



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Palestinian Autonomous Territories / Israel – January to June 2025

30 June 2025

13 January 2025

Gaza Strip: latest developments; humanitarian situation

According to a statement issued by the Hamas-led Ministry of Health on 08.01.25, at least 45,936 Palestinians have been killed and 109,274 others wounded in the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023. The ministry does not officially distinguish between combatants and civilians. The figures cannot be independently verified. According to information provided by the Israeli military on 29.10.24, a total of 393 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 2,535 others wounded since the ground offensives were launched.

Following the rescue of two hostages, 98 Israelis are still missing in Gaza.

The fighting is currently concentrated in northern Gaza, which has been under intense siege since the beginning of October 2024. The three main hospitals in the area, the Indonesian Hospital, the Kamal Adwan Hospital and the Al-Awda Hospital, were stormed by Israeli forces on 24.12.24, 27.12.24 and 03.01.25, respectively. Israel points to the presence of some high-ranking Hamas members and weapons in all three facilities, which they claim has deprived them of their protection under the First Geneva Convention (Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field). In all cases, suspects were arrested and non-suspect patients and medical staff were evacuated.

According to reports, access to northern Gaza for humanitarian aid has been difficult to impossible since October 2024. It is therefore unclear how many civilians remain in the area. There is no reliable data available on the supply situation either, and there is great uncertainty regarding the distribution of existing supplies owing to difficulties arising both at the border crossings and during distribution in Gaza.¹

20 January 2025

Gaza Strip: ceasefire between Hamas and Israel; exchange of hostages and prisoners

After more than 16 months of war in the Gaza Strip, a ceasefire between Hamas and the Israeli military came into effect on 19.01.25 after a delay of a few hours.

The first of three planned phases will provide for a cessation of hostilities in the first six weeks, an increase in humanitarian imports into the Gaza Strip and the exchange of 33 of the 98 hostages still being held in the Gaza Strip. In return, around 1,900 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons are to be released.

Initially, the hostage release is to involve only women, children, men over 50 and the sick and wounded. On 19.01.25, the first hostages, three women aged between 24 and 31, were handed over to the International Red Cross. A few hours later, buses carrying 90 released Palestinian prisoners, consisting of 69 women and 21 young men, arrived in the West Bank. Among those released were also people who had been held in custody in Israel on

terrorism charges ranging from throwing stones through to attempted murder. Some of them were held in administrative detention without charge. At the same time, the plan is for more than 600 truckloads of humanitarian aid to be imported into the Gaza Strip every day and for the Israeli military to withdraw to the east.

As part of the second six-week phase, Israeli troops would leave the Gaza Strip completely and the remaining live hostages would be exchanged for more Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. Talks on the specific circumstances are to begin soon.

According to UN estimates based on satellite footage, the widespread destruction in the Gaza Strip includes around two thirds of all buildings, including key infrastructure such as hospitals, roads, water and electricity facilities. Due to the amount of rubble, unexploded ordnance and limited resources and space in the narrow coastal strip, the removal of debris could take years; reconstruction could take decades or centuries, depending on the circumstances. At the same time, it remains unclear who is to control and administer the Gaza Strip in the future. Shortly after the ceasefire began, members of Hamas appeared demonstratively in the streets of Gaza in uniform, with weapons and vehicles. Hamas banners were also on display to welcome the released prisoners in the West Bank.

The Hamas-led Ministry of Health reports that more than 46,000 Palestinians have been killed in the course of the war. The Israeli military claimed to have eliminated 17,000 fighters. In addition, at least 840 Israeli military personnel have been killed since 07.10.23.²

27 January 2025

Gaza Strip: fragile ceasefire

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, which came into force on 19.01.25 (cf. BN of 20.01.25), is still in place.

Due to the cessation of fighting, Hamas fighters have left their hiding places and shelters and have been able to move around the Gaza Strip in a clearly recognisable manner. In this context, the media reported that the group is still in control of the coastal strip. Removing Hamas from this position of power was one of the stated war aims of the Israeli leadership.

On 25.01.25, Hamas handed over four more hostages to the International Red Cross. In return, the Israeli authorities released 200 Palestinian prisoners from their jails. Dozens of them were serving life sentences for murder and attacks on Israelis. Around 70 of the released prisoners are no longer allowed to enter the West Bank and are instead to be deported to the Gaza Strip or various third countries, including Egypt. The Israeli authorities accused Hamas of breaking the ceasefire agreement, as a kidnapped civilian was supposed to have been among the four Israeli hostages released. Four Israeli military scouts who had been abducted on 07.10.23 were released. The Israeli leadership announced that the agreed troop withdrawal would be halted and the return of internally displaced Palestinians to the north would be prevented until the group had arranged the release of the civilian. However, according to Qatari representatives, an agreement was reached on the evening of 26.01.25. The civilian in question was to be released within six days, in return for which the Israeli military would allow Palestinian internally displaced persons to return to the north from the morning of 27.01.25.

Those internally displaced persons who had already been able to return to their home regions found large parts of their neighbourhoods destroyed. This made it difficult or impossible for many Palestinians to return, as various media reported.

