



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Palestinian Territories / Israel – July to December 2024

31 December 2024

01 July 2024

Gaza Strip: current developments; humanitarian situation

On 27.06.24, the Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated that more than 37,765 Palestinians had been killed and 86,429 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to information provided by the Israeli military on 28.06.24, a total of 314 Israeli military personnel lost their lives and 2,005 others have been wounded since the start of the ground offensive.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip, including airstrikes by the Israeli military, is continuing. Most recently, al-Shuja'iyya in Gaza City and al-Mawasi in Rafah were particularly affected. According to estimates, another 60,000 to 80,000 people fled to the south from areas in and around Gaza City following recent evacuation orders by the Israeli army.

On 24.06.24, the children's rights organisation Save the Children published estimates according to which up to 21,000 children are missing or have disappeared, been arrested or buried under rubble or in mass graves in the Gaza Strip. This figure includes around 17,000 children who have been separated from their families.

In its latest report, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assumes that there is still a high risk of famine in the Gaza Strip as long as the fighting continues and access for humanitarian aid remains limited. According to the Hamas-led authorities, the 31st child died of malnutrition on 26.06.24.

Despite the Israeli military's announcement that fighting along an important road within the Gaza Strip would be halted during daytime to allow the distribution of aid, lawlessness along the route is making aid delivery difficult. Criminal gangs are blocking the route, looting aid supplies and thus thwarting their distribution.

Meanwhile, on 29.06.24, the WFP resumed a one-off distribution of relief supplies that had reached the Gaza Strip via the US-built pier. The UN had suspended distribution since 09.06.24 for security concerns (cf. BN of 10.06.24). The current one-off operation intends to prevent the food from spoiling. At the same time, the pier had to be detached from the coast again due to bad weather conditions to protect it against damage. In view of the sluggish distribution of the transported goods, the US military is now examining whether the pier is to be used in the future or whether operations should be stopped altogether.

On 27.06.24, for the first time in two months, 21 children were evacuated from the Gaza Strip to Egypt via the Israeli Kerem Shalom border crossing for medical treatment of cancer and other chronic illnesses. Acute shortages of fuel, medicines and medical equipment have led to partial cancellation of medical services inside the Gaza Strip. Due to the inadequate supply of fuel, hygiene facilities are not sufficiently accessible to the population. According to the UN initiative WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Cluster, between 15.06. and 23.06.24, an average of around 5% of the estimated 70,000 litres of water required were available every day.¹

West Bank: Several dead and injured

On 30.05.24, a high-ranking member of the so-called Islamic Jihad in Palestine was killed by an Israeli drone attack on targets in the Nur Shams refugee camp. Five other unidentified individuals were wounded.

On 20.06.24, a 15-year-old Palestinian was killed by the Israeli military when a group of Palestinians threw stones at the army during a military operation in Qalqiliya.

Two days later, according to Israeli media reports, an Israeli was shot dead, allegedly by a Palestinian, in Qalqiliya. During a military operation in Jenin on 22.06.24, four Palestinians were wounded and three people were arrested. During the operation, a wounded Palestinian was reportedly tied to the bonnet of an Israeli military jeep before being interrogated and released. According to his own account, the man had previously been shot twice as he left a relative's house near an Israeli military operation. The Israeli military announced an investigation into the incident. The total number of Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank between 07.10.23 and 24.06.24 rises to 536. More than 5,370 other people are said to have been wounded. During the same period, twelve Israelis, including seven military personnel, were killed and 105 others wounded in the West Bank.²

08 July 2024

Gaza Strip: Latest developments, humanitarian situation

On 04.07.24, the Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated that more than 38,011 Palestinians had been killed and 87,445 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to information provided by the Israeli military on 05.07.24, a total of 323 military personnel have been killed and 2,069 others wounded since the start of the ground offensive. Around 120 hostages are still believed to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues. In an appeal issued on 01.07.24, the Israeli military again called on around 250,000 people in certain areas in Rafah and Khan Younis to evacuate to the already overpopulated al-Mawasi area. Shortly beforehand, rockets were reportedly fired at Israel from areas in Khan Younis again.

According to press reports, nine members of a family who responded to the calls and fled further north were killed in an airstrike on the relatives' house where they were staying.

On 06.07.24, according to the Hamas-led Ministry of Health, 16 Palestinians living in a school in al-Nuseirat were killed in an airstrike that hit the school. 50 others were reportedly wounded. The Israeli military claimed to have targeted armed militants in the area and made maximum efforts to protect civilians.

Gaza's second largest hospital in Khan Younis had already been evacuated before it became clear that it was not affected by the evacuation orders. According to UN figures, only 15% of the 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are partially or fully functional. The difficult security situation makes access to the hospitals considerably more difficult, the UN said. There is still a shortage of medication, medical equipment and fuel. This also affects the WASH sector, which includes the supply of drinking water and the provision of sanitation services.

In addition, the poor security situation continues to hamper the distribution of aid within the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, 56 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who had been detained by Israeli security forces during the war were released and reported poor conditions and torture during their detention. The Israeli authorities denied the allegations.³

West Bank: Land confiscations and authorisation of settlement expansion; several dead and injured

On 27.06.24, the Israeli authorities initiated the legalisation of five settlements on the West Bank that were previously considered illegal under Israeli law. Since the beginning of 2024, UN OCHA has recorded 27 attacks by residents of three of these settlements against Palestinian people or their property. Between 07.10.23 and 01.07.24, a total of 1,050 such attacks were recorded, 107 of which resulted in injuries. More than 12.7 sqkm were confiscated by the Israeli authorities. According to the NGO Peace Now, a new high for 2024 was reached after further seizures of 8 sqkm in March and 2.6 sqkm in February. In addition, the construction of 5,295 more housing units in existing settlements in the West Bank was authorised.

On 26.06.24, an Israeli soldier was killed and 16 others were wounded when booby traps detonated during a military operation in Jenin. One Palestinian was wounded in the subsequent fighting.

