Strip more than 10 times since the beginning of the aggression, link: <https://www.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/95652>

³⁵ World Health Organization (WHO), WHO loses communication with contacts in Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza amid reports of attacks, link: <https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-loses-communication-with-contacts-in-al-shifa-hospital-in-gaza-amid-reports-of-attacks.html>

³⁶ Education cluster in Palestine, Verification of damages to schools based on proximity to damaged sites backed by satellite imagery, April 2024. <https://educationcluster.app.box.com/s/k3seqiez5tp2j6gnkqm-w9qm3wsxd0ty>

the destruction of 36 football stadiums and gyms.³⁷ Up to 30 July 2024, 9,211 students and 397 teachers have been killed by IOF while more than 14,200 students and 2200 teachers have been injured.

Due to this, at least 630,000 students in Gaza's governmental, private and UNRWA schools have been deprived of the right to education for the second consecutive year since 07 October 2023. Among them, 39,000 students were unable to take their high school Tawjihi final exams. In addition, 88,000 university students have been affected, with around 550 unable to pursue scholarships abroad. Further, about 80,000 children of kindergarten age were also denied access to education. Additionally, academics and university students have been directly and deliberately targeted; as a result, 98 academics have been killed, including numerous respected scholars and intellectuals, 3 university presidents and 68 holders of PHD.³⁸

Furthermore, IOF have directly targeted cultural property and historical monuments, as 206 archaeological sites have been partially and totally destroyed, including historic mosques and churches, public markets and neighborhoods, some dated to over a thousand year. Additionally, universities, libraries, museums, theaters, murals, castles, manuscripts, and cultural institutions have been demolished.

Additionally, IOF have launched targeted attacks on the environmental and agricultural sector, inflicting extensive damage that go beyond that of previous aggressions. As a result, both agricultural and animal production has totally collapsed, rendering the Gaza Strip unable to meet even its population's bare minimum food needs. This is exacerbated by bombs dropped by IOF on the Gaza Strip, estimated at about 82,000 tons of explosives.³⁹ According to UN standards for determining unexploded ordnance (UXO), approximately 10% of these bombs did not explode, remaining buried beneath the rubble of houses and destroyed roads and agricultural lands⁴⁰, endangering civilians' lives and the environmental and agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, the livestock sector in Gaza has been severely damaged due to the ongoing military aggression, with a large number of meat and dairy-producing livestock in Gaza been slaughtered. Additionally, the poultry sector has been totally destroyed, both due to

³⁷ Government Media Office, Update on Israeli attacks, Day 345, 15 September 2024, <https://t.me/mediagovps/3148>

³⁸ PCHR researcher's interview with Dr. Mahmoud Matter, Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Education on 15 August 2024.

³⁹ Government Media Office, Update of Most Important Statistics on IOF Genocidal war in the Gaza Strip, Day 330, 31 August 2024.

⁴⁰ Bloomberg New Economy, Gaza Reduced to 42 Million Tonnes of Rubble. What Will It Take to Rebuild? link: <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2024-gaza-who-will-pay-to-rebuild/>



direct bombing and a lack of fodder. A total of 537 home barns, 484 broiler farms, and 397 sheep farms have been destroyed, reducing the agricultural food infrastructure in the Gaza Strip to nearly zero.⁴¹ Also, the main source of vegetable production in the Gaza Strip has been under targeted destruction, which constitutes 53% of the total agricultural areas in the Gaza Strip. Two-thirds of the cultivated area in Gaza Strip is in Khan Yunis and northern Gaza Strip, which have been severely destroyed and bulldozed⁴². As concerns rise about IOF perpetuating a new reality that would deprive the Gaza Strip population of approximately 60 kilometers intending to seize to create a buffer zone within the Gaza Strip. Israel has already started its plan by destroying and bulldozing buildings and lands in that area to build a buffer zone estimated to be about one kilometer wide and extending along the borders with Israel.

41 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Damage to agricultural infrastructure due to the conflict in the Gaza Strip, link: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/0962cfac-6162-4678-a216-88551541d60b>

42 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS): Issues an Updated Press Release on the Impact of the Israeli Occupation Aggression on the Agricultural Sector in Gaza Strip, link: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_IsraeliOccAggrAgriSector2023E.pdf

1.2.4 Imposing Measures Intended to Prevent Births within Gaza Strip

As part of their genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, the IOF have imposed harsh living conditions on women in the Gaza Strip, aiming to prevent births within the Gaza Strip. Pregnant women have been subjected to various forms of violations, including lack of protection from military attacks, poor health services, unsafe access to healthcare, and inflicting dire living conditions that elevate risks during pregnancy. On the other hand, IOF have imposed conditions and committed violations that have led to deaths among newborns and pregnant women, as well as high rates of miscarriages, preterm labors and stillbirths. Meanwhile, the rest of pregnant women are left to experience serious complications and fears of maternal mortality or miscarriages due to lack of neglect and not meeting their special needs. These violations and their repercussions are not mere collateral damage of the Israeli military aggression but are of a broader policy aimed at committing genocidal acts.

Moreover, the IOF have imposed hellish living conditions that significantly increase risks during pregnancy, effectively aiming to prevent births in the Gaza Strip. These conditions have also led to deaths among newborns, as miscarriages have risen at least 300% since October last year.⁴³

Pregnant women in the Gaza Strip suffered from the Israeli various military attacks without enjoying any special protection or respect. Many were killed, injured, or exposed to toxic gases, causing serious psychological and physical harm amid heightened feelings of fear and anxiety. All this combined has led to preventing births in Gaza and have serious consequences for reproductive health, including a rise in pregnancy pains, miscarriages, stillbirths and premature births.

Furthermore, limited access to necessary healthcare services during the aggression, coupled with the inadequate medical care available, has put pregnant women at risk of death or serious complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Pregnant women need continuous and safe access to antenatal and postnatal care. Women had to undergo c-sections without anesthesia. Also, doctors are forced to perform unnecessary hysterectomies to improve the chances of saving the lives of women due to the lack of blood

⁴³ OCHA (2024, July 9). Gaza nine months on, pregnant women carry the burden of conflict.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-nine-months-pregnant-women-carry-burden-conflict>



supplies, rendering them unable to have more children.⁴⁴ Moreover, a lot of pregnant women had to give birth in houses, shelters or tents, worsening the birth-related complications, increasing their suffering and leaving them with unprecedented levels of stress. On the other hand, severe hunger and dehydration have exacerbated the suffering of pregnant women and heightened their concerns about the life and health of their unborn babies.

Since October 7th, the Israeli military aggression has significantly exacerbated women's suffering, especially pregnant women, who have been forced to shoulder additional responsibilities amid displacement and deteriorating living conditions. The collapse of basic services and the spread of epidemics have increased the health risks related to pregnancy and childbirth, reinforcing Israel's policies aimed at preventing births within Gaza Strip. Pregnant women are also experiencing devastating effects from severe hunger and malnutrition, resulting in high rates of miscarriage and the birth of underweight babies. Additionally, the lack of clean drinking water leads to deaths among infants and the spread of infectious diseases. The UN experts have reported that 95 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women face severe food poverty".⁴⁵

Amid these deteriorating circumstances, the neonatal mortality rate has risen to nearly two to three times the normal rate due to entirely preventable causes resulting from the

⁴⁴ Juzoor for Health and Social Development, The ravages of war: impact on mothers & newborns in Gaza (11 November 2023)

<https://www.juzoor.org/emergency/2369.html>

⁴⁵ OHCHR (2024, May 6). Onslaught of violence against women and children in Gaza unacceptable: UN experts

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/onslaught-violence-against-women-and-children-gaza-unacceptable-un-experts>

ongoing Israeli attacks.⁴⁶ Newborns up to three months old died of diarrhea, hypothermia, and other preventable causes. Without essential equipment and medical support, premature and underweight babies have little to no chance of survival⁴⁷. Furthermore, Israel has cut off electricity in the Gaza Strip and banned the entry of fuel needed to run generators that powered Gaza hospitals equipment like incubators. Consequently, premature newborns died.⁴⁸ Meanwhile, infant incubators are overcrowded due to the closure of most hospitals in southern Gaza Valley, thereby having to place more than one infant in a single incubator. This has led to a surge in infectious diseases, the spread of epidemics, and a high mortality rate among premature newborns.⁴⁹

46 Oxfam (2023, November 23). Babies dying from preventable causes in besieged Gaza.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/babies-dying-preventable-causes-besieged-gaza-oxfam>

47 Oxfam (2023, November 23). Babies dying from preventable causes in besieged Gaza.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/babies-dying-preventable-causes-besieged-gaza-oxfam>

48 The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (19 November 2023), Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, Flash Update #44: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-44>

49 PCHR's staff interview with Dr. Ziad Abu Taha at the maternity ward in Naser Medical Complex, Khan Younis.

2

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK IN 2024:

IOF's violations against civilians have escalated throughout 2024, reaching unprecedented levels. They launched largescale military operations, particularly in the northern West Bank, resulting in new waves of violence and serious violations. These violations included killings and injuries, the destruction of houses, property, and civilian objects, a surge in settlement crimes and settler attacks, severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians, as well as widespread arrest campaigns, and the use of torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment inside Israeli prisons.

2.1 Acts of Killings and Injuries

The IOF have continued their escalating killings against civilians in the West Bank, in parallel with the genocidal war they are launching on the Gaza Strip, using unprecedentedly excessive force against civilians. The IOF have also employed their military arsenal to target civilians, including warplanes, drones, tanks, and heavy machinery, which advanced deep into the narrow alleys of cities and refugee camps, razing large parts of them and killing civilians under the pretext of searching for Palestinian armed groups.

Moreover, the IOF have intensified their military assaults on Palestinian refugee camps in northern West Bank, repeatedly storming these camps, conducting house raids, destroying homes and infrastructure, and committing killings over the span of several days. After each incursion, the IOF would withdraw, only to return later and launch further attacks. These assaults were primarily concentrated in Jenin refugee camp, the Tulkarm and Nur Shams camps in Tulkarm, and Balata refugee camp in Nablus. During these military assaults, dozens of civilians were killed; some killed inside their houses after being bombed by the IOF on top of them, others killed after Israeli drones bombed buildings or vehicles while civilians were still inside. Additionally, some civilians were killed in summary executions carried out on streets and roads during the IOF's incursion into narrow alleys and small neighborhoods, while others were killed in assassination crimes committed on a large scale during the year.