The number of humanitarian aid deliveries has increased significantly since the start of the ceasefire. While significantly fewer lorries have entered the Gaza Strip every day in the last 15 months than prior to October 2023, this number has now risen again to more than 600 lorry deliveries per day. On the second day of the ceasefire alone, 915 aid deliveries were made.³

West Bank: military operation in Jenin and attacks by settlers

The Israeli military launched a large-scale military operation in Jenin on 20.01.25 under the code name "Iron Wall". The Palestinian Ministry of Health initially stated that 10 people had been killed and around 40 others injured. On 23.01.25, the UN spoke of 12 dead and at least 50 injured. Between 01.01.25 and 23.01.25, the UN recorded a total of 34 Palestinians in the entire West Bank who were allegedly killed by Israeli troops, including six minors. The aim of the military campaign was reportedly to combat armed groups and individuals in the city and especially in the

Jenin refugee camp, which is considered to be a stronghold of armed groups. Dozens of people are said to have been arrested. As part of the military campaign, Israeli military checkpoints are said to have impeded and delayed access to hospitals.

One soldier was killed and another wounded by explosives planted on the side of the road on 20.01.25.

Dozens of members of the Israeli settler movement in the West Bank attacked several Palestinian villages north of Jerusalem on 20.01.25 and set fire to vehicles and buildings. A total of 17 Palestinians are reported to have been wounded. Two Israelis were wounded when Israeli security forces intervened against the riots.⁴

Israel: several injured after attacks in Tel Aviv

Four people were injured in a stabbing attack that occurred on 21.01.25 in a Tel Aviv neighbourhood popular for its restaurants and nightlife. According to media reports, the assailant was a Moroccan national who had a permanent US residence permit (green card). The Israeli Interior Minister demanded an explanation as to why he was able to enter Israel on a tourist visa.

Three days earlier, in a separate stabbing attack, a person was seriously injured by a perpetrator from the West Bank who is believed to have been in Israel illegally. In both cases, the perpetrators were stopped and shot dead by security forces with the help of civilians standing nearby.⁵

03 February 2025

Developments in the West Bank

The Israeli "Iron Wall" operation targeting various armed groups in Jenin and other locations in the West Bank is ongoing. According to a statement issued by the spokesperson for the Israeli armed forces on 02.02.25, thirty-five militants have been killed in battles, 15 have been killed in airstrikes since mid-January, and over 100 wanted individuals have been arrested. In addition, several buildings were blown up which, according to Israel, were being used for terrorist activities. According to UNRWA, around 20,000 residents of Jenin have been internally displaced. Both Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad report ongoing fighting against the Israeli army. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, at least 25 people have been killed since the operation was launched, at least nine of whom were members of militant groups. At the same time, there are reports of multiple attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian facilities in the West Bank, including most recently the burning of a mosque northwest of Jericho on 02.02.25.⁶

Developments in Gaza

The ceasefire continues to hold. Further hostages were released on 30.01.25 and 01.02.25, including the two German nationals Arbel Yehoud and Gadi Mozes. In exchange, several hundred Palestinian prisoners, some of whom are high-ranking members of terrorist organisations sentenced to multiple life sentences, were released from Israeli prisons. However, a total of 72 prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment were not released to the Palestinian territories, but to Egypt for the time being. Türkiye and Qatar have agreed to host the murder convicts on a long-term basis.

After failure to release the civilian Arbel Yehoud as agreed on 25.01.25, Israel initially closed the Netzarim Corridor, which separates northern and southern Gaza, on 27.01.25, blocking the return of other residents to the north, whereupon a large queue of tens of thousands of people formed. After Hamas agreed to the additional exchange on 30.01.25, the corridor was initially reopened. Since then, it is unclear how many residents have returned to northern Gaza, but it is probably a six-figure number. They are encountering difficult humanitarian conditions there, as large parts of the infrastructure have been destroyed. The chaotic scenes at the handover of Yehoud and Mozes and five Thai hostages, who were released without demands for anything in exchange, initially led to the suspension of the release of further Palestinian prisoners until guarantees were given that no further exchanges would take place under comparable conditions. On 01.02.25, the Rafah border crossing to Egypt was reopened for individuals. For the time being, Egyptian and Israeli authorities are allowing the evacuation of sick and injured children and some family members. The release of prisoners continues to be highly controversial in Israel, as many of those convicted are responsible for the deaths of, in some cases, dozens of people. However, 100 people who had been

imprisoned since Hamas carried out the attack on Israel on 07.10.23 and who had not yet been charged or convicted were also released.⁷

10 February 2025

Gaza Strip: exchange of hostages and prisoners; widespread destruction in Gaza

As part of the ceasefire, Hamas granted the release of a total of 16 hostages, including five Thai nationals, on 30.01.25 and 08.02.25. In return, several hundred Palestinian prisoners were released from Israeli prisons. Since the cessation of hostilities on 19.01.25, a total of 21 hostages have been exchanged for 730 Palestinian prisoners.

In the Gaza Strip and on its borders, weapons have been used repeatedly in isolated cases, but the first phase of the ceasefire has basically held so far.