According to rescue workers, seven Palestinians were killed in armed clashes and airstrikes by the military during a military operation in Jenin on 05.07.24.

The total number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank between 07.10.23 and 01.07.24 rose to 539. More than 5,420 other people are said to have been wounded. During the same period, 14 Israelis, including nine military personnel, were killed and 105 others were wounded.⁴

15 July 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments, humanitarian situation

On 14.07.24, the Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated that more than 38,584 Palestinians had been killed and 88,881 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to Israeli figures, around a third of the Palestinian dead are said to have been combatants.

On 14.07.24, the Israeli military informed that a total of 326 military personnel were killed and 2,069 others wounded since the ground offensive started. Around 120 hostages are still believed to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues. On 10.07.24, Israel ordered the evacuation of large parts of Gaza City. Two escape routes were designated and it was stated that this time there would be no checks at the Netzarim checkpoint when fleeing to the south. The Hamas-led Ministry of Health called on residents to ignore the evacuation order.

On 13.07.24, an air strike within an evacuation zone targeted a meeting between Rafeh Salama, the commander of the Khan Younis Brigade, and Mohammed Deif, the commander of the Qassam Brigades. Both men belong to the innermost circle of the Hamas leadership in Gaza.

In a press conference in the evening of 13.07.24, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu confirmed Salama's death, but Mohammed Deif's death could not be confirmed. Nor has Hamas confirmed the death yet. According to Palestinian reports, at least 90 people were killed in the air strike, which Israel denies.

In a press release on the air strike against Mohammed Deif, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas criticised not only Israel and the U.S. but also Hamas, which he said was partly to blame for the Israeli military operation by continuing the war.

The amount of humanitarian aid and the intensity of hunger in the Gaza Strip remains unclear. A comprehensive UN study based on the Integrated Classification of Food Security Phases (IPC) attested to a measurable improvement in the situation the previous month. At the same time, it said that data were insufficient for an assessment. A press statement by several UN experts published on 09.07.24 confirmed widespread famine. However, this was based by three case studies of minors aged six months, nine and 13 years who starved in different months of 2024. According to Hamas, 32 people have died of starvation so far, although several cases are known to have had pre-existing conditions that would have required special nutrition. Due to different counting methods, the figures on the amount of food reaching Gaza vary greatly. For example, the UN only counts humanitarian deliveries, while the Israeli occupation authority COGAT also counts private shipments to Gaza. Thus, the overall situation remains unclear, in particular since the seemingly different data sets and figures are not necessarily mutually exclusive and even if the situation improves, especially vulnerable groups such as babies or people with pre-existing conditions will continue to face a significantly more difficult supply situation.

On 08.07.24, it became known that the well-known Palestinian Hamas critic Amin Abed was attacked and beaten so severely that he needed to be hospitalized in the Gaza Strip. He is known for organising Hamas-critical protests in Gaza and repeatedly condemned the attack on Israel on 07.10.23.⁵

22 July 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

On 18.07.24, the Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated that more than 38,848 Palestinians had been killed and 89,459 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to the Israeli military on 19.07.24, a total of 326 military personnel have been killed and 2,134 others wounded since the start of the ground offensive. Around 120 hostages are still believed to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues.

Medical capacities in the Gaza Strip are still limited. According to the UN, only around 1,500 hospital beds are available. It is said that there were 3,500 beds before the war began. Medical equipment is still lacking, which leads to a further increase and spread of infectious diseases, among other things. The WHO recently reported that polioviruses were detected in six environmental samples in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah. The prevailing water shortage, overcrowding in the camps for displaced people, disastrous hygiene conditions and malnutrition are aggravating the situation further.

During the war, Israeli military operations and its occupation focussed on eight hospitals because these facilities were used by Hamas. According to UN figures, 23 of the total of 36 hospitals are currently not operational at all and the remaining 13 are only partially operational. Five out of a total of nine field hospitals are currently operational and more than 60 % of Gaza's primary healthcare facilities are closed. In addition, more than 500 medical professionals are said to have been killed in the ongoing fighting since the war began.

According to UN figures, a total of 1,288 lorry loads of aid supplies were brought into the Gaza Strip and distributed between 01.07. and 15.07.24. At 86 lorries per day, this is a higher average than in June. However, it is lower than in May 2024, when around 94 lorries transported relief supplies to the Gaza Strip every day. The floating harbour built by the USA off the coast of the Gaza Strip is to be dismantled following numerous weather and security problems. In future, aid supplies are to be brought in via the Israeli harbour in Ashdod instead.

On 17.07.24, HRW published a report concluding that the armed groups led by Hamas "committed numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity against the civilian population" on 07.10.23. The organisation says that the purpose of the attack was to kill civilians and take hostages. The organisation called for the immediate release of all hostages.⁶

Israel: Dead and injured in drone attack in Tel Aviv

On 19.07.24, one person was killed and ten others were injured by a Houthi drone attack on Tel Aviv. The Iranian-made drone had previously passed through the Israeli air defence systems on its way to Tel Aviv. According to reports, it was presumably modified to cover the distance of more than 2,000 kilometres from Yemen via Egypt to Israel. According to the Israeli military spokesperson, the drone had been detected, but mistakenly no interception was initiated. Since 07.10.23, numerous Houthi drones and missiles have been intercepted by Israeli air defences. In most cases before they could reach or pass the southern city of Eilat.

During the attack, another drone was reportedly intercepted, which was presumably launched in Iraq.⁷

29 July 2024

Lebanon / Israel (Golan Heights): Rocket fire from Lebanon claims at least twelve civilian lives

On 27.07.24, a rocket hit a football pitch in the predominantly Druze-inhabited town of Majal Shams in the Israeli annexed Golan Heights (still part of Syria under international law), killing at least twelve civilians between the ages of ten and 16. The casualties were members of the Druze minority, which is mainly found in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. According to Israeli military sources, the projectile was an unguided Iranian-made Falaq-1 missile with a range of around ten kilometres and a warhead weighing around 50 kg and it had been fired from Hezbollah-controlled territory. Hezbollah and Iran deny any involvement in the incident without offering an alternative explanation for the events. The Israeli military leadership assumes that only Hezbollah has missiles of the above-mentioned type in Lebanon. In anticipation of a major Israeli backlash, Beirut airport, among other places, was temporarily closed.

