

# Seven Months After the Ceasefire: Ongoing Violations and the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank



## Introduction

More than seven months have passed since the announcement \_ on October 10, 2025 \_ of a comprehensive ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas - an agreement that was meant to bring to an end Israeli's brutal retaliatory military offensive on Gaza, as a result of which according to the Gaza Health Ministry, at least 72,000 Palestinians have been killed (of which an estimated 38,000 are women and girls), and 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced. However, despite the agreement, Palestinians in Gaza continue to suffer due to ongoing violence, restrictions on humanitarian assistance, and harsh, brutal living conditions.

In the West Bank, the situation for Palestinians has also deteriorated drastically, with a sharp rise in military raids and arrests, lethal settler violence, house demolitions, severe movement restrictions, and economic pressures. The Israeli government not only has failed to address the violence perpetrated against Palestinians but also has continued with plans to increase the number of illegal settlements in the West Bank as it pushes forward with its *de facto* annexation of Palestinian lands. On March 30, 2026, with the passing of the "Death Penalty for Terrorists Act," which authorizes the death penalty primarily for Palestinian perpetrators of fatal terror attacks, the Israeli government has once again reinforced apartheid and differential treatment for Palestinians subject to legal proceedings.

The systemic violations of the ceasefire agreement and the continued oppression and subjugation of Palestinians under military occupation will only create more cycles of violence. There can be no peace without justice and a real effort to address Palestinians' systematic dispossession, a process that will require the voices and participation of Palestinians themselves.



## **The Ceasefire Agreement of October 2025**

On October 10, 2025, a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, brokered by the United States, Qatar, Turkey and Egypt, initiated a multi-phase [deal](#) involving troop withdrawal, humanitarian aid, and prisoner exchanges, that was meant to bring an end to the war in Gaza. On 17 November 2025, the United Nations Security Council adopted [Resolution 2803](#), thereby endorsing the peace plan.

As part of the peace plan, US President Donald Trump established a “Board of Peace,” a U.S.-led international organization meant to oversee reconstruction and peacekeeping in the Gaza Strip. The Board of Peace has multiple hierarchical tiers, headed by a seven-person Executive Board with Donald Trump as its lifetime chair, who can only be removed by unanimous vote. Other members of the Executive Board include U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Jared Kushner, Donald Trump’s son-in-law, and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair. The Board of Peace has come under [criticism](#); for example, the UN Experts have condemned it, urging that efforts to reconstruct Gaza should be guided by international law and human rights norms and standards, and any decisions concerning Gaza’s future should be made by Palestinians who have an inalienable right to self-determination, not by neo-colonial interests. Since its formation, the Board of Peace has yet to even enter the Gaza Strip.

### **Phase One of the Ceasefire Agreement:**

During the first phase of the agreement – between October 2025 and January 2026 – a certain set of parameters were implemented, though not fully, which has stalled progress and forward movement into subsequent phases of the plan.

The principal issues on which both parties had agreed were the following:

- A ceasefire: an agreement to put a stop to all hostilities and military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment.
- Troop withdrawal: in the first phase of the ceasefire, the Israeli military was to withdraw their troops up to a yellow line that still left it in control of 53 percent of the Gaza Strip (with further withdrawals to follow in subsequent phases).
- A hostage and prisoner release/exchange: Hamas agreed to return the last hostages it had taken in October of 2023 within seventy hours of the Israeli army’s withdrawal. In exchange, Israel would release 250 Palestinian prisoners who had been sentenced, and another 1,700 Palestinian detainees from Gaza (several high-profile political figures at the top of Hamas’s list were not included in the swap).
- Troop deployment: though Israeli troops remained stationed at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, the agreement also called for the deployment of troops from the United States to monitor the ceasefire and help with aid delivery. The

European Union also expressed a willingness to deploy a humanitarian mission at the Rafah crossing to facilitate movement of people and goods.

- Aid delivery increases: under the agreement, six hundred trucks a day were to be allowed entry to Gaza, which was to include materials and equipment to assist in the rehabilitation of infrastructure (water, electricity, sewage), as well as of hospitals and bakeries.

### **Ceasefire Stalled by Continued Violations:**

Seven months since its announcement, the ceasefire agreement has largely stalled on all of its promises. Palestinians have largely borne the brunt of violations of the agreement, as a result of which they continue to be subject to violence, restrictions on aid, and harsh living conditions.