On 01.02.25, the Rafah border crossing was opened for the evacuation of medical patients. Since then, patient transports and the import of humanitarian aid have once again been possible via the border crossing. On 09.02.25, the Israeli military also withdrew from the so-called Netzarim Corridor, which divided the north and south of the Gaza Strip and therefore represents an important crossing point for the civilian population returning to northern Gaza.

In the north of the Gaza Strip, in particular, the infrastructure has been extensively destroyed. Although the need is high, the majority of healthcare facilities have been destroyed, and the medical care available is inadequate. According to the WHO, only half of the 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are currently partially operational and two thirds of the healthcare facilities are closed. However, after months of armed conflict, the need is significantly higher than before and affects an estimated 30,000 people who require longer-term rehabilitation measures due to life-changing injuries, such as amputations. Accordingly, 12,000 of these people reportedly require specialised treatment and would need to be evacuated for this purpose. In addition, there are hardly any clean water and sewage systems, which in turn heightens the risk of infectious diseases, similar to the polio outbreak last year. Remnants of war, but also toxic substances and human remains in ruins of houses, pose further challenges.

Much of the agricultural land and equipment has also been destroyed. Analyses of satellite images from 31.12.24 revealed that around 75 percent of agricultural land and olive groves have been damaged or destroyed. The cattle population shrank by 96 percent, while there are still more than 25,000 sheep (43 percent of the livestock before October 2023) and 3,000 goats (37 percent) alive. The number of humanitarian aid deliveries has increased significantly and is possible via several border crossings. Although difficulties in distribution remain due to the destroyed infrastructure and the misuse of deliveries by middlemen, more supplies are reaching the people in the Gaza Strip than during the active fighting. In addition, the prices of many foodstuffs have started to decline, although they remain significantly higher than pre-October 2023 levels.⁸

East Jerusalem: new laws on UNRWA ban come into force

In October 2024, the Israeli parliament passed two laws banning the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from operating on Israeli territory and prohibiting cooperation between UNRWA and Israeli authorities (cf. BN of 04.11.24). They came into force on 30.01.25.

Due to Israel's extensive security control over Palestinian territories and all land and air borders, including the issuing of visas for international employees, it was expected that UNRWA's work would be significantly more difficult. The Shuafat refugee camp in East Jerusalem is directly affected by the ban on activities due to its location. East Jerusalem was captured by the Israeli military in 1967, later annexed and has since been recognised by Israel as Israeli territory, although a large part of the international community considers the area to be disputed. In Shuafat, which like most large Palestinian refugee camps today resembles a very densely populated neighbourhood rather than temporary emergency accommodation, UNRWA provided the bulk of education and healthcare services as well as public services such as rubbish collection, etc.

So far, however, UNRWA schools and clinics in East Jerusalem have continued to operate as normal. The extent to which UNRWA's performance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be affected remains to be seen, as the new regulations will have a more indirect impact. According to UNRWA, around half of the humanitarian aid deliveries in the Gaza Strip are provided by the UN Refugee Agency.

On 04.02.25, US President Donald Trump announced his intention to continue the suspension of aid payments to

UNRWA which had occurred back in January 2024. The then US government under President Joe Biden, along with numerous other countries, had stopped its payments due to accusations levelled by Israel that UNRWA employees were involved in the attacks of 07.10.24, and it has hitherto been the only country not to resume funding. Previously, the US had been the largest donor to the refugee aid organisation.⁹

West Bank: ongoing military operations in several locations

As part of the ongoing Israeli military offensive in Jenin, several buildings were blown up in the city on 02.02.25. The operation, which targets members of armed Palestinian groups, has been ongoing since 21.01.25 and has since been extended to the villages of Tulkarem, al-Faraa, Tamun and, most recently, Nur Shams. Thousands of residents are said to have fled the fighting. According to UN figures, a total of 39 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the offensive between 21.01.25 and 06.02.25. News media reported on 09.02.25 that a pregnant woman had been shot dead by the Israeli military in Nur Shams and that her husband had been seriously wounded. The military announced that an inquiry would be launched. Another woman is said to have been killed during a house search. According to the Israeli army, everyone was asked to leave the house. The woman refused to do so and was killed when access to the house was gained by force.

Israeli airstrikes using warplanes killed at least 10 people in the village of Tamoun, in the north of the West Bank, on 30.01.25. According to Israeli military sources, the target was an armed cell.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and eight others were wounded, two seriously, when an armed Palestinian assailant opened fire on a checkpoint near the village of Tayasir on 04.02.25. The gunman was also killed in the subsequent exchange of fire.¹⁰

17 February 2025

Gaza Strip: exchange of hostages and prisoners; widespread destruction in Gaza

After Hamas initially threatened to suspend the handover of hostages, three hostages were freed on 15.02.25 in return for the release of 369 Palestinian prisoners. Hamas had accused Israel of breaking the ceasefire agreement, as not enough basic aid supplies, such as tents, had been imported into the Gaza Strip.