These crimes resulted in the killing of 522 Palestinians, including 178 civilians, among

them 92 children and 17 women. Among those killed, 5 were killed by settlers, while 15 died in Israeli prisons. Out of the total number of those killed, 144 were killed in airstrikes targeting Palestinians inside houses, facilities, and vehicles, including 28 civilians, among them 16 children and 3 women. Additionally, 1,331 Palestinians were injured during the year, including 301 children and 65 women.

2.2 Demolition of Houses and Civilian Property and Objects

IOF maintained its systematic policy of direct demolishing houses and other civilian objects through direct demolitions, assaults and confiscation of civilian properties, or forcing Palestinians to self-demolish their homes and imposing fines on them. Also, the Israeli authorities continued their collective punishment policy against the families of Palestinians allegedly involved in attacks against IOF or settlers, as they demolished or sealed off their houses. This year was notably concentrated in East Jerusalem, as part of Israel's strategy to impose a Jewish majority in the city. Additionally, the IOF continued to target civilian facilities in the West Bank, including commercial, industrial, agricultural, service, health, educational, religious, and sports facilities.

Demolition and land leveling operations continued in the West Bank to serve the Israeli settlement projects, and settlers continued to carry out attacks on Palestinians and their properties under the IOF's protection. This reflects serious violations against civilians, especially in areas classified as Area (C), where settlements are considered illegal under international humanitarian law, as they violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of civilian populations by the occupying power to the territory it occupies.

In 2024, IOF demolished (1683) homes and civilian facilities in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem. This was the outcome of IOF demolition of 1084 houses; 51 were self-demolished, 256 were demolished under the pretext of unlicensed construction, 22 were demolished on grounds of collective punishment, and 755 were demolished during IOF's ground assaults on cities and camps in northern West Bank. PCHR's staff have also documented the targeting of other civilian facilities, as the IOF demolished (599) commercial facilities, industrial facilities, and agricultural facilities, water wells, educational facilities, and religious facilities. Additionally, IOF issued (144) settlement plans to be implemented in the West Bank, more than half of which are under development, as about (2,220) settlement housing units were built in 2022.

Throughout 2024, Palestinians implemented demolition orders issued by Israeli authorities and self-demolished 53% of buildings in occupied East Jerusalem, compared to 27%

of self-demolitions during the previous five years. This increase is due to new Israeli legislations that restrict the power of Israeli courts to intervene and allows the Jerusalem Municipality to pressure families to self-demolish their properties. Families are also threatened with imprisonment or heavy fines if the demolition is not quickly implemented.

In 2024, the Israeli municipality carried out largescale mass demolitions in several neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem, particularly Silwan and 'Anata villages, under the pretext of unlicensed construction or to i

mplement settlement projects. Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan village has witnessed mass demolitions, with more than 25 buildings and facilities demolished to pave the way for the “King’s Garden” project, approved in 2004 to be built over the rubble of existing residential houses in the neighborhood. Meanwhile in Wadi al-Joz neighborhood, the Israeli municipality began demolishing commercial facilities in favor of the “Silicon Wadi” settlement project, which was approved at the beginning of 2024 after years of municipal deliberations. The project involves the demolition of approximately 200 commercial and industrial facilities in the neighborhood’s industrial zone, spanning an area of 30 dunums, to establish tech companies, commercial complexes, hotels, a technical college, and to expand green spaces and roads in the area.

2.3 Settler-attacks and settlement crimes

In 2024, there was a significant surge in settlement activities and settlers’ attacks in the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem, particularly following October 7th. This included the seizure of more Palestinian lands, the forced displacement of their residents, and the expansion of settlements deep within the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), as part of the Israeli far-right government’s agenda to impose sovereignty over the West Bank and consider it an integral part of the State of Israel. The Israeli government has repeatedly declared that 2025 will be the “year of sovereignty” in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). On one hand, settlement activities have frantically increased, materializing the plan of far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich to double settlement expansion in the coming years. On the other hand, settlers’ violence and attacks against Palestinian civilians and their properties have intensified across the West Bank, under the IOF’s protection.

The Israeli Higher Planning and Building Council approved plans to construct 9,884 housing units in settlements during 2024, according to the Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*. Additionally, around 52 settlement outposts were established across the West Bank, some adjacent to existing settlements. Five of these outposts were established in areas classified as Area B, particularly within the so-called “Agreed-Upon Reserve” east

of Bethlehem, an area spanning approximately 167,000 dunums, which far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich declared under Israeli control on 20 July 2024. Additionally, a settlement outpost was established on Turmus Ayya village's lands, another on Ein Yabrud village's lands in Ramallah, while 3 other outposts in the area classified as the 918 Firing Zone, east of Yatta in southern Hebron, where civilian presence is officially prohibited, paving the way for forced displacement of Palestinians there. Moreover, the Israeli authorities declared the seizure of approximately 24,258 dunums of land in the West Bank, under the designation of "state-owned lands." These lands are later leased to settlers to establish pastoral and agricultural outposts, which also serve as launching points for attacks against Palestinian villages. Five new settlements were also established: Givat Assaf, Adorayim, Sde Ephraim, Evyatar, and Heletz. In addition, five settlement outposts, including Ahiya, Beit Eliahu, Bnei Adam, Machane Gadi, and Givat Hanan, were legalized and designated as 'neighborhoods' of existing settlements.

In Jerusalem, 2024 was a turbulent year for Al-Aqsa Mosque, marked by numerous attempts to impose control over it and to implement long-standing plans previously discussed in the Knesset and within Israeli government and party meetings. At that time, Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, announced the construction of a synagogue within Al-Aqsa and emphasized the right of Jews to pray there. Soon after, his words quickly turned into daily actions and behaviors by the settlers at the mosque, who made the eastern area of it a primary site for prayer and gathering, considering it the main gate to the so-called "Alleged Temple."

In addition, sessions and conferences were held to discuss altering the mosque's status quo and exploring ways to Judaize it and impose control over it. These intentions quickly materialized on the ground, through a surge in the number of settlers storming the mosque, while the number of Muslim worshippers decreased due to strict measures imposed on their entry, under the pretext of security concerns related to the war on the Gaza Strip.

In 2024, the number of Israeli settlers who stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque reached 53,605, the highest number recorded since the incursions began in 2003, an increase of more than 5,000 settlers compared to 2023, when the number reached 48,223. During 2024, the Israeli authorities also sought to reinforce the temporal division of Al-Aqsa Mosque by extending the duration of settlers' raid to additional 15 minutes each day of the week, effectively allocating around six hours daily for settler raids, excluding Fridays and Saturdays.

The closure of UNRWA headquarters was among the most significant Israeli violations in 2024, particularly following the Israeli Knesset's decision issued in late October 2024 to

ban UNRWA's operations. This decision will result in the closure of UNRWA's headquarters in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, along with several educational institutions and medical clinics run by the UNRWA across various neighborhoods in occupied East Jerusalem.⁵⁰

On the other hand, the Israeli Government provided further support for settlement expansion in the West Bank. In 2024, substantial financial resources were allocated to promote and expand the settlements at the expense of West Bank land, including the approval to double the Ministry of Settlement's budget by NIS 302 million; the allocation of NIS 7 billion for paving roads between settlements; NIS 409 million for special projects in the settlements, including the preservation of antiquities in the West Bank; and NIS 75 million to support pastoral and agricultural settlement outposts established in 2023–2024.

Settlers' Attacks

Settler attacks against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, escalated to unprecedented levels. Settlers, including criminal groups such as 'Hilltop Youth' and 'Price Tag' gangs, were unleashed to carry out attacks against Palestinians on roads and on their homes and properties, under the IOF's protection. PCHR has documented killings committed by settlers against Palestinian civilians across the West Bank, under the IOF's protection and guard. These attacks resulted in the killing of five Palestinians and the injury of several others. Settler violence also included targeting Palestinian agricultural lands, vandalizing crops, uprooting trees, assaulting civilians, setting fire to homes and parked vehicles, and destroying any property within reach.

2.4 Restrictions on freedom of movement in the West Bank

Throughout the year, the IOF continued to impose arbitrary restrictions on the movement of civilians in the West Bank, as part of their collective punishment policy against the civilian population. Military checkpoints remain one of the key tools of control used by the IOF as part of their colonial settlement project, which is based on the geographic and demographic fragmentation of the oPt. In parallel with ongoing settlement expansion across the West Bank, including in occupied East Jerusalem, as well as the construction of bypass roads and the annexation wall deep into the oPt, the IOF has, over decades, intensified the establishment of military checkpoints, effectively turning cities, villages, and refugee camps into isolated cantons that are difficult to move between.

⁵⁰ Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, press release, link: <https://pchrgaza.org/israel-bans-unrwa-gazas-lifeline-latest-move-in-ongoing-campaign-against-the-palestinian-people-and-their-right-of-return/>

In 2024, the number of military checkpoints established across the West Bank reached 793⁵¹; 89 of them were established deep within the West Bank, between cities, villages, and refugee camps. Additionally, the IOF established 126 permanently closed metal detector gates at the entrances to Palestinian cities and villages located along main roads used by settlers or near settlements. They also set up 158 sand berms used as barriers or to close roads, and 103 temporary checkpoints. The temporary checkpoints established at main intersections between and within Palestinian cities have also become almost permanent. As part of their collective punishment policy against the Palestinians, the IOF have continued to prevent workers, merchants, and businessmen from the West Bank from entering Israel since October 7th and the ensuing widescale Israeli military aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, the IOF closed many roads to Palestinian civilian movement for long periods, allowing only settlers to use them. Some of these checkpoints are operated by private Israeli security companies under the supervision of the IOF's Crossing Administration. The establishment of these checkpoints disrupted the educational process in schools and universities and obstructed the functioning of service institutions, including Health, Interior, and Transportation facilities.

The year 2024 was particularly difficult for the occupied East Jerusalem's neighborhoods and villages, which endured siege and isolation. This was due to the establishment of checkpoints within and at the gates of Old City neighborhoods, the tightening of military measures at all checkpoints in and around the city, the repeated closure of these checkpoints, and the closure of metal detector gates established at the entrances to the city's villages and cities. These restrictions led to traffic jams and significantly worsened the suffering of tens of thousands of residents, who faced immense challenges in reaching their workplaces and educational institutions. Their movement was heavily obstructed, depriving them of the ability to live a normal life. Moreover, residents were denied the right to freely celebrate religious holidays and special occasions. On the first day of Eid al-Adha, Israeli authorities imposed tight restrictions on access to Al-Aqsa Mosque, preventing worshippers from performing the Eid prayer. Thousands were denied entry after the IOF heavily deployed checkpoints around the mosque and physically assaulted worshippers by beating and pushing them. Throughout 2024, the IOF maintained a heavy presence in and around the Old City, particularly in its narrow alleys and especially on Fridays. From the early morning hours, checkpoints were erected along roads leading to Al-Aqsa Mosque and at the gates of the Old City, where worshippers were arbitrarily denied entry and subjected to physical searches, particularly young men.