It was the deadliest attack from Lebanon on Israel since Hezbollah began firing rockets in the wake of the Hamas attack on 07.10.23. At least 527 people are now reported dead on the Lebanese side, including at least 104 civilians; on the Israeli side, 22 soldiers and 24 civilians lost their lives.⁸

05 August 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 04.08.24 that more than 39,538 Palestinians had been killed and 91,389 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

On 02.08.24, the Israeli military reported a total of 329 military personnel killed and 2,176 wounded since the start of the ground offensive. It is said that Hamas is still holding 115 hostages in the Gaza Strip, 41 of whom are now presumed dead. Four hostages were already held in Gaza before the war began.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues.

According to the UN, over 40,000 cases of hepatitis A have now been identified and a polio outbreak is considered likely.

The WFP announced on 30.07.24 that currently it can only supply twelve of the 18 bakeries it normally supplies in the Gaza Strip due to the difficulties. The prices for food are very high, especially in the north of the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, humanitarian aid could be delivered to 1.1 million people in July 2024.

Several districts in Gaza report that their motor pool for general public services has been largely destroyed, making maintenance and everyday tasks such as rubbish collection much more difficult and sometimes impossible.⁹

Allegations of abuse of Palestinian prisoners

According to a new OHCHR report, 53 Palestinian prisoners have died in Israeli custody since the war began. Allegations of mistreatment of prisoners in Sde Teiman, an Israeli army detention centre, and the admission of a prisoner with signs of maltreatment indicating sexual abuse, led to a raid by Israeli military police on the facility, during which nine soldiers were detained. The incident triggered a spontaneous protest by nationalist Israelis in front of the facility, which even received some support from Knesset members. An unsuccessful attempt was made to free the prisoners. For the time being, eight of the detainees remain in custody following the opening of the investigation.¹⁰

West Bank: Supreme Court judgement

On 01.08.24, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that Palestinian residents of two villages who had fled violence by Israeli settlers must be allowed to return. The judgement states that the police had responded too late and inadequately to the emergency calls and that the Israeli security authorities were obliged to protect Palestinian civilians in the region.¹¹

West Bank: Nine dead in Israeli air strikes

On 03.08.24, nine men were killed in two Israeli air strikes. The Israeli army, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad confirmed that both cases involved members of radical Islamic militias. According to the Israeli military, at least the first group was in the process of carrying out an attack.

Around 590 Palestinians have died in violent clashes and attacks in the West Bank since 07.10.23, although it is unclear what proportion of them were violent perpetrators. In the same period, 23 Israelis died in attacks and five soldiers died in firefights with Palestinian militants in the West Bank.¹²

19 August 2024

Gaza Strip: current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 15.08.24 that more than 40,000 Palestinians had been killed and 92,401 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians. According to Israeli figures, 17,000 Hamas fighters have been eliminated. None of this information can be independently verified.

The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues with rockets being fired from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. On 10.08.24 a school in Gaza City, which served as a shelter for internally displaced persons, was hit. Local health authorities reported at least 80 dead and 50 others injured. The Israeli military stated that the target had been a Hamas command centre in a mosque on the site. Nineteen members of Hamas and the so-called Islamic Jihad in

Palestine are said to have been killed. A high-ranking member of Hamas denied that there were any fighters in the school.

On 13.08.24 and 15.08.24, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for areas that had already previously been affected by such measures. A further evacuation order followed on 16.08.24, which included areas in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, among them one that was part of the previously declared al-Mawasi humanitarian zone. Hamas is said to have previously fired mortar shells and rockets from these areas. According to UN OCHA, the zone has shrunk to 41 km² or 11% of the territory in the Gaza Strip. A total of eight evacuation orders are said to have been issued in August 2024.

According to UN figures, the volume of humanitarian aid in the months of May to July 2024 has allegedly dropped by around 61% compared to the months of January to April 2024 (from around 94 lorries a day to around 37). Nevertheless, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) stated in a report that more food had been imported in July 2024 (79,082 to 86,925 tonnes) than in June 2024 (47,443 - 61,530 tonnes). According to the report, this was due to an increase in commercial imports, while humanitarian aid declined. Humanitarian aid is at its lowest level since 2023, and especially families with low purchasing power can only benefit from the increase in food imports to a limited extent. The report points to methodological challenges that may distort the picture presented. The first confirmed case of polio has been reported. The WHO had already been warning for weeks of the imminent spread of polio, which often caused by contaminated water. A ceasefire of at least seven days is necessary for effective prevention. Polio is not yet curable but was eradicated 25 years ago through immunisation in the Gaza Strip. Due to the outbreak of war, however, only 86% of the current population has been immunised (previously 99%).¹³

West Bank: Dead and wounded in armed clashes and attacks

On 11.08.24, an Israeli civilian was shot dead from a passing car in the West Bank and another person was injured. Hamas claimed that this was an act of retaliation following air strikes on a school in the Gaza Strip, which the Israeli military justified with Hamas command structures present there.

On 17.08.24, two senior Hamas members were killed in an Israeli air strike on their car in Jenin, in the north of the West Bank. According to a statement by Israeli authorities, the two were involved in the previous attack. On the same day, the al-Qassam Brigade, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed to have killed a member of the Israeli military. The military announced on 12.08.24 that a Hamas member who had opened fire on an Israeli civilian, thereby wounding him, near the village of Qalqilya, had been shot dead. Two other Palestinians were wounded in the attack. On 13.08.24, a Palestinian was shot dead by the Israeli military after allegedly throwing stones at military personnel who were demolishing the house of a militia member who had been the author of a deadly attack.

Five Palestinians were killed in a military raid in Tubas and a drone attack in Tamoun on 14.08.24. The man killed in Tubas is said to have been a member of Hamas.