On 16.02.25, three people were killed and another person was wounded in Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip, in a combat drone attack. Shortly afterwards, Hamas claimed that the deceased were Hamas police officers securing humanitarian aid deliveries, while the Israeli military reported that the several individuals had approached Israeli troops stationed there. According to the Palestinian news agency Wafa, the injured person was a civilian. Hamas once again accused the Israeli military of behaviour that breached the ceasefire agreement.¹¹

West Bank: ongoing military operations in several localities

As part of the ongoing military offensive in the north of the West Bank (cf. BN of 10.02.25), more than 40,000 Palestinians have been internally displaced or have fled from the fighting in areas in Jenin, Tulkarem and Tubas. By 13.02.25, a total of 44 Palestinians had been killed. Most, but not all, were armed individuals and militia members. According to UN figures, a total of 49 Palestinian-owned buildings/structures in the West Bank were demolished between 04.02.25 and 10.02.25 for lacking the required Israeli-issued building permits. Seventy-six people were affected, including 37 children. Eleven of the structures had been funded by donations and had been provided as part of humanitarian aid.¹²

03 March 2025

Gaza Strip: first phase of ceasefire ends; humanitarian imports to the Gaza Strip halted

The first phase of the ceasefire concluded between Israel and Hamas in January 2025 ended on 01.03.25 (cf. BN of 20.01.25). However, the negotiations on the conditions and circumstances of the second phase of the ceasefire have not yet been finalised, meaning that the next steps remain unclear for the time being.

The US government proposed extending the first phase by seven weeks, which the Israeli government agreed to. Hamas rejected the proposal and adhered to the agreement, which provides for the transition to phase two. In the second phase, the war was to end permanently and all remaining Israeli troops were to be withdrawn from the

Gaza Strip. In addition, further Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners were to be released as agreed in prisoner exchange deals. The new US-Israeli proposal would see the release of half of the remaining hostages, both alive and dead, as part of the extension of the ceasefire at the beginning of the seven-week period.

So far, 25 living and eight dead hostages have been handed over to Israel as part of the ceasefire agreement. In return, more than 1,500 Palestinian prisoners have been released. According to the Israeli government, 25 hostages and the mortal remains of 30 hostages who were killed are still in the Gaza Strip. Although the war has not yet been resumed by either side, both are preparing to continue fighting if further negotiations fail.

Just a few hours after the new proposal was published, the Israeli government announced on 02.02.25 that it was suspending all humanitarian aid (with the exception of water) to the Gaza Strip. The media reported that this was intended to step up pressure on Hamas to agree to the ceasefire extension. The suspension of humanitarian aid is likely once again to have a negative impact on the humanitarian and supply situation in the Gaza Strip after a significant improvement due to increased imports following the conclusion of the ceasefire agreement.

The winter conditions pose major challenges for the population. According to the health authorities, six newborns have died due to the freezing weather conditions in Khan Younis and Gaza City.¹³

West Bank: military operations continue in several localities

Israel continues to carry out military operations in several villages in the north of the West Bank. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), a total of 55 Palestinians, most of them armed, and three Israeli soldiers have been killed since the offensive was launched on 21.01.25. Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers have also led to the wounding of 10 Palestinians and caused material damage to Palestinian property.

The military operations are focusing on four refugee camps, which are considered to be centres of armed groups. Almost 40,000 people have fled their homes there. Large parts of the infrastructure, roads and buildings have already been damaged. It is not yet clear when it will be possible to return. On 24.02.25, the Israeli defence minister announced that Israeli troops would remain in the refugee camps for the coming year and would initially prevent the return of residents. The majority of the population in the camps only have a low income and are now facing considerable challenges in securing their livelihoods.¹⁴

17 March 2025

Israeli electricity supply to Gaza suspended

In a statement issued on 09.03.2025, the Israeli Energy Minister announced that he had cut off the power supply to the Gaza Strip with immediate effect. He justified the move by saying that he wanted to exert pressure on Hamas to release the remaining hostages so that it would no longer be able to govern the coastal strip once the war was over.

According to media reports, the actual impact will be limited, as the power supply for most people in the area was already severely limited. According to a study conducted in 2023, more than 50 percent of the electricity supply in the Gaza Strip was provided by various, mostly private sources such as diesel generators or solar panels before the outbreak of the war. However, due to the halt in imports of humanitarian supplies, the availability of fuel for the generators is now also in jeopardy. The move by the Israeli Ministry of Energy has brought the operation of a sewage treatment plant and a desalination plant for the production of drinking water, previously powered by Israeli electricity, to a standstill.

A spokesperson for the Hamas politburo described the Israeli measure as a "waste of time" against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations to end the war.¹⁵

Fifty-nine Israeli hostages remain in captivity

Out of the total of 251 people abducted from Israel on 07.10.23 and taken to Gaza, media reports indicate that just over 130 have since returned alive under agreements that included the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

The Israeli government assumes that 59 people are still being held captive in Gaza. Only 24 of them are believed to be still alive.

According to Israeli reports, seven people were executed by their captors when Israeli military personnel approached them. Four other hostages are said to have lost their lives as a result of Israeli airstrikes. Three hostages are said to have been accidentally killed by Israeli fire because they had been mistaken for armed Palestinians. In one case, a person is said to have died in crossfire. The circumstances of death are still unknown in 26 other cases. The Israeli military is also said to have retrieved around 40 bodies, some of them of people killed on 07.10.25 and then taken lifeless to Gaza. Eight bodies were handed over by Hamas in February 2025.