51 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-access-restrictions-map-november2024->

Christians in the city also faced repression and harassments during their religious celebrations in 2024. This included preventing worshippers and celebrants from reaching and praying in churches, especially in the Old City, and restricting the number of worshippers allowed into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Many were assaulted at checkpoints established along the roads leading to the churches.

Moreover, the Israeli authorities at the King Hussein Bridge/al-Karama border crossing continued to humiliate Palestinian civilians as they passed through the crossing, which is under Israeli control, in both directions.

These authorities not only deny thousands of Palestinians their right to travel, but also subject them to degrading treatment, including thorough searches, interrogations by intelligence officers, and forcing them to wait for long hours before being sent back to where they came from. In some cases, Palestinians are detained while traveling through the crossing.

2.5 Arrests, Torture and Other Forms of Cruel and Inhuman Treatment in Israeli Jails

By the end of 2024, the number of detainees in Israeli prisons had reached 10,000, including 365 children, held across 23 prisons and detention centers within Israel, as well as one detention center located in the West Bank within the borders of the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967. This constitutes a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Article 7, which obliges the occupying power to detain individuals from the occupied population within the occupied territory until the end of their sentence. This does not include the thousands of detainees from Gaza held in the Israeli Army's detention centers, including women, children, the elderly, doctors, nurses, journalists, and teachers, who were arrested either inside Israel or during the IOF's ground invasion into Gaza Strip. The exact number of Gaza detainees remains unknown.

There was a significant surge in the number of detainees in the West Bank, especially in light of the IOF's military operations targeting Palestinian cities and refugee camps, particularly in Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nablus in northern West Bank. These arrest campaigns targeted children, women, the elderly, and journalists, all of whom were subjected to harsh detention conditions, degrading treatment, and the denial of their basic rights. This formed part of a collective punishment policy unprecedented in Israeli prisons and detention centers since 1967. The arrest campaigns were also accompanied by additional violations, including abuse, beatings, death threats against detainees and their families, the vandalism and looting of property, and the use of detainees' relatives as human

shields during arrest campaigns.

Moreover, administrative detentions of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank have seen a significant escalation. This form of detention is illegal, carried out without charge or trial under the pretext of a “confidential file” that neither the detainee nor their lawyer is permitted to access, in accordance with Israeli military orders. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been subjected to this procedure since the occupation of the Palestinian territory. In 2024 alone, the number of administrative detainees reached 3,428, including 100 children and 22 women⁵², clearly reflecting the scale of Israel’s mass arrests of Palestinians. Since the onset of the genocidal war, more than 10,000 administrative detention orders have been issued, including both new and renewed orders, some of which targeted women and children.

Furthermore, 2024 witnessed unprecedented punitive measures against Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. The prison administration imposed severe restrictions and stripped detainees of all the rights they had gained over decades of struggle. The Israeli Prison Service subjected detainees to various forms of abuse, including repression, mistreatment, and repeated mass and individual assaults in prison yards, some of which led to the death of detainees as a result of beatings. Additionally, food portions were significantly reduced, leading to visible weight loss and signs of emaciation among the detainees. This was compounded by ongoing medical neglect, which further deteriorated their health and weakened their immune systems, particularly among the sick, the elderly, and pregnant women who were arrested during pregnancy and later suffered from various illnesses. The overcrowding in prison cells due to the rising number of detainees, combined with poor ventilation and inadequate hygiene, has further intensified their suffering. Moreover, hundreds of detainees were placed in solitary confinement and denied contact with the outside world, including visits from their families and access to legal counsel.

These inhumane conditions endured by thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and detention centers have led to a significant increase in the number of deaths inside prisons. The death toll has reached 60, including 35 from the Gaza Strip, with some detainees dying after being subjected to beatings and torture, while others died due to medical negligence.

⁵² According to statistics from the Prisoners’ Affairs Authority in Ramallah.

2.

PCHR 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

WORK CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PCHR DURING ISRAELI AGGRESSION

In its nearly three decades of work, PCHR has never endured harsher conditions than those of this year. Throughout the year, IOF continued their military attacks on the Gaza Strip as part of their ongoing genocidal war that began on 07 October 2023– a matter that has been addressed in detail in the first part of this report.

In light of these exceptional circumstances, PCHR had to work under an emergency plan that directly and rapidly responded to field developments that were changing almost daily, taking into consideration its alignment with its five-year strategic plan for 2020–2024. PCHR's staff successfully and rapidly responded to the tragic developments and managed to mobilize their full capacities to fulfill the tasks assigned to them, despite the extremely harsh conditions they faced.

On one hand, genocidal war has continued to claim the lives of tens of thousands of civilians, inflict a doubled number of injuries, destroy hundreds of thousands of homes, civilian properties, and facilities and devastate infrastructure and vital public utilities, as well as electricity, water, transportation, and communications networks, in an attempt to turn Gaza into an unlivable zone. On the other hand, the majority of PCHR's staff who remained in the Gaza Strip were under the IOF's fire due to the Israeli indiscriminate bombardment across the Strip, leaving no safe place for civilians to seek refuge.

Moreover, PCHR lost three members of its staff, who worked tirelessly during the war. The latest of whom was our beloved colleague Ihab Faisal, an administrative assistant at



Late Colleague Ehab Faisal.



Late Colleague Nour Abu al-Nour.



Late Colleague Dana Yaghi.

PCHR, who was killed along with his wife and two children when the IOF targeted a house, they had sought refuge in, in Gaza City, in January 2025. Another tragic event was the killing of our two colleagues, Nour Abu al-Noor and Dana Yaghi, lawyers at PCHR's Women's Unit. They were both killed, along with their families, in separate airstrikes in Deir al-Balah and Rafah at the beginning of 2024. Furthermore, PCHR's staff have endured repeated displacement after their homes were destroyed during the IOF's ground invasions into their residential areas, forcing them to seek refuge in other places. Most of our staff have stayed in tents that lack basic necessities. These harsh conditions have significantly worsened their burdens and imposed severe restrictions on their movement to carry out their duties.

Despite the extensive damage inflicted on its three offices in Gaza City, Jabalia, and Khan Younis, PCHR successfully implemented the adaptive plan it had developed at the onset of the war. The Jabalia office was completely destroyed, while the Gaza City and Khan Younis' offices sustained severe damage. Despite the ongoing displacement, the difficulty of movement between areas due to security risks resulting from intense and indiscriminate bombardment, the lack of transportation and its high costs, as well as the fragmentation of the Gaza Strip, PCHR managed, at the beginning of 2024, to regroup its staff and continue its operation after renting a temporary office in Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip. Within months, especially after the IOF invaded Rafah in May, PCHR was forced to leave this temporary office, which was later also destroyed, and rented a temporary office in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza Strip. PCHR has recruited about 40 new staff members in its various units, including the Fieldwork Unit, the Legal Unit, the Economic and Social Rights Unit, and the Women's Unit, as part of its ongoing efforts to operate more effectively.

Monitoring and documentation, a cornerstone of PCHR's work to provide an objective narrative from a human rights perspective, posed an immense challenge, particularly in light of the massive and escalating scale of destruction and killing, the limited number of senior field researchers, and the severe restrictions on their movement due to the dangerous situation. To bridge this gap, particularly in the northern Gaza Strip, PCHR recruited assistant researchers, some of whom were members of PCHR's Friends Club, a network comprising hundreds of individuals who had previously received specialized training at PCHR. The researchers were able to document qualitative cases of war crimes and acts of genocide committed by the IOF against Palestinian civilians, including mass killings, destruction of homes and facilities, forced displacement, starvation, attacks on hospitals, torture, and other crimes. Over time, the monitoring and documentation developed to focus more on patterns of violations within the broader context of establishing evidence of the crime of genocide.



PCHR's Legal Unit Staff While Documenting the Genocide in Gaza.

PCHR's legal work continued in building legal files that document war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the IOF against Palestinian civilians. Throughout the year, PCHR's legal work evolved to focus on building legal files aimed at proving the elements of the crime of genocide committed by the IOF in the Gaza Strip. The PCHR's legal staff successfully worked on building well-documented legal files for hundreds of incidents to employ them in their legal work before various international legal protection mechanisms, including the ICJ, the ICC, and international commissions of inquiry. In addition, PCHR launched an online platform on its website to report cases of torture, missing persons, and enforced disappearances during the aggression, aimed at tracking their places of detention and facilitating visits to them in Israeli facilities operated by the Israel Prison Service and the IOF.

Over the year, PCHR's international advocacy efforts have significantly grown in light of the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip aimed at ending it. PCHR has employed all information obtained from the field to strengthen these efforts. Additionally, PCHR's advocacy team has conducted numerous international tours during the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip. During those tours, dozens of meetings were held with international senior officials and decision makers to exert pressure on Israel to stop the aggression and call for accountability and the prosecution of Israeli war criminals. Moreover, PCHR has launched several international advocacy missions to unfold all what is going on in the Gaza Strip within the Israeli genocidal war and present an objective narrative based on PCHR's investigations and documentation of the incidents.



Members of Palestine Children's Council visits child victims of the genocide.



Palestine Children's Council – Gaza – organizes an exhibition titled "Human Rights Under Aggression" on Human Rights Day.

Moreover, PCHR has been fully engaged in the case filed before the ICJ aiming to hold perpetrators of the crime of genocide in the Gaza Strip accountable and was the primary provider of legal files proving the occurrence of the four elements of the crime of genocide. These efforts culminated in the ICJ's issuance of a ruling on 26 January 2024, in the case filed by South Africa against Israel, ordering provisional measures to prevent Israel from committing acts of genocide in Gaza. This ruling was followed by additional rulings reinforcing further measures. PCHR and its partners played a significant role in bringing the genocide case before the ICJ through full and transparent cooperation with decision-makers and partners in South Africa.

In addition, PCHR provided the ICC with testimonies and affidavits from victims and eyewitnesses and held meetings with the ICC Prosecutor and the investigation team. This was the culmination of years of tireless work by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and other human rights organizations prior to the genocidal war. These efforts bore fruit with the ICC's issuance of arrest warrants in November 2024 against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. PCHR also played a major role in urging the ICC to proceed with the prosecution of Israeli war criminals responsible for crimes against humanity and crime of extermination in the Gaza Strip.