A Palestinian was killed and several other people were seriously injured in an attack by Israeli settlers in the West Bank on the Arab village of Jit on 15.08.24. More than a hundred masked people are said to have entered the village, opened fire on Palestinians, set fire to houses and damaged cars and water tanks. Residents stated that it took two hours for the military to arrive on the scene to bring the situation under control. One person was taken into custody the same evening and further prosecution measures were announced.

According to media reports, the UN stated that it had documented 1,000 attacks by settlers in the West Bank in the first nine months since Hamas attacked Israeli territory and the war in the Gaza Strip began. This corresponds to an average of four attacks per day.¹⁴

26 August 2024

Israel / Lebanon: Mutual shelling of military positions of Hezbollah and Israel's military

On 25.08.24, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Israeli military engaged in an intense exchange of fire. According to Israeli reports, 100 fighter jets flew preventive air strikes on Lebanon in a "self-defence operation" after the extensive preparations of rockets and missiles for an attack on Israeli territory had been observed overnight. It is said that thousands of rocket launchers have been destroyed. According to the report, Hezbollah fired 20 drones and 210 rockets from Lebanon, the majority of which were intercepted by air defence. One member of the Israeli navy is said to have been killed by an interceptor, shelling or shrapnel and two others wounded. Hezbollah

confirmed that two of its own members and a fighter from an allied militia had been killed. Hezbollah leader Nasrallah stated in an address that the attacks were in retaliation for the killing of a high-ranking member a few weeks ago (cf. BN of 05.08.24). The attacks had only focussed on military targets, he said.¹⁵

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 25.08.24 that more than 40,405 Palestinians had been killed and 93,468 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to information provided by the Israeli military on 23.08.24, a total of 332 military personnel have been killed and 2,232 others wounded since the start of the ground offensives. Some 109 hostages or their mortal remains are still believed to be held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. On 20.08.24, the military announced that it had recovered the bodies of six hostages during a night-time military operation in Khan Younis.

Fighting in the Gaza Strip continues. Last week's calls for evacuation were followed by ground operations in eastern parts of Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah. At least ten Palestinians were killed in an air strike on a school in Deir al-Balah. The Israeli military maintains that a Hamas military base was located in the school, although Hamas denies using civilian facilities for military purposes.

Between 21.08. and 22.08.24, the Israeli military issued three further evacuation orders for people who stayed in certain areas around Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis. According to the UN, an estimated 90% of the 2.1 million inhabitants of the Gaza Strip have fled as a result of the evacuations. The designated safe zone along the coast is already overpopulated and aid organisations are struggling to provide for the growing number of refugees, as the difficult security situation poses major challenges for the import and distribution of relief supplies.¹⁶

West Bank: Dead and wounded in armed clashes and attacks

On 18.08.24, an Israeli security guard was killed near the settlement of Kedumim when a worker attacked him with a hammer. The attacker stole the guard's weapon and fled.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, three Palestinians were killed by an Israeli military drone attack on targets in the city of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank. The Israeli military stated that the attack had targeted armed militia members.

According to UN figures from 21.08.24, an average of one Palestinian person a day was killed by an air strike in the current month of August 2024. It is not specified whether these were militia members or civilians. A total of more than 600 Palestinians are said to have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 07.10.23.¹⁷

Israel: Attempted bomb attack in Tel Aviv

The suspected attacker died in an attempted bomb attack in Tel Aviv on the night of 19.08.24. One civilian was wounded. Hamas and the so-called Islamic Jihad in Palestine claimed responsibility for the attempted attack. According to Palestinian media reports, the attacker was a Palestinian from Nablus.¹⁸

02 September 2024

Gaza Strip: current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 29.08.24 that more than 40,602 Palestinians had been killed and 93,588 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified.

According to the Israeli military on 30.08.24, a total of 339 military personnel were killed and 2,263 others wounded since the start of the ground offensives.

The war continues. After the first case of polio was detected in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military agreed to humanitarian pauses to allow time for a vaccination campaign of several days. Children in central Gaza are to be vaccinated first, before other areas in northern and southern Gaza are made accessible by interruptions of the fighting for several hours. The first vaccinations were made on 01.09.24 and the campaign is scheduled to continue until 09.09.24.

The WFP temporarily suspended its work on 28.08.24 after one of the organisation's aid vehicles came under fire as it approached an Israeli checkpoint. According to the WFP, the mission was coordinated with the relevant authorities and the vehicle was clearly recognisable as an aid organisation vehicle.

The Israeli military announced that the military operations in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, as part of which evacuation orders were issued in August 2024, had ended and residents could return to their homes in the respective areas.¹⁹

West Bank: Dead and wounded in armed clashes and attacks

Late in the evening of 27.08.24, the Israeli military began a large-scale military operation in several villages in the north of the West Bank.

After initially focussing on Tulkarem and al-Far'a refugee camps near Tubas, the military later concentrated on Jenin, particularly the refugee camp there. The operation targeted locations that are considered hotspots of armed groups and came after attacks by Palestinian fighters from the West Bank increased. Residents of Jenin stated that they had no access to water and electricity. According to Israeli reports, 26 armed persons had been killed by 31.08.24. Various armed groups confirmed that at least 13 of these fatalities had been members. At least one high-ranking member of the so-called Palestinian Jihad in Palestine (PIJ) was among the dead. One Israeli soldier is said to have been killed in the fighting in Jenin and three other military personnel were wounded.

On 01.09.24, three members of the Israeli border police were killed when members of the Palestinian militia Khalil al-Rahman Brigade opened fire on their vehicle. The attacker initially escaped but was captured and killed several hours later at his home near Hebron.