Some of the significant challenges to the ceasefire agreement are as follows:

- Continued violence, despite supposed suspension of military operations: the ceasefire agreement called for a suspension of all hostilities, despite which, Israel's military operations intensified right up to the deadline. Since the ceasefire agreement, more than 830 Palestinians have been [killed](#) in the Gaza Strip, either through air strikes which are occurring with regularity (some of which Israel claims are targeted at Hamas fighters) or gunfire if they were seen to be crossing the ceasefire line. According to one recent [report](#), the Israelis have carried out at least 1,228 airstrikes and shelling attacks and 1,060 live fire incidents across the Gaza Strip since the "ceasefire" was agreed to last October. Four Israeli [soldiers](#) have been killed since the ceasefire agreement, in attacks carried out by Hamas fighters.
- Despite some improvement, serious restrictions on aid remain: the quantity of goods entering the Gaza Strip increased dramatically immediately following the ceasefire. However, during the U.S. and Israeli war on Iran, Israel [closed](#) its crossings into Gaza, leading to much lower volumes of aid. Due to Israel's ongoing restrictions on aid, Palestinians in Gaza continue to face [food insecurity](#) and a shortage of [medicine](#) and medical supplies. Under the terms of the ceasefire, 600 aid trucks a day were to enter Gaza, but in practice, the number has [fallen short](#) of that; only 37% of agreed upon humanitarian aid has [entered](#). It is estimated that some 90 percent of the population of Gaza was [displaced](#) during Israel's military assault on the enclave, and that nearly 90 percent of domiciles were [destroyed](#). Most of the population are [sheltering](#) in tents in refugee camps in extremely unhygienic conditions, due to Israel's restrictions on entry of materials to rebuild homes. A majority of children in Gaza are not receiving an education, as many schools were destroyed and those that were not destroyed have been turned into shelters. In addition, the Israeli government [restricts](#) the import of educational materials, including textbooks and notebooks. There has been virtually no rehabilitation of Gaza's devastated infrastructure in the seven months since the ceasefire. And finally,

the Israeli government continues to obstruct the work of international Non-Governmental Organizations that had been providing critical services to the besieged population.

Many other significant aspects of the ceasefire agreement, namely Israeli troops withdrawal from the territories, reconstruction agreement, and disarmament of Hamas, continue to be sources of contention between the two parties. As a result, further progress on the ceasefire plan has stalled, with Palestinians paying a heavy price.



## **Palestinians in the West Bank**

Since Israel's brutal retaliatory military offensive in Gaza, Palestinians in the West Bank have also suffered. In the two and a half years, Palestinians in the West bank have suffered through increased military raids leading to arrests and detentions, lethal settler violence, house demolitions, increased restrictions on movement, and many other daily violations of their basic human rights and dignity.

The military raids have reached their highest levels in over a decade and have been especially violent in places like Jenin, Tulkarem and Nablus, frequently involving live ammunition, drones, and the destruction of homes and roads. At times, the raids have been so severe, they have forced entire communities into [lockdown](#). In fact, it has been reported that the rise in Israeli military violence has led to the [largest forced displacement](#) in the West Bank since the war in 1967.

In addition to violence at the hands of the military, Palestinians have also been targeted by increasing levels of settler violence, with many instances resulting in deaths. In one instance, settlers opened fire on a [school](#) in the village of Al-Mughayyir, killing two Palestinians, one of whom was a 14 year-old boy. In some villages, Palestinians report near [daily attacks](#) by settlers, leading to palpable fear. The perpetrators of the violence are rarely punished, leading Israel's leading human rights organization to state that settler violence is part of Israel's official state [policy](#).

It has been estimated that over 1,000 Palestinians have been [killed](#) in the West Bank since October 2023.

## **Apartheid and Occupation Further Entrenched through Settlements and Death Penalty**

Although in July 2024, the International Court of Justice [reaffirmed](#) the illegality of Israel's occupation, something international legal scholars and practitioners had been saying for decades, the Israeli state has continued its many policies that violate international law and are in flagrant contradiction to the ICJ's ruling.

One of these is the building of settlements, which the Israeli government has continued to do. In December 2025, the Knesset approved the [building](#) of nineteen new settlements. Expansion of settlements involves the confiscation of land, and has led to *de facto* [annexation](#) of the Occupied Territories that is very clearly in violation of international law.

On March 30, 2026, the Israel Knesset passed a controversial law, pushed by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition. The law, officially titled the Death Penalty for Terrorists Act 2026, authorizes the death penalty for certain perpetrators of fatal terror attacks. Human rights organizations have [argued](#) that the law

is discriminatory, structured to only apply to Palestinian perpetrators, as it specifically targets Palestinians tried in military courts. For civilian courts (inside Israel), the law authorizes the death penalty only for killing someone with the “aim of negating the state of Israel,” a definition designed to exclude Jewish perpetrators. This type of nationality-based difference in the meting out of punishments is what characterizes an apartheid state.