According to media reports, more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners have now been released as part of an agreement reached with Hamas to free Israeli hostages. The majority of them are said to have been held in administrative detention without charge or imprisoned by Israeli security authorities for minor offences. Large sections of Palestinian society also regard this group as hostages in the broader sense of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Among those released, however, are reportedly over 200 violent offenders who have been imprisoned for murder, involvement in attacks or other crimes, such as Ashraf Zughayer, who was released on 25.01.25. Zughayer is said to have orchestrated a suicide bombing in which six people were killed outside the main synagogue in Tel Aviv in September 2002. He confessed to the offence and is now 46 years old. After his release, he was greeted by a cheering crowd in East Jerusalem.¹⁶

24 March 2025

Public annexation plans / violence in the West Bank

On 21.03.25, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz made his first public statement indicating that the annexation of territories in the Gaza Strip would be seen as an option unless the remaining 59 Israeli hostages are released. The statement read: "The longer Hamas refuses to release the hostages, the more territory it will lose, which will then be annexed by Israel." This was the first time such a demand had been made by a key cabinet member, who is also considered to be a close ally of the prime minister.

On 23.03.25, the Security Cabinet also approved the establishment of 13 further settlements in the West Bank as independent municipalities, which represents an interim step towards their final legalisation. The move has been sharply criticised by the international community and by the Palestinian Authority.

The violence between members of the settler movement and Palestinian communities continues; the same applies to the Israeli army's counter-terrorism operations. Between 11.03.25 and 17.03.25, UN OCHA documented five deaths among Palestinians and one death of an Israeli settler in a total of more than 30 security-related incidents, ranging from physical attacks and arson to attacks on Israeli military personnel. It documented that in the vast majority of cases, the violence was clearly perpetrated by Israeli settlers.¹⁷

Situation in Gaza

On 18.03.25, fighting in Gaza resumed on the part of the Israeli armed forces. Hamas and Israel are accusing each other of violating the ceasefire agreement, according to which, among other things, indirect negotiations on an end to the war should already have begun, and half of the remaining hostages should have been released at the beginning of the second phase of the ceasefire. The Israeli military's strikes are currently visibly aimed at weakening Hamas' ability to rule in the Gaza Strip. Several high-ranking members of the Hamas administration are said to have been killed, including the head of the Gaza administration, Issam al-Da'alis. On 20.03.25, Hamas again responded by launching untargeted rocket attacks on Israel, which were, however, intercepted by the Israeli military.

According to the Hamas-run Ministry of Health in Gaza, the number of Gaza residents killed since 07.10.23 has now surpassed 50,000. The Ministry of Health does not differentiate between civilians and fighters killed.¹⁸

31 March 2025

Protests against Hamas in Gaza

In a rare sign of resistance within the Gaza Strip, hundreds of Palestinians protested against the continuation of the

war from 25.03.25 to 27.03.25. Some participants are also said to have chanted slogans against Hamas.

The demonstrations took place in various locations, including Gaza City, Nuseirat and Deir al-Balah. As things stand, there was no bloody suppression of the protests, unlike Hamas's crackdown in the past. This is presumably due to a decline in societal support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip and its own reduced ability to mobilise because of the threat of Israeli airstrikes. According to reports, coverage of the protests was at least partially obstructed by Hamas police forces. The family of one demonstration participant also stated that he had been kidnapped and tortured to death by Hamas because of his participation. Hamas is said to have previously issued threats against the demonstrators.

Hamas and its affiliated media tried to portray the protests as anti-Israel. In an article published on 28.03.25, one of the largest Arab (national) daily newspapers quoted sources within Hamas who reported that several people accused by Hamas of spying for Israel had been executed by the group. However, the exact number remained unknown.¹⁹

Gaza Strip: fighting continues

Since 18.03.25, renewed mutual attacks between the Israeli military and Hamas and the associated civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip have been documented. According to various reports, the Israeli army issued evacuation orders for various parts of the Gaza Strip, which together covered around 15 percent of the entire area on 23.03.25. Numerous Palestinians who had only just returned there were once again forced to flee within the coastal strip. According to media reports, the Israeli authorities have prevented humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip since 02.03.25. The supply of essential medical goods, such as anaesthetics, and food is therefore in danger of being exhausted. The UN announced back on 30.01.25 that bakeries in the Gaza Strip would have to cease operations within a week. Market prices for food have skyrocketed. Two kg of onions reportedly cost up to USD 14, and one kg of tomatoes costs around USD 6.

After an international UN employee was killed and six other employees were wounded in the bombing of a UN building on 19.03.25, the UN announced that it intended to reduce its presence in the area by around a third of its international staff. However, it said local employees would continue to work as normal.