PCHR also continued its engagement with international human rights mechanisms, such as the Human Rights Council, human rights treaty bodies, and special rapporteurs, particularly to unfold the truth about the Israeli violations, especially following the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, PCHR has allocated a significant part of its resources to support displaced women in shelters who face compound violations during the aggression. PCHR also engaged in advocacy efforts and the collection of testimonies from women, victims of the aggression.

PCHR organized comprehensive sessions that integrated psychological support with legal awareness. Additionally, open sessions were held for women in need of legal consultations; some conducted in groups, while others were held individually to ensure privacy. Meetings were also held with grassroots organizations. This work further reinforced PCHR's efforts

in preparing thematic reports on the elements of the crime of genocide, including Israel's measures aimed at preventing births within the Gaza Strip, the health suffering of women, and the harsh living conditions endured by Palestinian female detainees. Moreover, over 4250 dignity kits containing essential items were distributed to women affected by repeated displacement.

PCHR has strengthened its relationships at the local level by working with protection groups in displacement centers across various areas to help them identify their problems, priorities, and needs from a human rights perspective. These relationships facilitated the provision of information highlighting the dire humanitarian conditions faced by displaced people and enabled PCHR's lawyers to access quantitative cases for documentation and the development of legal files. They also contributed to expanding the base of local communities with whom PCHR may collaborate in the future and provided an important database for PCHR's work in this regard.

Furthermore, PCHR dedicated special attention to working with children, particularly with the Palestine's Children Council- Gaza Strip, which it supervises, despite the tragic conditions facing children in the Gaza Strip, including the denial of their rights to life, housing, education, and other fundamental rights. PCHR has also continued to face numerous challenges in maintaining communication with all Council members due to the dangerous security situation, concerns for their safety while moving from one location to another, and frequent communication blackouts. Throughout the year, PCHR was able to communicate with some members of the council and successfully organized meetings between representatives of the Palestine Children's Council and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, to brief her on their humanitarian conditions and the challenges they are facing during the genocidal war. In 2024, PCHR provided platforms for children to share their suffering, including submitting videos, drawings, and diaries written before and during the war. Additionally, training sessions were organized for children to help them raise awareness within their communities and among their peers about the importance of the right to obtain birth certificates.

Furthermore, PCHR has strengthened its partnerships at both the international and local levels by adopting a unified work mechanism with human rights organizations operating in the oPt to come out with joint positions on the IOF's violations and crimes committed in the oPt. In addition, PCHR also continued its coordination with various groups and sectors of the United Nations (UN).

Despite the challenges and difficult circumstances, PCHR continued its efforts in coordination and networking with various stakeholders. It successfully bridged the funding gap caused by the withdrawal of some partners by engaging new partners with whom it had not cooperated before, revitalizing collaboration with previous partners, and securing additional financial support from existing partners. This diversity in funding sources strengthened PCHR's ability to maintain its field interventions and expand its response to the growing and urgent needs. This success is an indication of the increasing trust in PCHR and the effectiveness of its approach in building sustainable and impactful partnerships.

On the other hand, Israel continued to persecute human rights defenders and the Palestinian CSOs, particularly human rights organizations. Additionally, smear campaigns led by the Ministry of Strategic Affairs in Israel continued and were backed by advocacy organizations operating under the cover of NGOs, especially the NGO Monitor, which is specialized in publishing false allegations and inciting against Palestinian and international organizations that expose the Israeli occupation's crimes against Palestinians.

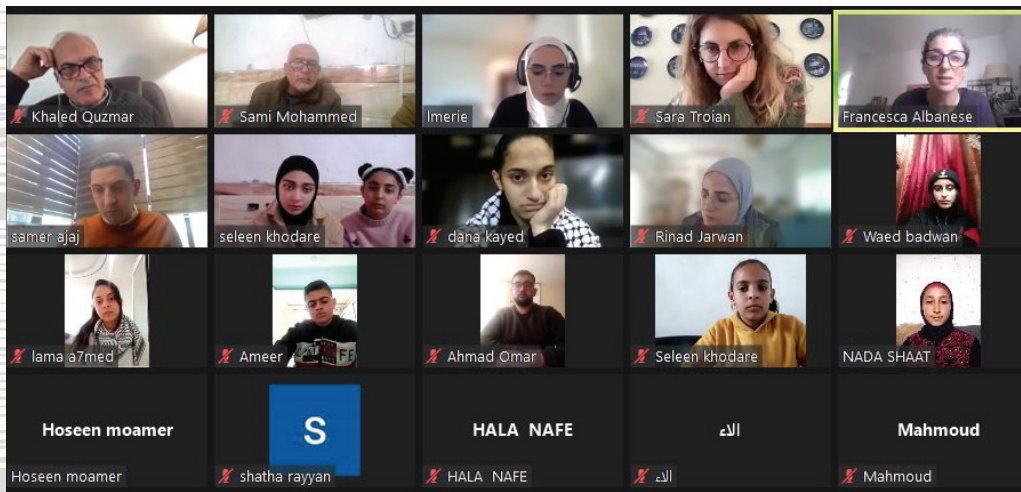
Hereafter, PCHR presents the activities it carried out in 2024 in accordance with its new five-year strategic plan. The report provides a description of our activities, their position in the overall framework and direct indicators showing execution. The report also provides some success stories achieved this year, especially in terms of legal aid. PCHR considers this report an integral part of its strategy, which dates back to its foundation in 1995, towards promoting transparency and social accountability.



Palestine Children's Council meets with UNICEF Representative



Palestine Children's Council – Gaza organizes a press conference on World Children's Day.



Palestine Children's Council meets with the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Working towards accountability for perpetrators of the most serious IHL and human rights abuses committed against Palestinians

OBJECTIVE 1.1

By 2024, PCHR will have engaged with international bodies and mechanisms to support investigations against perpetrators of IHL and human rights abuses/will have sought international legal remedies to hold perpetrators to account.

OUTCOME 1.1.1

International Investigations, both at the ICC and through UJ, against Israeli perpetrators of IHL and HR abuses are supported by PCHR

PCHR has employed legal advocacy tools to support the investigations conducted by the ICC in Palestine and intensified its engagement with the Court in cooperation with its partners. It also utilized the principle of universal jurisdiction to hold Israeli political and military leaders accountable for the international crimes they committed. Throughout the year, PCHR expanded its legal interventions to include proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), partnering fully with South Africa in the genocide case filed against Israel, and contributing to the advisory opinion requested by the UN General Assembly on the legality of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory. In collaboration with its international and national partners, PCHR's efforts have led to significant and unprecedented strides in holding Israeli war criminals accountable.

INDICATORS

- The ICJ's ruling on 26 January 2024, in the case filed by South Africa against Israel, ordered provisional measures to prevent the commission of genocide in Gaza.
- The ICJ's decision on 24 May 2024, to halt the IOF's ground invasion into Rafah.
- The ICJ's advisory opinion, issued on 19 July 2024, concluded that Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful.

- On 21 November 2024, the ICC issued arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.



A Photo showing lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, following the historic session held by the International Court of Justice on the genocide case. The Hague, 12 January 2024

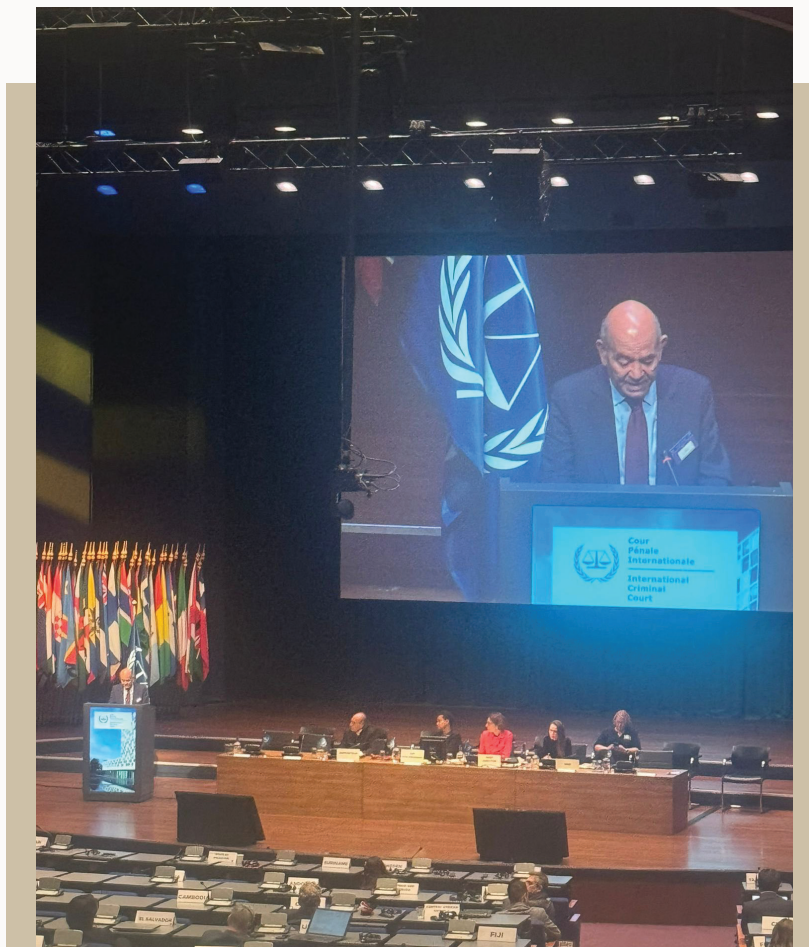
OUTPUT 1.1.1.1

Legal submissions drafted, and cases filed before the ICC and under UJ, based on evidence collected by PCHR Staff

In light of the IOF's ongoing military aggression on the Gaza Strip, PCHR has devoted all its efforts in monitoring and documenting the Israeli crimes and working with international organizations and bodies to prosecute Israeli war criminals. Additionally, PCHR's legal unit has worked on building legal files for civilian victims and their property.

INDICATORS

- 139 legal files were being built and followed up.
- 85 legal files were submitted to South Africa's legal team before the ICJ.
- PCHR, in its capacity as the legal representative of the victims, submitted detailed testimony before the ICJ.
- PCHR, in its capacity as the victims' attorney, submitted detailed testimony before the ICC.
- PCHR delivered an oral intervention before the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance regarding the enforced disappearance of Palestinians from Gaza during the ongoing genocide (16 cases) in August 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, reading the joint statement issued by PCHR, Al-Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Defence for Children International – Palestine, and Addameer. The statement highlighted the genocide unfolding in the Gaza Strip. The Hague, 03 December 2024.