On the evening of 30.08.24, three Israelis were wounded in two attacks south of Jerusalem. Two attackers are believed to have been killed. In both cases, the suspected attackers had loaded their cars with explosives; a bomb detonated only in one case.²⁰

09 September 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 06.09.24 that more than 40,878 Palestinians had been killed and 94,454 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to the Israeli military's information of 02.09.24, a total of 340 military personnel have been killed and 2,270 others wounded since the start of the ground offensive. It is assumed that Hamas is still holding 101 hostages in the Gaza Strip, 33 of whom are presumed dead. Four hostages were already being held in Gaza before the war began. At least 1,540 Israelis and citizens of other countries have been killed so far. According to the Israeli army, 17,000 Palestinian fighters have been killed until now.

Fighting in the Gaza Strip continues. The first phase of the campaign to immunise children against polio was completed on 03.09.24. A total of 187,000 children were vaccinated in central Gaza, 30,000 more than originally planned. The vaccinations were offered at over 140 locations, including humanitarian aid distribution points, hospitals and vaccination points in camps for displaced persons. The vaccination campaign became possible after various local humanitarian ceasefires had been agreed. Mobile vaccination teams were deployed as well. The second phase of the campaign focuses on South Gaza and started on 05.09.24. The vaccination campaign's third and final phase is scheduled for North Gaza as of 09.09.24.²¹

West Bank

According to consistent reports, the Israeli armed forces withdrew from Jenin on 06.09.24. Fighting in other parts of the West Bank continues at a lower level.

On the same day, a US-Turkish activist was shot dead when a protest march against the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank escalated violently. The exact circumstances are subject of an investigation.

On 08.09.24, a Jordanian lorry driver opened fire and killed three Israeli civilians at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan.²²

16 September 2024

Gaza Strip: current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 12.09.24 that at least 41,118 Palestinians had been killed and 95,125 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians.

According to the Israeli military on 13.09.24, a total of 342 military personnel have been killed and a further 2,280 wounded since the start of the ground offensive. Hamas is said to still be holding 101 hostages in the Gaza Strip, 33 of whom are presumed dead. Four hostages were already being held in Gaza before the war began. At least 1,542 Israelis and other nationals have been killed so far. According to the Israeli army, 17,000 Palestinian fighters have been killed. The fighting in the Gaza Strip continues.

The campaign to immunise children against polio ended on 13.09.24. Various local humanitarian ceasefires permitted the immunisation campaign. Mobile immunisation teams were deployed as well. Around 560,000 children under the age of ten were immunised against polio.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports a significant increase in high-risk pregnancies. Almost one in ten breastfeeding mothers in the Gaza Strip examined in a random sample were found to be malnourished.

According to a UN report from 12.09.24, Gaza's economic output has shrunk to around one sixth of its pre-war level.²³

West Bank

Fighting in several parts of the West Bank continues at a low level

According to media reports, two Palestinians, a man and a woman, were killed by Israeli forces in Tulkarem on 10.09.24. The exact circumstances are unclear.

On 11.09.24, Israel flew an air strike on the town of Tubas in which five Palestinians, who according to the Israeli military were equipped with explosives, were killed. A production facility for explosives was destroyed in the process. On the same day, Israeli soldiers were assaulted by a petrol tanker, one Israeli soldier and the driver were killed.

On 13.09.24, an UNRWA worker was killed in Fara'a. According to the Israeli army, he was a known Hamas member and was shot dead while allegedly throwing explosives at Israeli soldiers.²⁴

23 September 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 18.09.24 that more than 41,272 Palestinians had been killed and 95,551 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians and does not allow any insight into the methodology of the survey.

According to the Israeli military on 20.09.24, a total of 346 military personnel have been killed and 2,284 others wounded since the start of the ground offensive. Hamas is still believed to be holding 101 hostages in the Gaza Strip, 33 of whom are presumed dead. Four hostages were already being held in Gaza before the war began. At least 1,546 Israelis and citizens of other countries have been killed so far. According to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), 17,000 Palestinian fighters have been killed so far, but no insight into the methodology used for the survey is provided.

Fighting in the Gaza Strip continues.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 83 % of medicines and 70 % of other medical supplies from the camps in the Gaza Strip have been used up.²⁵

West Bank

On 19.09.24, video footage emerged showing Israeli soldiers throwing four apparently lifeless bodies from the roof of a building in the West Bank. An IDF spokesperson condemned the actions and made it clear that they were not in line with Israeli rules of engagement or expectations of IDF soldiers. An investigation into the incident has been launched. The video was widely shared on social media.

On 22.09.24, the office of the Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera in Ramallah was occupied and closed by the Israeli army. The reason given was that Al Jazeera was jeopardising Israel's security and inciting hatred against the Jewish state.²⁶

30 September 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health stated on 26.09.24 that more than 41,534 Palestinians had been killed and 96,092 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified.

According to the Israeli military on 27.09.24, a total of 346 military personnel have been killed and 2,297 others wounded since the start of the ground offensives.

The war continues. Ground operations are ongoing in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahya, in eastern Khan Younis and in Rafah. Armed groups continue to fire rockets at Israel from Khan Younis in particular. At least eleven people were killed and 22 others wounded in an air strike on a school sheltering internally displaced persons in northern Gaza on 26.09.24. The Israeli military claimed that it was targeting Hamas members inside the school who were planning an attack on Israeli troops.

On 26.09.24, gunmen shot dead an employee of an aid organisation in her car in Khan Younis. According to information from the family, the car of the deceased was erroneously identified and she should not have been the target of the attack. This is what the de facto government told the relatives. The humanitarian situation remains precarious for the internally displaced people inside the Gaza Strip. There is a lack of medication and sanitary products. Access to sanitary facilities is not sufficiently guaranteed everywhere. Food supplies are inadequate in large parts of the Gaza Strip.²⁷

07 October 2024

War between Israel and Hamas

One year to the day after Hamas' large-scale attack on Israel and the subsequent onset of war in the Gaza Strip, the Hamas-directed health ministry announced on 07.10.24 that more than 41,600 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip and 96,600 injured. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information from the Israeli military, approx. 17,000 Hamas members have been killed, plus around 1,000 fighters who entered into Israel on 07.10.23. More than 40,300 targets in the Gaza Strip have been hit and some 4,700 tunnels localised.