On 24.03.25, the Palestinian Ministry of Health also published another list with the identifiable names of those killed as a result of the war, comprising 50,251 names. Of these, around 30 percent are minors, and around 45 percent are men of military age. Adult women make up around 16 percent of the casualties, and a similar number are senior citizens of both sexes.²⁰

West Bank: ongoing military operations

Israeli military operations in the north of the West Bank are continuing. The refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarm and Nur Shams, in particular, are said to be at the centre of the fighting. According to media reports, over 32,000 people from these camps have been displaced or have fled the fighting. A total of 40,000 people are reportedly still displaced.

As part of an attack carried out by Israeli settlers on the village of Jinba in the West Bank, 22 Palestinians were arrested. According to the Israeli authorities, they allegedly attacked and slightly injured two shepherds. However, the military later stated that it was a case of violent clashes between Israeli and Palestinian civilians. No Israelis were arrested. The Israeli military repeatedly faces accusations of failing to crack down on settlers in cases of violence or attacks by the latter.²¹

07 April 2025

Gaza Strip: Killing of emergency workers; control of territory; closure of bakeries

In connection with reports of the killing of 15 Palestinian emergency workers, the Israeli military announced that parts of previous statements regarding the events leading to the killings had been incorrect.

The 15 paramedics were travelling on 23.03.25 in a convoy with several emergency vehicles when they were fired on and killed. The Israeli military initially repeated statements by the soldiers involved according to which the vehicles were acting suspiciously and had approached the Israeli military without any lights or sirens, whereupon

they had opened fire. A video that was found on the mobile phone of one of the paramedics, the authenticity of which has been confirmed by an international newspaper, however shows that the convoy of emergency vehicles was clearly recognisable as such before it came under fire.

The Israeli Army currently controls a total of more than 50 % of the territory in the Gaza Strip. According to reports, one focus is on the border areas, in which the military buffer zone has been doubled in recent weeks to roughly 1 km, and residential buildings and civil infrastructure have been destroyed. According to media reports, the Netzarim corridor is also under the control of the Israeli military, and separates the Gaza Strip into a northern and a southern part.

A professor for environmental studies at Ben-Gurion University states that the 3 km-wide buffer zone along the border to Israel, together with the Netzarim corridor, together make up more than 50 % of the entire territory in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, further areas, in particular the southern city of Rafah and areas in Deir al-Balah, are subject to evacuation orders, which are frequently issued in the run-up to major bombardments of targets in these areas. In order to step up the pressure on Hamas, Israel's prime minister Netanyahu announced the establishment of another security corridor in the south of the Gaza Strip which will separate the city of Rafah and neighbouring areas. As a result of the blockade of humanitarian aid deliveries to the Gaza Strip, which has been in place for more than a month, according to media reports, the bakeries supported by the WFP were forced to close down. The Israeli authority COGAT stated that almost 450,000 tonnes of aid deliveries had been taken to the Gaza Strip during the ceasefire, and that some of the UN aid had been redirected to Hamas. According to Israeli information, the volume of humanitarian aid should be sufficient to feed the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip for a while. The UN contradicts this statement, and reports of a critical food shortage.²²

Palestinian minor dead in Israeli custody

According to media reports, a 17-year-old Palestinian died on 23.03.24 in Israel's Megiddo prison. He is said to have been in jail for six months since his arrest, having been accused of throwing stones at members of the military. He had yet to be sentenced.

According to information from Palestinian officials, the Palestinian from the West Bank died shortly after collapsing and incurring a head injury. An Israeli doctor commissioned by the family of the deceased attended the autopsy at an Israeli forensic institute, and stated that malnourishment and hunger had presumably been the main cause of the 17-year-old's death. He is said to have shown signs of serious malnutrition, as well as of an intestinal infection and scabies.

According to information provided by former detainees, Israeli detention conditions have been getting worse since the start of the war. According to them, there had been physical attacks, crowding and disease outbreaks. Added to this, medical treatment was inadequate and hygiene conditions were poor.

The Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben Gvir, announced in the past that the minimum detention conditions would be reduced for Palestinians to a minimum stipulated by law.²³

14 April 2025

Gaza Strip: latest developments

Fighting and Israeli bombing in the Gaza Strip continue unabated. The Israeli military issued further evacuation orders on 11.04.25 for neighbourhoods in Gaza City. Such orders are now said to apply to half of the entire territory of the Gaza Strip.

Together with territories listed as a buffer zone along the border to the Gaza Strip, which has been considerably expanded by the military in the past weeks, roughly two-thirds of the territory of the Gaza Strip is said to belong to "no-go" zones or to be subject to evacuation orders. Humanitarian aid and transportation to these areas must be coordinated with the Israeli military, and according to press reports are only seldom approved and successfully carried out. According to reports of 12.04.25, the City of Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip, was surrounded by the military and separated from Khan Younis and the rest of the Gaza Strip by the establishment of the Morag military corridor. The Israeli Defence Minister announced shortly thereafter that Rafah was now part of an Israeli

security zone, and that the population had to leave the areas affected. A similar security zone is also to be established in Gaza City in the north.

On 12.04.25, three rockets from Khan Younis were fired on Israel, and on 13.04.25 one more from Nuseirat. The projectiles were intercepted by missile defence systems. An Israeli military spokesperson warned the population shortly thereafter against remaining in the villages, and once more called on them to evacuate, since locations from which rockets were launched on Israel would be attacked with full force.