## Women Paying the Price

Women have been affected in many, overlapping ways by the war in Gaza. [UN Women](#) recently issued a report, finding that between October 2023 and December 2025, 38,000 women and girls were killed in Gaza, an average of 47 a day. Additionally, tens of thousands of women have suffered from injuries, many debilitating, which will pose lifelong challenges for them.

As previously mentioned, 90% of the population of the Gaza Strip has been displaced, of which about 1 million are women. Many of these women are living in overcrowded shelters, camps, and tents, while also caring for children and elderly relatives, and having to manage issues of food, water and daily survival under conditions of extreme scarcity. Food scarcity has especially harmed women, causing higher malnutrition rates in pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and leading to more babies born underweight. There has also been extensive reporting on how Israel’s destruction of Gaza’s healthcare system has impacted [reproductive care](#) for women, leading to an increase in miscarriages, unsafe births and maternal mortality.

Lastly, as in many other situations of conflict and occupation, Palestinian women have been more vulnerable to exploitation, and harassment and other forms of conflict-related [sexual violence](#) that is often underreported due to stigma. In a January 2026 [report](#), leading Israeli human rights organization Btselem revealed a grave pattern of sexual violence in Israeli detention facilities, ranging from threats of sexual assault, to forced stripping, and actual sexual assault. In an April 2026 [report](#), the the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor provides the highly disturbing details on the egregious violations committed against a 42-year old woman from North Gaza, who, following her arrest, was detained, shackled to a table and repeatedly raped by Israeli soldiers who filmed the incident. Additionally, Israeli soldiers and settlers are using gendered violence and sexual harassment and assault to force Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank. In the cases [documented](#), sexual violence functions as a coercive tool that penetrates domestic space, fractures family life and renders continued civilian residence untenable, such that in a number of cases, families have reported sexualized violence as their reason for leaving, or for adopting other gendered protective strategies, such as recourse to early marriage.

These issues are compounded by issues of poverty due to the total collapse of Gaza’s economy because of war and psychological trauma resulting from sustained, unrelenting violence for more than two years (it is worth noting of course that Palestinians in Gaza have lived through multiple Israeli military offensives over the past two decades). According to one [study](#), women in

Gaza display an alarming rate of mental health problems due to extended exposure to violence, repeated displacement, and their conditions of displacement, with 80% of women experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, extreme anxiety, and/or depression.

Overall, the current situation has created compounded harm that reinforces each other, making recovery much harder, even after the fighting stops.



## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

More than two and a half years since Israel launched its brutal retaliatory military offensive on the Gaza Strip, a war that has killed more than 72,000 Palestinians (by conservative estimates), injured hundreds of thousands more, and displaced 90% of the population, Palestinians in Gaza continue to suffer, despite a ceasefire agreement that was announced more than seven months ago. In the West Bank, Palestinians are subject to daily violence and humiliation at the hands of both the Israeli military and Israeli settlers. These ongoing violations will only lead to more

violence and the cycle of violence will never end, unless the root causes are addressed. The injustices that Palestinians have suffered as a result of decades of illegal military occupation can only be addressed if Palestinians are given a voice and are able to meaningfully participate in the processes that affect their lives. To see an end to the violence and suffering, at minimum the following must occur:

1. All parties should recommit to the terms of the ceasefire and establish clearer enforcement mechanisms, including third-party monitoring, to ensure accountability for violations.
2. An impartial international monitoring presence should be introduced to document incidents of violation, deter violence, and provide transparent reporting.
3. Concrete measures must be taken to safeguard civilian populations, including stricter adherence to international humanitarian law, prevention of settler violence, and accountability for excessive use of force.
4. Allegations of human rights violations should be investigated by independent bodies. Those responsible—regardless of affiliation—must be held accountable through credible legal processes.
5. Women’s organizations and women human rights defenders should be supported through financial and other means in their efforts to document and address the violence experienced by Palestinian women, especially sexual violence resulting from conflict and displacement.
6. Restrictions that impede humanitarian aid should be eased to ensure timely delivery of medical supplies, food, and other essential materials that are desperately needed by Palestinians in Gaza.
7. Aid organizations and donors should address specifically the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, especially women and children, through special programs, including financial support for local women’s groups and support for psychosocial programs.
8. The Israeli state needs to take visible steps to reduce violence in the West Bank, both by stopping military incursions, and also stopping settler violence. Settlers who commit violent acts against Palestinians should be arrested and brought to justice.
9. As per international law, Israel’s occupation of the West Bank is illegal. As such, the Israeli government should end its plans to build additional settlements in the West Bank.
10. There should be renewed diplomatic efforts by international and regional actors to find a political solution that is just and sustainable, and one that involves the participation of Palestinians.



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