OUTCOME 1.1.2

International community informed about the rule of law and international accountability on Palestine issues

PCHR conducted several international initiatives and activities in its efforts to defy Israeli impunity, especially amid the IOF's genocidal war ongoing on the Gaza Strip since 07 October 2023. During this year, PCHR has conducted international advocacy missions in various countries, where PCHR's representatives met with officials, decision-makers and leading figures in human rights to brief them on the IOF's violations and acts of genocide, and to call for support for the ICC and ICJ's efforts.

OUTPUT 1.1.2.1

PCHR advocacy office established in Europe.

PCHR is tirelessly working to establish an office in Europe and register it as an international organization, making it a central hub for PCHR's international legal work and its advocacy activities.

OUTPUT 1.1.2.2

Timely high-quality knowledge products have been produced and used for international advocacy highlighting violations of the occupation.

PCHR executed several initiatives and activities internationally in its efforts to defy Israeli impunity and raise the international community's awareness.

INDICATORS

- On 02 July, a joint submission was sent to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food regarding Israel's policy of starvation as a method of warfare and a tool for genocide and forced displacement in the Gaza Strip.
- On 06 February, a joint report was submitted to the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions on Israel's continued oppression of Palestinians beyond their killing.
- On 07 February, a joint letter was sent to the United Nations Secretary-General: Palestinian Organizations Express Disappointment and

Call for an Inquiry Regarding the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide's Failure to Fulfil Her Mandate in Addressing Israel's Ongoing Genocide in Gaza.

- On 24 April, a joint submission was submitted to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on Israel's crimes of sexual torture against Palestinians.
- On 20 May, a joint report was submitted to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, regarding torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including gender-based violence, against Palestinians from Gaza since October 2023.
- On 02 July, a joint report was submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food highlights that the Zionist settler-colonial system and the Israeli apartheid regime are the root causes of Palestinian food insecurity.
- On 02 October, PCHR delivered an oral intervention before the Human Rights Council under Item 7.
- Joint open letter was submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment regarding the suspension of cooperation by human rights organizations due to her bias and failure to fulfill her duties in addressing torture crimes in Israeli prisons and detention centers.
- Joint urgent appeal: Arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, inhumane treatment, and torture of Palestinians by the IOF.

OUTPUT 1.1.2.3

Improved coordination and networking with partners and stakeholders on legal and advocacy work

PCHR boosted coordination and communication with partners regarding international legal work and advocacy, particularly in light of the IOF's ongoing genocide on the Gaza Strip since 7th October. PCHR also held meetings with partners on legal work and international advocacy in many European countries. Additionally, PCHR's Director, along with PCHR's international advocacy unit, have conducted international tours to mobilize efforts to stop the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, prosecute Israeli war criminals, and bring them to justice.

INDICATORS

- PCHR launched extensive international advocacy tours in several countries, including Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, Spain, England, Belgium, Italy, South Africa, Germany, and Turkey. During these tours, PCHR's Director and staff met with dozens of international officials, decision-makers, representatives of international organizations, and media outlets. They also participated in numerous events, including seminars and lectures at universities. The meetings addressed the genocidal war and the efforts undertaken to stop it, the prosecution of Israeli war criminals, and the need to hold the international community accountable for taking effective measures in response to Israel's persistent disregard for international law.
- On 29 February, PCHR participated in a webinar organized by its partner organization *Grassroots International*, with the attendance of over one hundred activists in the United States.
- On 06 March, PCHR participated in a roundtable discussion organized by EuroMed Rights alongside German organizations to explore advocacy opportunities in Germany and to address the increasing restrictions on civil society organizations (CSOs).
- On 18 March, PCHR participated in a meeting with the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Gilbert Houngbo, to discuss the situation of Palestinian workers and the Israeli violations against them throughout the ongoing military aggression on the Gaza Strip.
- On 18 March, PCHR participated in a meeting organized by the EuroMed Rights with the staff of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Union.
- From 02 to 04 April, PCHR participated in a conference organized at the Palais des Nations in Geneva by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP).
- On 20 April, PCHR delivered a speech at a solidarity rally organized by Pax Christi and anti-war organizations in Stuttgart, Germany.
- On 20 April, PCHR delivered a lecture on the genocidal war, upon invitation from German leftist organizations in Stuttgart city.
- On 25 April, PCHR participated in a webinar organized by the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP), a U.S.-based non-profit organization, on the Toll of Israel's War on Palestinian Children.
- From 30 April to 05 May, PCHR participated in meetings on the role of Palestinian civil society organized by the Carter Center in Pretoria, South Africa.

- From 06 to 09 May, PCHR held a series of meetings with the South Africa's legal team on the genocide case filed before the ICJ, in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- On 12 May, PCHR participated in the World Conference against Racism (WCAR) in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- From 15 to 17 May, PCHR participated in a seminar organized by Catalan institutions in Barcelona, Spain, delivering a speech on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by the IOF, as well as another speech to students protesting the genocidal war at the University of Barcelona.
- On 31 May, PCHR delivered a speech in a lecture on the genocidal war organized by German leftist organizations in Stuttgart.
- On 15 June, PCHR delivered a speech on the crime of genocide during a seminar organized by press organizations in Rome, Italy.
- On 26 June, PCHR participated in a panel discussion organized by the Belgian Presidency of the European Union on ways to enhance cooperation with civil society organizations, in Brussels.
- From 02 to 04 June, PCHR participated in a mission organized by EuroMed Rights to visit Bern, Switzerland. The visit included meetings with parliamentarians, civil society organizations, and officials at the Swiss Foreign Ministry.
- On 12 October, PCHR participated in a conference on genocide organized by EuroMed Rights in Rome, Italy, on the sidelines of the EuroMed's General Assembly meetings.
- From 19 to 20 November, PCHR participated in a regional workshop on torture, organized jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the National Human Rights Council in Casablanca, Morocco.
- On 12 July, PCHR's Director and Head of the International Advocacy Unit held meetings with the ICC's Chief Prosecutor and members of the investigation team to urge the prosecution of Israeli war criminals. PCHR also held a meeting with the United Nations Special Rapporteur for human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor.
- On 21 August, PCHR's Director met with the Human Rights Officer at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to brief him on the latest legal developments.
- On 24 August, PCHR's staff held several meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Francesca P. Albanese.
- On 20 September 2024, PCHR organized an expert conference in Rome,

which was attended by activists, academics, lawyers, and specialists. During the three-day conference, the participants discussed opportunities to utilize other international mechanisms following recourse to the ICC.

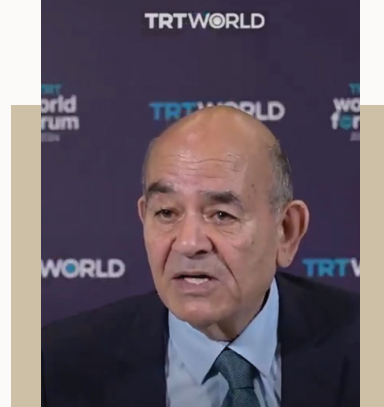
- PCHR's Director participated in a conference at the Spanish Open University and the Autonomous University of Madrid Spain, marking one year since the Gaza war.
- PCHR's Director delivered a lecture in Barcelona, jointly organized by the Bar Association and the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialized Training (CEJFE) and attended by 80 judges and lawyers.
- PCHR's staff held meetings with partners to discuss and reinforce opportunities for continued cooperation.
- PCHR's Director delivered a lecture at the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society in the United Kingdom.
- PCHR's staff team held media meetings with prestigious newspapers and TV channels, including the British newspaper The Guardian; Turkish TRT TV; The Irish Times in Ireland; the British newspaper The Independent; Ireland's RTÉ One TV channel; Anadolu Radio; and several Spanish newspapers, including El País.
- On 03 October, PCHR's staff held a meeting with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- On 01 October, PCHR's staff met with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- On 03 October, PCHR's staff met with representative of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in Geneva.
- A joint oral intervention by PCHR and the Danish organization DIGNITY before the United Nations Human Rights Council under Item 3 (in coordination with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances).
- In October, a joint lawsuit was filed, in cooperation with a coalition of Palestinian and Dutch civil society organizations, against the Netherlands, alleging its failure to prevent the genocide in Gaza and other Israeli violations of international law.
- In December 2024, human rights organizations, including PCHR, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Al-Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, and the LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme) filed a civil complaint to the War Crimes Unit of the Paris Tribunal against Yoel O., a Franco-Israeli soldier who served in Gaza in the course of Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign against Palestinians. He is accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, torture, and complicity in these crimes

committed against Palestinians in Israeli custody.

- In early December, PCHR's Director and its advocacy staff participated in the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the ICC in The Hague. PCHR's Director delivered a speech on behalf of human rights organizations. PCHR also organized and took part in several side events held on the sidelines of the Assembly. Additionally, PCHR's staff held meetings with the ICC Prosecutor, the investigation team, and several official delegations, including the Palestinian delegation headed by Dr. Riad al-Malki. PCHR's Director also participated in a seminar on the genocidal war held in Amsterdam, attended by more than 150 participants.
- PCHR participated in preparing a complaint that was scheduled to be filed against Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich upon his arrival in France to attend an event organized by an association close to the Israeli far-right, in cooperation with Al-Haq, the Media Center, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), and the Human Rights League (LDH).
- On 04 December, PCHR's Director took part in the "Conference on Preparing Files for the ICJ," organized by LAW in Spain to strategically consider transforming the ICJ's advisory opinion into practical steps.



A commemorative photo showing Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, following the historic session held by the International Court of Justice to consider the genocide case. The Hague, 12 January 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director in a televised interview on TRT Channel. 03 December 2024.



Statement by Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, before the Spanish Parliament. 18 November 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, speaking at a seminar organized by the Bar Association in Barcelona. 24 October 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, delivering the Annual Edward Said Lecture in London. 05 November 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, delivering a lecture at the Faculty of Law, Maynooth University – Ireland, 09 July 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, speaking at a conference organized by NOVACT – Madrid, 22 January 2024.



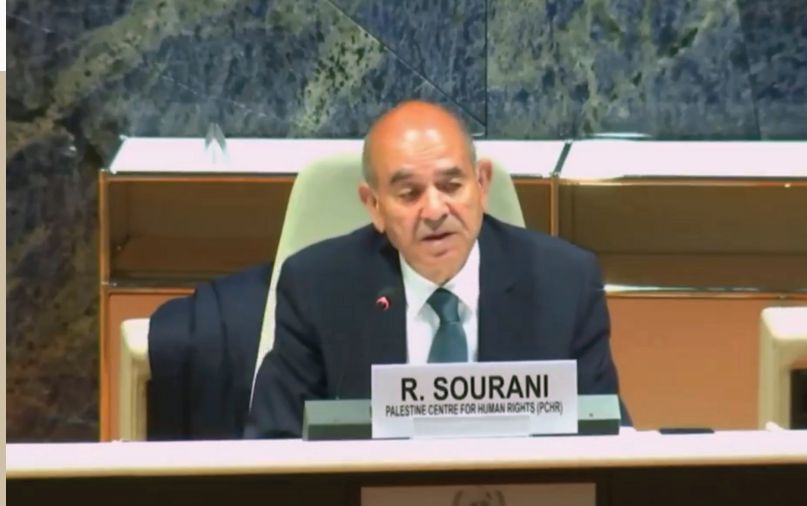
Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, during a lecture he delivered at SOAS University – London, 15 October 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director speaking at an international event against racism. Strasbourg, 19 March 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, delivering his speech at the Global Anti-Racism Conference for Palestine – Johannesburg, 10–12 May 2024.