In an attack on the al-Ahli hospital, reported to be one of the most important clinics remaining in the north of the Gaza Strip, on 13.04.25 large parts of the facility were destroyed according to WHO reports. According to information from Israeli authorities, the attack had targeted a Hamas command centre meeting being held in the hospital. According to that report, the Israeli attack caused virtually no damage to areas relevant to hospital operations in the clinic. Warnings had been issued beforehand in order to avoid civilian victims. Although it had not been possible to evacuate all the patients, the bombings had not caused any civilian victims. One child however died of a head injury that it was not possible to treat due to the evacuations.

The healthcare system is reported to be overtaxed in the face of the rising numbers of wounded and the reduction in medical facilities. Many medicines, including for cancer treatment, are said to be unavailable. Several days prior to the attack on the al-Ahli hospital, the CT scanner there, the only one in the north of the Gaza Strip, is said to have broken down, presumably due to overuse.²⁴

28 April 2025

Gaza Strip: humanitarian situation after 60-day blockade

Fighting and bombardments continue in the Gaza Strip. According to information from the Hamas-run health ministry of 27.04.25, a total of 52,243 persons are said to have been killed in the Gaza Strip since October 2023. Israel claims to have killed roughly 20,000 fighters. None of the figures can be independently verified.

Imports of humanitarian and commercial goods to the Gaza Strip, including fuel, food, medicines and medical equipment, have been blocked by Israeli authorities for 60 days. The UN presumes that the Gaza Strip is faced by the worst humanitarian crisis of the 18 months that have passed since the start of the war in October 2023. Doctors are warning of a marked increase in malnutrition among children. According to WFP figures, food prices have gone up by 700 % in comparison to before the war, and are virtually unaffordable for many. According to a report, tomatoes for instance cost roughly 50 NIS per kilo (roughly 12.14 EUR) in Khan Younis. Large-scale destruction of agricultural infrastructure and land, as well as a lack of equipment and water, mean that capacities for the cultivation of vegetables within the Gaza Strip are highly limited. The WFP, one of the largest aid organisations operating in the Gaza Strip, stated on 25.04.2025 that the community kitchens' food supplies had run out. The kitchens, which were providing food to roughly 80 % of the population of the Gaza Strip, would therefore have to close in the coming days. The extensive destruction and lack of equipment also mean that the medical sector continues to be overwhelmed. According to the Hamas-run health ministry, more than 400 dialysis patients had so far died due to the reduced facilities to treat them.

Hamas furthermore states that the remaining 59 hostages, 24 of whom are presumed to be alive, would only be handed over under the conditions set out under the ceasefire agreement reached in January 2025. This agreement provided for additional Palestinian prisoners to be released, for a permanent ceasefire, and for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip. Leaders in the Israeli government, including defence minister Katz, recently threatened to further step up the attacks in the absence of any progress in releasing the hostages. This could also involve permanently occupying parts of the Gaza Strip.²⁵

West Bank: ongoing military operations, settler attacks, checkpoints

The ongoing military operations in the Jenin, al-Far'a, Nur Shams and Tulkarem refugee camps have triggered the displacement of another roughly 40,000 Palestinians. Official Israeli sources stated that most of the displaced would not be able to return to their homes within the next year. According to media reports, many of the displaced had been housed by families, and others in schools and emergency accommodation which were however needed for school operations and other things. Both the Palestinian Authority, which is badly funded, and UNRWA are

having a hard time providing alternative accommodation. The Israeli military claims to be operating against armed groups in the localities.

At the same time, attacks by Israeli settlers are continuing to increase. 80 new outposts had also been set up by the Israeli settler movement since the beginning of the war in Gaza in October 2023. These are unofficial, unauthorised settlements which are frequently established by extremist activists. Many of these outposts are illegal under Israeli law, but they are frequently tolerated, and it is not unusual for them to be retroactively legalised.

According to information from the UN, checkpoints within the West Bank have increased considerably in number since October 2023, and now total as many as 793. It is said that there is currently almost one checkpoint per kilometre. These considerably restrict freedom of movement, and in some cases cause considerable delays when travelling from one place to another.²⁶

12 May 2025

Gaza Strip: recent developments

The war events in the Gaza Strip still continue. On 07.05.25, for instance, according to information from the Hamas-run authorities, at least 92 persons were killed in Israeli airstrikes. US president Trump stated that only 21 Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip were left alive. Three more hostages had reportedly died.

On 05.05.25, Israel once more increased pressure on the Gaza Strip by calling up tens of thousands of reservists and announcing an intensification of the military operation that had been adopted by cabinet. According to Israeli officials, the announced broadening of the offensive is to start slowly in case agreement is reached in the ceasefire negotiations after all. According to an online media outlet, the operation is to start as soon as Trump returns in the coming week from his journey to the Gulf States, which is planned to last until at least 15.05.25, if no ceasefire has been reached by then.

On 06.05.2025, an Israeli newspaper quoted a senior Hamas official as stating that Hamas was no longer interested in ceasefire negotiations, as Israel's "hunger war" must be ended first. The group nonetheless announced on 11.05.2025 that the last US hostage remaining alive was to be released at an early date in the course of the ceasefire negotiations.