According to figures released by the Israelis on 07.10.24, more than 728 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 4,576 injured since the attack by Hamas on 07.10.23. In addition, 56 members of the military are reported to have been killed by friendly fire or other accidents. According to Israeli reports, it is probable that 66 living hostages and the bodies of 35 hostages who are presumed to have been killed are still being held by Hamas.

More than 13,200 rockets, missiles and drones are alleged to have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip since 07.10.23. Over the same period, more than 26,000 projectiles have been fired at Israel from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

An analysis of satellite images is said to show that 66 % of buildings in the Gaza Strip have been damaged. The same analysis reveals that one quarter of all buildings have been either completely destroyed or have incurred substantial damage. The UN estimates that 90 % of the population have had to flee the hostilities at least once. The civilian infrastructure has collapsed. It is estimated that around 70 % of water and sanitary installations have been destroyed. The destroyed sewage and refuse infrastructure is leading to increasing contamination of the inhabitable areas and the spread of diseases while the war continues.²⁸

Israel: Attacks and rocket fire cause deaths and injuries

Seven people were killed and 16 injured in attacks in Jaffa on 01.10.24. Two Palestinians from Hebron in the West Bank entered Israel illegally, opened fire and attacked people with a knife after getting off a tram in Jaffa. Armed civilians and a security officer stopped the attackers, one of whom was killed.

A border policewoman was killed in an attack on a fast food restaurant at a bus stop in the city of Beersheba on 06.10.24. The attacker was an Israeli national from the Bedouin village of Ugbi. Ten people were injured. Rockets from Lebanon injured five people in Haifa on 06.10.24. In addition, one person was injured by rocket fire on the Sea of Galilee.²⁹

14 October 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information from the Hamas-run health ministry, more than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information released by the Israeli military on 10.10.24, a total of 352 members of the Israeli military have been killed since the beginning of the ground offensive.

Meanwhile, the war continues. Most recently, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for territories in the south and north of the Gaza Strip. An air strike on a school in Deir al-Balah on 10.10.24 killed 28 and injured 54 people who were reportedly using the premises as an emergency shelter.

According to information from the UN, humanitarian aid is at its lowest level for months. In particular, it reports that the border crossings in the north of the Gaza Strip have been closed since 01.10.24, leaving the 400,000 people who have remained there increasingly cut off from aid. The Israelis claim that the crossings remain open and operational, however. Food prices and the price of gas for cooking have risen sharply over the course of the year. According to the WFP, only canned food and flour are currently available on the market. Fruit, vegetables, eggs and dairy products are scarce or totally unavailable.³⁰

21 October 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 15.10.24, at least 42,344 Palestinians have been killed and 99,013 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information released by the Israeli military on 15.10.24, a total of 353 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,345 injured since the series of ground offensives began.

Meanwhile, the war continues. The Israeli military has announced that it killed the leader of Hamas and the suspected mastermind behind the large-scale attack on Israel on 07.10.23, Yahya Sinwar, on 16.10.24.

According to information from the Hamas-run health ministry, at least 28 people, including a number of children, were killed in an air strike on a school in northern Gaza which was serving as a shelter on 17.10.24. The Israeli military has stated that the attack was aimed at members of Hamas and the so-called Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), which they claim were operating from the school.

According to information from the UN, 84 % of the Gaza Strip was affected by evacuation orders on 15.10.24. The north of the Gaza Strip is particularly severely affected by a lack of relief supplies. All three hospitals in the north are running at extremely low capacity, due to a shortage of fuel, banked blood, medical materials and medicines for non-contagious diseases and on account of the continuing fighting in the region. No humanitarian food supplies have been able to reach the north since 02.10.24, as the border crossings there have remained closed.

The situation is escalating once again in the centre and south as well. 70 % of the population reportedly failed to receive their monthly food rations in September 2024. The complex security situation, fighting, looting, restricted access to certain areas and interruptions in the flow of supplies are reportedly still making it difficult to provision those in need. An analysis of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicates that some 133,000 people are currently experiencing the highest phase of food insecurity, denoting a "humanitarian catastrophe". This at least represents a fall compared to the 343,000 people who fell into this category in June 2024. In view of the decline in food aid, the IPC expects a renewed rise in the coming months, however.

In central Gaza, the second polio vaccination campaign has begun. The aim here is to vaccinate more than 92,000 children during temporary local pauses in the fighting which have been agreed with the Israeli military.³¹

West Bank: Armed clashes

The increase in tension and violent clashes continues in the West Bank. 728 Palestinians have reportedly been killed since 07.10.23, for the most part members of armed groups. Two people have been killed in clashes with Israeli settlers. UN OCHA recorded a total of 32 attacks on Palestinian people and their property between 01.10. and 18.10.24. 23 Israeli nationals, including 16 members of the military, are reported to have been killed over the same period.³²

Israel: Several killed in drone attack on military base

Four members of the military were killed and seven seriously injured when Hezbollah launched a drone attack on a military base in central Israel from Lebanon on 13.10.24. According to information released by the UN on 17.10.24, 16 Israelis have been killed since 07.10.23 in attacks by armed Palestinians from the West Bank.³³

28 October 2024**Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation**

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 22.10.24, at least 42,718 Palestinians have been killed and 100,282 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information released by the Israeli military on 22.10.24, a total of 356 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,362 injured since the series of ground offensives began.

Meanwhile, the war continues. Since 06.10.24 the Israeli military has been conducting a renewed ground offensive in the north of the Gaza Strip. It has become practically impossible to provide any humanitarian relief supplies. According to information from UN OCHA, most recently it has only been possible to coordinate 6 % of relief operations with the Israeli authorities and deliver the corresponding relief supplies. As a result, there is an acute lack of medical equipment for the three remaining hospitals which are still partially operational and a severe shortage of food deliveries for the remaining population. The planned second polio vaccination campaign for the north of the Gaza Strip, which was supposed to be made possible by local ceasefires, was deferred by the WHO on 23.10.24 on account of the confused security situation.