Lawyer Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director, speaking at a United Nations Conference on Human Rights – Geneva, 03 April 2024.



Basil Sourani, International Advocacy Officer, participating in a side event titled: "Civil Society and the International Criminal Court: Pathways To Genuine and Collaborative Engagement," organized by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. The Hague, 6 December 2024.



Hamdi Shaqqura, Deputy Director for Program Affairs, during a dialogue meeting with Italian journalists – Rome, 15 June 2024.



Hamdi Shaqqoura, Deputy Director for Programs, participating in a seminar on genocide organized by EuroMed Rights – Rome, 12 October 2024



Hamdi Shaqqoura, Deputy Director for Programs, during his participation in a webinar organized by the Foundation for Middle East Peace – 24 April 2025



Basil Sourani, International Advocacy Officer, delivering an oral intervention on behalf of PCHR under Item 7 during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council. Geneva, 5 October 2024.



Hamdi Shaqqoura, Deputy Director for Programs, and Basil Sourani, International Advocacy Officer, during a seminar organized by PCHR on the sidelines of the 55th session of the Human Rights Council. Geneva, 26 March 2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Strengthening rule of law and increasing access to justice under Israeli and Palestinian jurisdictions for Palestinians, victims of human rights abuses including for victims of gender-based crimes.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

By 2024, PCHR will have facilitated access to justice for Palestinian victims of human rights violations, through Palestinian and Israeli justice systems, including women victims of gender-based crimes.

OUTCOME 2.1.1

Victims of human rights violations interventions have access to redress mechanisms and redress was achieved in some cases.

In 2024, PCHR continued its efforts to provide legal services to women in the Gaza Strip, particularly displaced women, across all accessible shelters. These efforts included offering legal assistance and counseling, conducting regular visits to shelters, and maintaining direct communication with victims of violations. PCHR also intensified its work in monitoring and documenting violations against women, with a particular focus on empowering them to share their experiences and make their voices heard.

OUTPUT 2.1.1.1

Victims of human rights violations have received quality legal aid

PCHR continued to provide legal aid to victims of human rights violations by the IOF. PCHR activities varied in providing legal aid for Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, including visiting them and identifying their places of detention, in order to facilitate victims' access to international legal redress mechanisms.

INDICATORS

- PCHR documented (600) cases of detention in Israeli prisons, including

detainees with special needs (suffering from mental issues) who were subjected to torture during detention.

- Dozens of letters were sent through PCHR's lawyer in Israel to the Israeli Prison Service, the IDF General Staff Headquarters, and other locations to know the fate and place of detention of detainees, visit them, and ensure their health and legal status.
- PCHR successfully identified the detention locations of 411 detainees.
- PCHR received five responses regarding the deaths of detainees in Israeli prisons.
- PCHR received nine responses regarding the release of detainees.
- PCHR received 175 responses stating that no information was available about the detainees.
- PCHR's lawyer conducted 53 visits to detainees held in Israeli jails.



PCHR's field researcher, Yousef Ibrahim, meeting with detainees released by the IOF while they were at one of Gaza's hospitals.



PCHR launched an online platform for reporting detainees and forcibly disappeared persons.

OUTPUT 2.1.1.2

Providing legal counseling to women, whether inside shelters or through PCHR's toll-free hotline.

PCHR continued to provide legal counseling to enhance women's access to justice. Despite the disruption of the judicial system, PCHR continued to provide this service to women in person or through a toll-free hotline. PCHR's staff worked to create safe spaces where legal counseling sessions could be held, ensuring the privacy and safety of women seeking assistance. Legal counseling was also provided during various activities at shelters.

INDICATORS

- PCHR provided 2451 legal counseling sessions to 1291 women.
- PCHR provided legal services to 215 women in (465) legal declarations to obtain the necessary legal documents to regularize their status, particularly in cases related to inheritance, widowhood, guardianship, and other issues.
- PCHR successfully issued 41 legal explanatory notes following meetings with judges in the Gaza Strip to facilitate women's access to various protection services.
- PCHR provided assistance in the medical evacuation of 8 individuals.
- PCHR successfully reunited 8 children with their families.
- PCHR carried out 112 interventions with relevant authorities to issue official documents and birth certificates for newborns, and to refer identified cases of separated and unaccompanied children.
- PCHR prepared 1 guidance note on birth registration.



Assistance in Reuniting Three Children

I am the aunt of three children: Hala (born on 13 July 2014), Ameer (born on 21 September 2016), and Tala (born 03 November 2020). They are the children of my brother Mohammed Mahmoud Abu 'Eilawa, who was killed along with his wife, Rania Mohammed 'Issa Abu Nasser, on 29 October 2024.

At around 04:00, on 29 October 2024, a residential building in Beit Lahia Housing Project was brutally bombed, killing 130 of its 200 residents, while only 70 survived. Among the survivors were my brother's children, who sustained critical injuries. Hala suffered serious injuries to her legs, Ameer sustained injuries to his right leg and left hand, and Tala was slightly injured. They were transported to Kamal 'Adwan Hospital accompanied by my father. Due to the hospital's limited medical resources, we contacted the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) to facilitate their referral to the southern Gaza Strip.

The WHO and UNICEF coordinated their evacuation, while PCHR's lawyer obtained the necessary documents. On 04 November 2024, the children were transported to al-Shifa Medical Complex, passing through several IOF military checkpoints. Later, they were referred to Nasser Medical Complex, where they underwent surgeries. External platinum plates were implanted in Hala's legs, while an internal platinum plate was implanted in Ameer's leg. Tala received treatment for her minor injuries. Currently, all three children are in good health and live with their uncles and grandfather in Deir al-Balah.

Hebe Mahmoud Abu 'Eilawa (36).

Reuniting Two Girls from the North with Their Mother in the South

On 13 October 2023, I evacuated the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood near the UNRWA headquarters in the northern Gaza Strip and headed to the al-Zawaida area, specifically to the towers near the Applied College. My ex-husband, Abdullah Kamal Saleh, refused to evacuate. Despite my repeated efforts to convince him to let our daughters leave with me, he refused, and they remained with him at his house in the al-Sabra area near al-Istijaba Mosque.

In the early hours of 05 February 2023, Israeli warplanes bombed the house where my daughters and their father were staying. As a result, my ex-husband and nine members of his family were martyred. I was informed that my daughters, Su'ad and Siwar, had also been killed. I was overwhelmed with shock and ran through the streets like a madwoman, desperate to return to Gaza City to bid farewell for them. However, the communication blackout made it impossible to reach anyone.

Two days later, we received news from one of my ex-husband's relatives that two little girls and a boy had survived. I asked my family not to tell me if the girls were my daughters, fearing it might be false hope. Later, another relative confirmed that my daughter Siwar was fine and had taken shelter at al-Falah School in the al-Zaytoun neighborhood. Su'ad, on the other hand, was injured and receiving treatment at the Baptist Hospital, where she remained trapped for twenty days.

Eventually, I managed to contact the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), but Israeli-imposed restrictions obstructed all evacuation efforts. After much effort and ongoing coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), I met with UNICEF staff who initiated the coordination process. Despite the IOF's repeated refusals, on 06 August 2024, we were finally able to bring my daughters to the south, thanks to the dedicated efforts and persistent follow-up by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the UNICEF referrals coordinator. That day felt like a miracle, and words cannot express the joy I felt when I finally held them in my arms.

Nour al-Huda Waleed Abu Ghalyoun (31), a divorced woman and mother of two daughters: Su'ad (12) and Siwar (10).

OBJECTIVE 2.2

By 2024, Palestinian judicial system is more responsive to cases related to human rights violations including gender-based crimes

OUTCOME 2.2.1

Laws and policies in contravention with human rights, especially women's rights and gender equality, have been challenged

In 2024, PCHR worked to empower women to obtain marital abandonment and suspension documents without resorting to litigation, amid the disruption of the Sharia courts. PCHR's staff held a series of meetings with institutions providing legal services to women. These meetings aimed to discuss the impact of the suspension of courts' on women. Two meetings were also held with Judge Ahmed al-Bahisi, a Supreme Court judge, Head of the Technical Office at the Higher Sharia Court Council, and Head of the Emergency Committee in Central Gaza Strip, to address the issue. In continuation of the efforts exerted in this regard, PCHR's Women's Unit contacted the bodies responsible for relief programs, including the Ministry of Social Development and UNRWA's relief programs, requesting that marital abandonment and suspension documents be recognized as official documents that grant women the right to benefit from these programs.

INDICATORS

- PCHR succeeded, for the first time, in issuing marital abandonment and suspension documents to enable women to obtain them without resorting to litigation amid the disruption of Sharia courts.
- Relief programs of the Ministry of Social Development in Ramallah and the relief programs of UNRWA have adopted these documents issued by PCHR as official proof of a woman's right to access humanitarian aid.
- All courts were instructed to grant women marital abandonment and suspension documents without requiring them to resort to litigation.

OUTPUT 2.2.1.1

Qualified children and youth including lawyers trained to work on human rights advocacy, including women and children.

PCHR trained several lawyers within its staff on how to obtain testimonies from victims, including female detainees, female cancer patients deprived of treatment, and females injured as a result of the aggression. Female lawyers were also trained on how to obtain official documents for children and women, such as birth certificates, ID cards, and death certificates. Additionally, 15 children from the Palestine Children's Council – Gaza Strip were trained on the guidance booklet for registering newborns.

