



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-eighth session

24 February–4 April 2025

Agenda item 7

**Human rights situation in Palestine and other  
occupied Arab territories**

## **Written statement\* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 January 2025]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

## **Gaza, Past and Future**

From seventh of October 2023 until the nineteenth of January 2025, the world has witnessed one of the deadliest conflicts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Now that the ceasefire has taken effect following 471 days of heinous violence in the region there are still so many questions coming to our mind as the people who watched and followed the horrifying bloodshed and intentional starvation of people and children:

- How is it ok for a genocide to continue unabated for over four hundred and seventy days before the international community manages to establish a ceasefire?
- Why the whole world votes for a ceasefire one country can veto against it to make sure that the massacre and genocide will continue?
- How is it that the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants for war criminals not only go unnoticed, but also make the members of the UN Court face the threat of sanctions, by one of the most boastful founding members of the United Nations?
- How did the world allow the massive death toll, the majority of which consists of women and children?
- How was it possible to ignore the rulings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and set precedence for undermining the international rule of law?

In 2024, the ICJ ruling demanded prompt ending of the prolonged and unlawful occupation; protection of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip from the risk of genocide; ensuring the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid and the provision of basic services. However, reports from February 2024 indicated that Israel has continued human rights violations in serious contrast with the Court decisions. Israel did not comply with any of these measures and took serious steps in sheer violation of the Courts orders:

- Continued to impede the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and intentionally weaponized starvation of people and children;
- Bombed all the enclave and destroyed almost all buildings;
- Continuously targeted UN premises and shelters, UN convoys, hospital, medical staff, journalists, mosques and all forbidden war targets;
- Dropped about 85,000 tons of explosives on Gaza, creating huge masses of rubble under which thousands of children have gone missing, while clearing the colossal mess would take about a decade of work, according to experts;
- Systematically deprived people from access to medication by demolishing hospitals and health centers;
- Killed at least 46,707 people in Gaza, including about 18,000 children, which is one out of every 50 people in Gaza has been killed while many analysts and rights groups estimate the real number of deaths to be far higher.
- Continued the collective punishment of the people in the besieged Gaza, where half of the population is under the age of 18. Thousands of children have lost one or two legs in the brutal war. (1)

- Made up to 21,000 children go missing in the chaos of the war. At least 17,000 children are believed to be unaccompanied and separated, around 4,000 are likely to have lost their lives under the rubble and an unknown number are believed to be in mass graves . (2)

- Injured at least 110,265 civilians which is one in each 20 people. About 22,500 of the seriously wounded people are suffering life-long disabilities and urgently require rehabilitations they are not receiving, according to a WHO report . (3)

- Displaced 1.9 million people in Gaza make the majority of whom live in shelters without adequate, food, water, clothing or protection from the cold.

#### Recommendations:

While welcoming the ceasefire, we call on the international community to make sure that:

- The horrible mass killing will not continue through persistent denial of access to essential means of existence for the besieged people of the enclave.
- Ensure the continued, inclusive and sufficient access to all essential items for all the people living across the Strip.
- Encourage and support urgent investment in Gaza healthcare system, as well as reconstruction of the whole civilian infrastructure including houses and schools.
- Encourage negotiations to promote permanent peace in the region and prevent eruption of further conflicts.
- Ensure access to justice for the people of the enclave and make sure that perpetrators of all international crimes will not continue their lives with impunity.
- Remain actively involved in the process of Gaza's recovery, providing financial assistance and diplomatic support to ensure peace and stability in the region.

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1) <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/world/911233/10-children-a-day-losing-one-or-two-legs-in-gaza-unrwa/story/>

2) <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/gazas-missing-children-over-20000-children-estimated-be-lost-disappeared-detained-buried-under>

3) <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-09-2024-who-analysis-highlights-vast-unmet-rehabilitation-needs-in-gaza>