According to the local, Hamas-run health authorities 17 people, for the most part women and children, were killed on 24.10.24 in an air strike on a school which was being used as a shelter for Palestinians who had fled their homes. The Israeli military claims that Hamas fighters were on the hospital premises.³⁴

Israel: Several killed in suspected attack

One person was killed and 32 injured in a suspected attack close to a military base in the Israeli heartland on 27.10.24.

A truck driver reportedly drove his truck into a group of people at a bus stop near the city of Herzliya, to the north of Tel Aviv. The driver is said to have been an Israeli Arab from Qalansawe. His brother dismisses any possibility that the incident could have been a deliberate attack.³⁵

04 November 2024**Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation**

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 29.10.24, at least 43,061 Palestinians have been killed and 101,223 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information released by the Israeli military on 29.10.24, a total of 365 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,373 injured since the ground offensives began.

Against the backdrop of the ground offensive which is underway in the north of the Gaza Strip, it is reportedly almost impossible to bring relief supplies into the area. The Jabaliyya refugee camp is particularly severely affected. According to information from UN OCHA, seven incidents involving a high number of casualties occurred between 22.10. and 29.10.24, four of which took place in the north of the Gaza Strip.

88 people were killed in two Israeli air strikes on targets in Beit Lahiya, according to the local health ministry. More than 71,000 people are said to have fled the north of Gaza over the past three weeks, while some 100,000 people still remain there. By their own account, three hospitals in north Gaza can no longer attend to the large number of injured people. All three hospitals have been occupied and searched by the Israeli military in the past, because it was suspected that Hamas locations were located in or under the buildings.³⁶

UNRWA: Israel passes laws to constrain the relief agency

On 28.10.24 the Israeli parliament passed two laws relating to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). One law prohibits the agency from carrying out any activities and from providing services on Israeli territory, including East Jerusalem, where the UNRWA headquarters are located. This law is to enter into force in three months. The second law prohibits official relations with the agency or its employees. Such relations were officially terminated on 04.11.24. As Israeli authorities and the military control access to both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, international monitors expect the legislation to have far-reaching consequences for UNRWA's ability to operate.

The Israeli government alleges that thousands of UNRWA's employees took part in the attacks of 07.10.23 and hundreds have links to militant organisations. It also claims that Hamas locations have been found under UNRWA facilities or in their direct vicinity. The agency has dismissed nine employees who have been named by Israel as having taken part in atrocities on 07.10.23.

UNRWA is considered to be the largest active aid organisation in the Gaza Strip. Israel's foreign minister Katz questions this, however, stating that only 13 % of aid deliveries are currently carried out by UNRWA.³⁷

18 November 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 12.11.24, at least 43,665 Palestinians have been killed and 103,076 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information released by the Israeli military on 12.11.24, a total of 373 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,425 injured since the ground offensives began.

Meanwhile, the war continues. In the north of the Gaza Strip in particular, where a ground offensive which has been ongoing since 06.10.24 has turned into fighting between Hamas fighters and the Israeli military, between 100,000 and 130,000 people have fled their homes as a result of the hostilities and renewed evacuation orders from the Israelis, according to UN estimates. Very little humanitarian aid has entered the north of Gaza since the beginning of the ground offensive. The IPC, a body which monitors food security, has warned once again that famine is imminent or already prevalent in parts of northern Gaza and that aid supplies are inadequate throughout the entire Gaza Strip.

According to the competent Israeli authority (COGAT) a daily average of 57 trucks loaded with food and other goods was able to enter the Gaza Strip in October 2024, while the corresponding figure for the first week of November rose to an average of 81. However, the UN has published figures according to which a daily average of only 37 trucks has been able to enter the Gaza Strip since the beginning of October 2024. The US government most recently demanded that a daily total of at least 350 trucks entering the Gaza Strip must be ensured. Figures released by UNRWA and COGAT alike show, however, that the quantity of aid supplies entering the Gaza Strip in October 2024 was at the lowest level for months. The Israeli government most recently opened an additional border crossing for aid supplies in central Gaza.

According to reports in the media, at least eleven people were killed in an air strike on a makeshift café in the humanitarian zone designated by the Israeli military in Al-Mawasi.³⁸

Numerous buildings demolished

According to reports in the media, a total of 30 Palestinian-owned houses were demolished between 05.11. and 13.11.24 because they lacked the building permits required under Israeli law. Nine buildings, including a community centre, were demolished in the East Jerusalem district of Al-Bustan and 19 dwellings were reportedly demolished in the West Bank.

In the Negev desert, the mosque was demolished in the Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran, completing the clearance of the village by the Israeli authorities. The villagers had previously destroyed their homes themselves, to avoid having to pay charges for demolition by the Israeli government. This is the fifth Bedouin village to be destroyed this year. Those who have lost their homes accuse the Israeli government of planning to make way for Jewish settlements.³⁹

25 November 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 22.11.24, at least 44,056 Palestinians have been killed and 104,268 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began on 07.10.23. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information released by the Israeli military on 19.11.24, a total of 376 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,440 injured since the ground offensives began.

Meanwhile, the war continues. According to reports in the media, around 66 people were killed and 100 injured in an air strike on targets in a residential district in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza, on 21.11.24. The Israeli military has stated that it had attacked Hamas targets and had warned the population beforehand.

It is reported that hardly any relief supplies have reached the north of the Gaza Strip since the beginning of a renewed ground offensive on 06.10.24, with particularly serious consequences for the population.

The UN reports that organised looting of relief supplies along the roads running from Kerem Shalom border crossing to the south of the Gaza Strip has recently increased markedly. On 16.11.24, for example, an aid convoy of 109 trucks was stopped by armed actors and the escorts were forced to unload the majority of the relief supplies. The head of the UN's refugee organisation for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, suspects that local gangs and family clans are behind the looting. Food prices subsequently soared once again. The price of a 25 kg bag of flour stood at the equivalent of EUR 140 to 190, for example, compared to EUR 7.50 to 9.50 before the incident in some areas.⁴⁰

West Bank: Continuing tensions and armed clashes

The Israeli military carried out a number of air strikes on targets in Kafr Dan, near Jenin, on 20.11.24. Shortly afterwards, armed clashes occurred in the town between the military and armed Palestinians. In all, three people were reportedly killed in the fighting. So-called Palestinian Islamic Jihad later confirmed that the dead were members of the armed group.