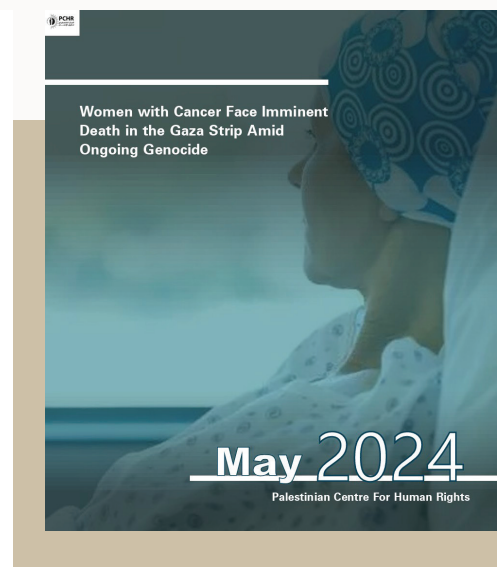
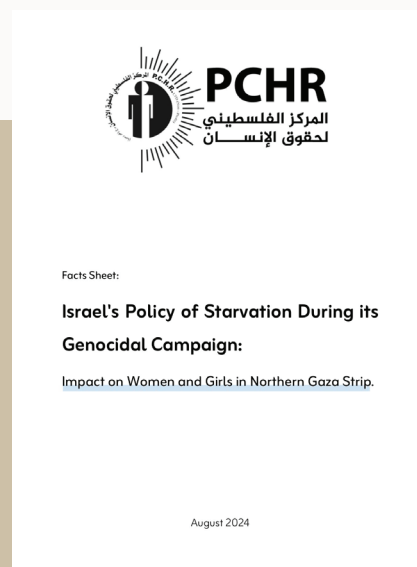
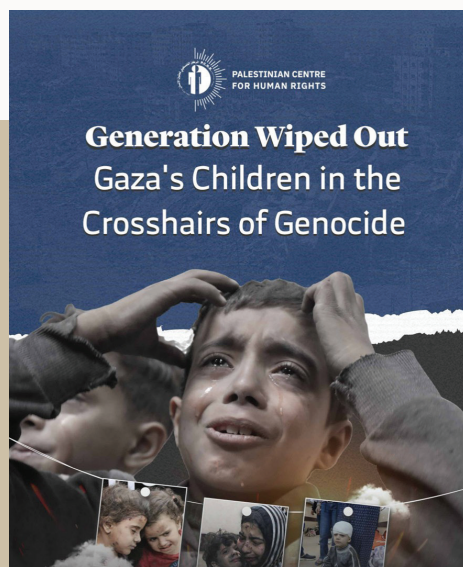
INDICATORS

- 12 female lawyers received training at PHCR's Women's Unit.
- The trainees completed two training courses totaling 16 hours.
- The children conducted awareness sessions for their peers about the importance of obtaining birth certificates.

OUTPUT 2.2.1.2

Timely and high-quality knowledge products have been produced and used for advocacy campaigns.

PCHR continued to monitor and document violations against women in Palestine and used this information to produce high-quality materials to be used for lobbying and advocacy on women's issues.



INDICATORS

- PCHR issued (3) videos documenting truthful and painful testimonies of detained women from the Gaza Strip, in which they speak about the violations they endured during their detention in Israeli prisons.
- PCHR issued (7) press releases highlighting the worsening suffering of women during the ongoing Israeli military aggression.
- PCHR issued (3) reports: “Israel’s Measures Intended to Prevent Births within Gaza Strip”; “Cancer Patients Left to Die Waiting: Victims of Genocide in the Gaza Strip,”; and “Generation Wiped Out: Gaza’s Children in the Crosshairs of Genocide”.
- PCHR issued a factsheet titled: “Israel’s Policy of Starvation During its Genocidal Campaign: Impact on Women and Girls in Northern Gaza Strip”.

OUTCOME 2.2.2

Women empowered to demand their rights

PCHR worked towards empowering Palestinian women by increasing society’s awareness of women’s rights and gender concepts through holding training courses and workshops for different groups of society and informing decision-makers about the most important issues of concern to women and achieving equality. PCHR also worked to promote women’s initiatives that aim to enhance women’s capacities and independence.

OUTPUT 2.2.2.1

Increased awareness within the local community of women’s rights

PCHR’s staff held awareness lectures to promote legal awareness of women’s rights in displacement camps and shelters in central Gaza Strip and in al-Mawasi areas in Khan Younis and Rafah. Raising awareness among both women and men has been a key focus of the Women’s Unit, through dedicated sessions targeting both groups.

INDICATORS

- The number of participants in the lectures was 8,465 individuals, including 8,252 women and girls, and 213 men.

- In 2024, PCHR's Women's Unit held 517 workshops.
- These lectures led to an 80% increase in participants' awareness.



PCHR's team delivering legal awareness sessions on women's rights in displacement camps and shelters.

OUTPUT 2.2.2.1.1

Group and individual open discussion sessions held in shelters for displaced women, focusing on the importance of understanding human rights.

PCHR's staff highlighted the importance of raising awareness about available services and how to access them. These sessions provided a safe and supportive environment for women to express their thoughts and concerns. Recognizing the sensitivity of certain issues, the Women's Unit's team also held confidential one-on-one sessions with women who preferred individual discussions. The team actively listened to their experiences, challenges, and aspirations for the future.

INDICATORS

- A total of 1,163 women and girls, and 59 men participated in the sessions.
- The Women's Unit implemented 224 sessions.
- The number of women referred by PCHR to receive other services reached 3,600.



PCHR's lawyers delivering awareness sessions in shelters.

OUTPUT 2.2.2.1.2

Combined sessions held integrating psychological support with awareness of women's rights.

Women's Unit's staff worked on creating supportive spaces for women within shelters. These spaces enabled women to participate in open discussions focused on sharing personal experiences, addressing legal challenges, and developing strategies on how to deal with issues related to violence against women.

INDICATORS

- 1682 women and girls participated in the sessions.
- PHCR's Women's Unit implemented 232 sessions.



Women's Unit staff established a supportive space for women inside shelters, enabling them to participate in open discussions. These discussions focused on sharing personal experiences.

OUTPUT 2.2.2.2

Local networking enhanced, and women found a platform to raise their voices following increased awareness.

PCHR worked to raise the voices of Palestinian women, with a focus on their rights, experiences, and perspectives. The Women's Unit collected testimonies about the suffering and experiences of women during displacement journey and the violations they were subjected to by the IOF. The unit produced high-quality materials that highlighted the stories of displaced women. The unit's staff used data gathered through psychosocial support activities and open discussions to produce various content such as testimonies and stories of women's suffering.

INDICATORS

- 139 testimonies were obtained by PCHR's staff from women.
- 38 testimonies were published on PCHR's website.
- Two workshops were held with stakeholders.
- PCHR participated in seven meetings with partners on women's rights
- PCHR's Women's Unit participated in 16 meetings with the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Working towards greater respect for human rights, dignity, gender equality, and freedoms for Palestinians.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

By 2024, PCHR will have built a strong network of human rights advocates (50% of them women) throughout the Gaza Strip who are influential in asserting civil and political rights, exercising democratic influence, and working towards gender equality, dignity, and freedom.

OUTCOME 3.1.1

Targeted communities and grassroots networks have increased capacity in understanding human rights and are able to identify ways for engagement.

PCHR raised awareness among the local community, especially among the youth, of international human rights standards and their implications for domestic law; PCHR also enhanced the role of youth by integrating them into its work through the development of PCHR's Friends Club.

INDICATORS

- PCHR successfully maintained contact with fifty (50) members of its Friends Club despite the challenging conditions in the Gaza Strip.
- Many members of PCHR's Friends Club contributed to monitoring and documenting human rights violations through their volunteer work in PCHR's Field and Legal Units.
- A number of volunteers contributed to conducting various awareness workshops for women and children.
- PCHR worked on implementing community-led initiatives from a human rights perspective. For example, it held (40) community and training sessions in (6) shelters in central and southern Gaza Strip and facilitated the work of protection groups formed within these shelters to implement six (6) community initiatives that respond to the rights of the displaced people in these shelters.



A visit by a delegation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to observe the activities of one of the community protection groups supported by PCHR at a shelter in western Khan Younis, November 2024.



A community initiative carried out under the supervision of one of the community protection groups supported by PCHR at a shelter in western Khan Younis, October 2024.



A community meeting to elect a community protection group at a shelter in Deir al-Balah, July 2024.



A community initiative implemented by one of the community protection groups supported by PCHR to provide safe drinking water for displaced people at a shelter in Al-Zawaida, central Gaza Strip, October 2024.

OUTPUT 3.1.1.1

Targeted communities /grassroots organizations have increased capacity in understanding human rights

PCHR held meetings with women's organizations and civil society organizations operating in displacement camps and shelters and providing multi-sectoral services, including relief, educational, health, legal, and shelter services, as well as psychosocial support. Additionally, meetings were held with institutions that offer legal and psychological services for women and children. These meetings were held under the sponsorship of UN Women / Sawasya, titled: "The Impact of the Suspension of Legal Representation and Other Procedures in Sharia Courts on Women in the Gaza Strip".

INDICATORS

- Seven (7) meetings were held with grassroots organizations.
- Five (5) meetings were organized with institutions that provide legal and psychosocial support services.
- (22) representatives from organizations and associations providing services to displaced persons and residents of Deir al-Balah, al-Nuseirat, and al-Mawasi area in Khan Yunis, as well as targeted groups benefiting from these services, participated in the meetings.



PCHR's Women's Unit holding a meeting with women's organizations and civil society organizations. The meeting discussed the collapse of the educational system amid the ongoing genocide.

OUTPUT 3.1.1.2

Timely and evidence-based knowledge products produced and used in advocacy

PCHR monitored violations of civil and political rights and produced high quality products used in lobbying and advocacy to promote public rights and freedoms. For this purpose, PCHR prepared the annual report, both related to the human rights situation and the administrative report.

INDICATORS

- 13,317 activities were held to collect information on Israeli civil and political rights violations, including field visits, statements, filling damage forms, interviews, field reports, and photos, documenting 4,616 violations.
- 446 activities to gather information on Palestinian civil and political rights violations, including field visits, testimonies, filling damage forms, interviews, field reports, and photos, documenting 105 violations.
- 115 press releases on Israeli human rights violations.
- Two reports on civil and political rights were released: one on the targeting of journalists and media institutions in Gaza during the genocide, and another titled No Safe Place: The IOF's Targeting of Displaced People in Displacement Camps in the Gaza Strip. In addition, a final draft of a report titled A Year of Genocide was prepared.
- (12) monthly reports were prepared to document Israeli violations in the northern governorates.
- (13) testimonies obtained from victims of the IOF's crimes were published.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

By 2024, PCHR will have protected the socio-economic rights of the Palestinian people, in particular the right to health.

OUTCOME 3.2.1

International community undertakes action with regard to the social economic situation in Gaza

Through data collection on violations of economic, social, and cultural rights in the oPt, especially amidst the Israeli aggression on Gaza and IOF's employment of starvation policy as a method of warfare as part of their genocide against Palestinians using this data in its reports, press releases, and media interviews, PCHR has contributed to achieving significant international decisions in 2024.

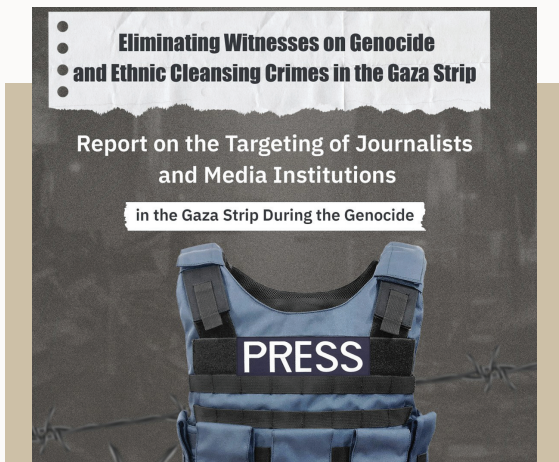
OUTPUT 3.2.1.1

PCHR data on IOF violations of economic and social rights used in lobbying and advocacy

PCHR collected information about Israeli and Palestinian violations of economic, social, and cultural rights and use it in lobbying and advocacy.

INDICATORS

- 10,762 gathering information activities were conducted on Israeli violations of economic and social rights, including field visits, taking testimonies, filling out forms, interviews, field reports and photos.
- 210 information gathering activities on Palestinian violations of economic and social rights, including field visits, taking statements, filling out forms, personal interviews, field reports and photos.



PCHR issued a report titled “Eliminating Witnesses on Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing Crimes in the Gaza Strip”, which addresses the targeting of journalists and media institutions in Gaza by the occupying forces during the genocide on Gaza from October 7, 2023, to August 2024.



Field researcher Imad Abu Hawashin documenting Israeli violations



Field Researcher Sabrin Al-Tatour collecting a testimony from one of the victims of the genocide.

OUTPUT 3.2.1.2

Timely delivery of high-quality products on Israeli violations of social, economic, and cultural rights and used in lobbying and advocacy

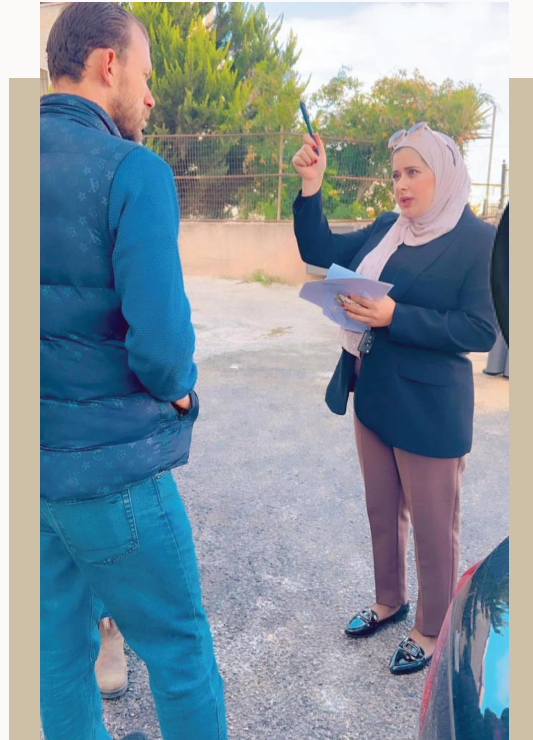
PCHR issued high quality products based on field information that was used in lobbying and advocacy activities to expose the crimes of the Israeli occupation, including reports, pamphlets, and press releases. PCHR also held workshops and media interviews to discuss the economic and social rights conditions under the Israeli occupation.

INDICATORS

- On 25 March 2024, PCHR participated in the preparation of a report titled “Voices from the Famine in Northern Gaza”, issued by Palestinian human rights organizations. The report presented many testimonies obtained from displaced people, who fled the famine.



PCHR's researcher, Waleed Zaqout, documenting the Israeli crimes in Gaza.



Field researcher in Ramallah, Hanadi Barghouti, during a field visit to document settler attacks on civilians' property in Al-Bireh.

- On 13 June 2024, PCHR's Economica and Social Rights Unit issued a report titled: "Patients in the Gaza Strip: Victims of Genocide", which reviewed the IOF's violations that deliberately targeted all health facilities, including medical staff and patients, in blatant disregard of international and humanitarian laws.
- On 30 June 2024, PCHR's Economica and Social Rights Unit issued a report titled: "Cultural Genocide", which presented and documented all Israeli violations against Palestinian heritage in the Gaza Strip.
- On 14 August 2024, PCHR's Economica and Social Rights Unit released a factsheet titled: "Israel Weaponizes Water in its Genocidal Campaign against Civilians in Gaza Strip"
- Issuing 21 press releases on violations of economic, social and cultural rights in Palestine.
- 11 media interviews on violations of economic, social and cultural rights in Gaza.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

PCHR further professionalizes its capacities to maximize its resources and continuously improve its work for the benefit of the community at large.

OBJECTIVE 4.1

By 2024, PCHR will have strengthened its institutional capacity in key fields, to continue to be an accountable, transparent, sustainable, and responsive organization.

OUTCOME 4.1.1

PCHR will have developed its capacities in the areas of organizational development, fundraising, human resources, leadership, and advocacy

PCHR advanced its organizational capacities through upskilling the staff, increasing its resources, and rationalizing its expenditures. Also, PCHR adopted new policies, adhered to its human resources policies, and enhanced its presence on digital platforms.

OUTPUT 4.1.1.1

Increased staff capacities and skills

In 2024, despite the difficult circumstances and declared state of emergency, PCHR worked on enhancing the capacities and skills of its staff and volunteers in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by conducting various training courses on various topics. These included negotiation and advocacy skills for fieldwork, mechanisms for monitoring and documenting cases of psychological torture, torture, sexual violence, medico-legal documentation, self-care and coping with psychological stress, gender-based violence and protection mechanisms, project management, and gender-based analysis. Volunteers were also trained on PCHR's internal policies and communication channels, field safety and security standards, as well as sessions on wellness and self-care.

INDICATORS

- In 2024, 12 training courses were implemented, a total of 80 training hours, for PCHR's staff to increase their skills and capacities.
- 35 PCHR's staff members participated in the training courses, including lawyers, field researchers, advocacy officers, and administrative staff, representing approximately 70% of the total staff. In addition, around 40 volunteers also took part.



A series of activities and trainings were carried out to enhance the skills and improve the capacities of PCHR's staff, including lawyers, field researchers, advocacy staff, and various administrative support teams.

OUTPUT 4.1.1.2

Effective monitoring and evaluation system, periodic reports and lessons learned

In 2024, PCHR worked on strengthening its monitoring and evaluation system by adopting more efficient and accurate follow-up mechanisms to ensure improved project implementation and the achievement of desired impact. Monitoring and evaluation strategies were enhanced through the adoption of a participatory approach involving all stakeholders, which contributed to increased transparency and accountability in the implementation of activities.

INDICATORS

- Preparation of monthly and quarterly periodic reports that include data analysis, progress made, and challenges encountered.
- Organizing periodic meetings to review performance and extract lessons learned from the implementation of activities.
- Collecting quantitative and qualitative data through questionnaires, interviews, and focus groups.
- Analyzing data and preparing recommendations to improve performance and respond to challenges.
- Holding (12) periodic sessions with work teams to review monitoring and evaluation results, analyze data, and extract lessons learned. This contributed to improving project responses to challenges and ensuring the achievement of desired objectives.

OUTPUT 4.1.1.3

Management manuals reflect the latest approaches in line with international requirements.

In 2024, PCHR developed its administrative policies and governance standards starting with using new and adaptive administrative tools and measures to ensure alignment with work under the state of emergency and ongoing challenges, through updating and developing human resources and financial policies.

INDICATORS

- The Human Resources Policies Manual was revised and updated (1).
- Updated job description for roles (4).
- The Financial Policy Manual was revised and updated (1).
- The Procurement Manual was revised and updated (1).

OUTPUT 4.1.1.4

PCHR's emergency response ensured to maintain PCHR's work during the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip

Throughout 2024, PCHR prioritized strengthening the resilience and steadfastness of its staff and volunteers, recognizing the critical importance of this amid the daily challenges, risks, and hardships caused by the war on Gaza. Those challenges included the constant threat of direct targeting, risk of death, and the severe difficulty and danger associated with movement and transportation. In 2024, PCHR lost two staff members, female lawyers at the Women's Rights Unit. Additionally, there were challenges related to prolonged power, internet, and communication outages in Gaza, along with the extensive destruction of the PCHR's three offices in Gaza City, Jabalia refugee camp, and Khan Younis. Many staff members' homes were either fully or partially destroyed, forcibly displacing many of them under harsh humanitarian conditions.

INDICATORS

- 40 paid volunteers, from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, were appointed to gain experience and knowledge and contribute to the documentation of Israeli violations since the onset of the war.
- In 2024, 5 administrative staff members were assigned to support field research teams in reaching cases and documenting violations.
- In 2024, PCHR rented temporary offices in Rafah and Deir al-Balah, equipped with alternative solar power and moderate-speed internet to facilitate PCHR's work.
- In 2024, PCHR provided eSIM cards to its staff to enable them to access the internet from various locations.
- In 2024, PCHR prepared three periodic surveys for staff to assess their living conditions, identify the main challenges and risks they face, and

gather their key suggestions and ideas.

- In 2024, PCHR allocated a fixed monthly allowance for housing and cost of living to all its staff in the Gaza Strip, as part of its commitment to strengthening the resilience and steadfastness of its employees amid the severe humanitarian challenges, which had a positive impact on their performance at work and in the field.
- In 2024, PCHR organized two recreational days for all staff and volunteers in the Gaza Strip, which included self-care activities, psychological relief sessions, and recreational and sports activities, aiming to enhance the mental well-being of employees and alleviate various stresses.
- During 2024, PCHR joined the Sanad Network, a national network dedicated to protection from harassment and sexual exploitation. Membership in this network represents an additional step in PCHR's adaptation to international protection standards and concepts.

OUTPUT 4.1.1.5

PCHR digital content developed and more influential

INDICATORS

- In 2024, PCHR's website was updated to the latest version, incorporating the highest standards of technological protection and security, with all content transferred from the old version to the new one.
- In 2024, PCHR worked on creating several platforms and links to facilitate its work during the war, most notably establishing an electronic platform for reporting detainees, missing persons, and cases of enforced disappearance during the war on Gaza.