A total of nine people were reportedly killed in a two-day military operation in Jenin itself on 20.11. and 21.11.24. According to the Israeli military, those killed were members of armed groups. Also in the course of the operation, wanted persons were reportedly arrested, weapons were seized and four explosives laboratories were uncovered. In all, 750 Palestinians are said to have been killed in the West Bank since October 2023. A large proportion of these were killed by members of armed groups.

In certain areas of the West Bank, pupils are not attending school due to the continuing restricted access. In the H2 area of Hebron, some 13,065 pupils were reportedly affected between October 2023 and May 2024. Since the so-called Hebron Protocol took effect in 1997, Hebron has been divided into one area under Palestinian security control (H1) and another area under Israeli security control (H2). Both areas come under the civil administration of the Palestinian National Authority, however.

Since 01.10.24 the UN has recorded a total of 225 violent incidents involving Israeli settlers in the West Bank during the olive harvest, which is an important event for the Palestinian population. In eleven incidents, Palestinians were reportedly injured by violent settlers, while 55 incidents concerned injuries caused by Israeli troops.⁴¹

02 December 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 27.11.24, at least 44,249 Palestinians have been killed and 104,764 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began on 07.10.23. The ministry does not officially

differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information released by the Israeli military on 27.11.24, a total of 378 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,456 injured since the ground offensives began. Meanwhile, the war continues.

Five people died, including an employee of the NGO World Central Kitchen, in an Israeli air strike on a car in the Gaza Strip on 30.11.24. According to information from the Israeli side, the target was one of the employees, who was allegedly actively involved in the massacre at the Nir Oz kibbutz on 07.10.23.

On 30.11.24 Hamas released a propaganda video showing Edan Alexander, who was last seen alive in November 2023. As he mentioned events from November 2024 in the video, it is assumed that he is currently still alive.

On 01.12.24 UNRWA announced that no further relief supplies would be delivered via the Israeli border crossing at Kerem Shalom for the time being, explaining that this move results from the collapse of order in Gaza. Attacks and looting have occurred on numerous occasions. UNRWA is blaming this state of affairs on Israel. According to information from the Israeli side, UNRWA's deliveries account for around 10 % of the total humanitarian aid for Gaza.⁴²

09 December 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 03.12.24, at least 44,502 Palestinians have been killed and 105,454 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began on 07.10.23. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. According to information released by the Israeli military on 03.12.24, a total of 380 members of the Israeli military have been killed and 2,463 injured since the ground offensives began. Meanwhile, the war continues. Air strikes and hostilities occur on a daily basis.

On 06.12.24 Hamas released a video message from hostage Matan Zangauker which shows him to be alive.

As the prospects of a new hostage deal gather pace, it emerged on 07.12.24 that Hamas appears to be calling on other Palestinian armed groups in Gaza to report to them on any hostages whom they are holding.⁴³

16 December 2024

Gaza Strip: Northern Gaza under siege; rising cost of basic foods

A large part of the north of the Gaza Strip remains effectively under siege. It is estimated that approx. 65,000 to 75,000 people are still located in this region.

Extremely high prices for basic foods, in particular flour, are reported from some parts of the Gaza Strip. Of the 19 bakeries which are normally provided with supplies by the UN, only four are currently working, and these are all located in Gaza City.⁴⁴

West Bank: Current developments

Since 05.12.24, the security forces of the Palestinian National Authority have been carrying out coordinated operations against armed Palestinian militias in the north of the West Bank, above all in Jenin. In the course of these operations, a 19-year-old Palestinian man was killed on 09.12.24.

On 11.12.24 a twelve-year-old Israeli boy was killed in an attack on a bus. The suspected attacker gave himself up to the authorities on 12.12.24.

It was confirmed on 14.12.24 that the Palestinian security forces had killed Yazid Ja'ayseh, a high-ranking commander of the local Jenin Brigades.⁴⁵

23 December 2024

Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation

According to information released by the Hamas-run health ministry on 17.12.24, at least 45,059 Palestinians have been killed and 107,041 injured in the Gaza Strip since the war began on 07.10.23. The ministry does not officially differentiate between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information released by the Israeli military on 19.11.24, a total of 386 members of the military have been killed and

2,488 injured since the ground offensives began. It is estimated that around 100 Israeli hostages, dead or alive, are still being held in the Gaza Strip.

As the war continues, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating still further and aid organisations find themselves unable to meet the prevailing needs adequately. The most recent analyses of satellite images indicate that the destruction of the infrastructure is continuing. UNOSAT, the satellite monitoring programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, reported on 13.12.24, for example, that approx. 69 % of the buildings in the Gaza Strip have been damaged or destroyed. It further noted that the level of destruction had most recently increased in North Gaza and Rafah in particular. The Education Cluster has also published analysis results, according to which almost 88 % of school buildings in the Gaza Strip have been either directly or indirectly hit or damaged and are in need of repair.⁴⁶

West Bank: Continuing tensions and armed clashes

In an attempt to take control of the city of Jenin, parts of which are controlled by armed groups, the Palestinian security forces launched a raid on the city on 14.12.24. Armed clashes ensued between the security forces and militias, and were still ongoing on the morning of 23.12.24. One member of the security forces reportedly died in the fighting. No Israeli troops were involved.⁴⁷

Israel: Missiles from Yemen hit greater Tel Aviv region

On the night of 20.12.24, a missile fired from Yemen hit an area of Tel Aviv, injuring 16 people. According to information from the Israeli side, more than 200 missiles have been fired at Israel in the past 14 months. Only a few days before, a missile from Yemen hit a school building in central Israel.⁴⁸

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