According to media reports, the new plan to broaden the military operation in the Gaza Strip provides for the destruction of built-up structures in most of the Gaza Strip, for the territory to be occupied, and for the Israeli military to remain in the Gaza Strip indefinitely. According to a military spokesperson, first the entire population of the Gaza Strip, some 2 million people, are to be resettled to take them to an area where they are protected against Hamas. According to a government spokesperson, the resettlement was to be to the south of the Gaza Strip. As an alternative, the Israeli government is planning to offer the residents of the Gaza Strip opportunities to resettle in third countries, this being a voluntary matter. Given the massive pressure and the disastrous situation in the Gaza Strip, this estimation has however been the subject of sharp criticism. It is furthermore not clear at present whether any countries would declare a willingness to accept Palestinians.

The humanitarian situation is meanwhile continuing to come to a head. Due to a reduction in food aid, Palestinians have started searching through the aid organisations' warehouses for remnants of meals. There has been a considerable increase in the amount of looting on the part of armed groups. Shortages of medical equipment and medicines continue unabated. One of the largest humanitarian aid organisations, World Central Kitchen, has closed its soup kitchens, which were previously providing 133,000 meals per day, on 08.05.2025, as they no longer had sufficient food. At least one-third of UN-run soup kitchens has also already had to close so far. According to a UNICEF spokesperson, 65-70 % of the water system in the Gaza Strip has been damaged. This leads to water shortages among the population.

In a fresh initiative, the newly-founded Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, made up primarily of security companies, former members of the military and humanitarian aid workers, proposed to take over the distribution of aid in the Gaza Strip. Such action would be similar to what Israel had recently proposed. The Israeli proposal was accused of seeking to weaponise humanitarian aid, as Israel, one of the parties to the conflict, would have control of distribution. The plan to set up four aid distribution centres has however come under criticism, as this would force

the population to resettle near the centres. Four distribution centres would furthermore be insufficient to distribute adequate amounts of aid.

According to media reports, Hamas has executed six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and shot 13 others in the legs for alleged looting. The group announced that there would be further executions as part of a larger-scale scheme. Looting by gangs had increased considerably in recent weeks. Hamas is accusing some of the gangs of collaborating with Israel.²⁷

West Bank: houses demolished

On 05.05.25, Israeli authorities demolished the hamlet of Khalet al-Dab in the West Bank, consisting of several built-up structures. Nine houses, five tents and five barns were destroyed, according to the head of the village council. The responsible Israeli authority stated that the hamlet had been built illegally in a military zone.

Palestinians have been criticising Israel for years that it was virtually impossible to obtain Israeli planning permission for areas in the West Bank. The hamlet was located in the Masafer Yatta area, in which Israeli settlers have set up several outposts which they are expanding.

Residents of Tulkarem learned that dozens of buildings in the Tulkarem and Nur Shams refugee camps were to be torn down as part of the Israeli military offensive. The demolitions made it easier for the Israeli military to gain access to the camps, and would prevent armed groups re-forming there. Large parts of different neighbourhoods in the towns of Jenin and Tulkarem are said to have already been destroyed.²⁸

East Jerusalem: Israeli authorities close several UNRWA schools

On 08.05.25, Israeli authorities in Jerusalem closed six schools in east Jerusalem which are run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The closure is in implementation of new Israeli legislation banning UNRWA activities in Israel. Roughly 800 school pupils are affected by the closures.

The Israeli education ministry announced that it would divide the school pupils among other schools in Jerusalem. This however meets with considerable obstacles such as going around the barrier for instance dividing the Shuafat displacement camp from the rest of Jerusalem. Some 100 of the school pupils have identity documents from the West Bank, which makes it even more difficult for them to get through the barrier. A high absenteeism rate is feared for the school pupils.

Teargas was used in one of the schools as it was closed. According to information from the Israeli police, the school had not been the target of the teargas operation, but they had advanced into the Shuafat refugee camp, as stones had been thrown at them from there.²⁹

19 May 2025

Gaza Strip: recent developments

The war events in the Gaza Strip still continue. On 13.05.25, the Israeli military bombed the European hospital complex in Gaza, according to its own information in order to neutralise Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar, who is said to have been located in a command centre underneath the hospital. The hospital suffered serious damage in the attack. According to media reports, a large proportion of the built-up structures in Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip, have been destroyed. At the same time, the Israeli military is building individual new structures, including a road along the Morag corridor and other military bases.

On 17.05.25, the Israeli Army started its announced mobilisation in order to step up the military operation in the Gaza Strip (cf. BN of 12.05.25). It had preceded this by intensifying its airstrikes. More than 140 persons are said to have been killed on 16.05.25 alone, according to information from the Hamas-run health authorities.

On 18.05.25, the Israeli military announced the start of major ground operations in the north and south of the Gaza Strip. Five divisions are to carry out the ground operations, corresponding to several tens of thousands of soldiers. According to reports, however, fewer troops are stationed in the Gaza Strip than at previous times during the war. The Israeli government announced at the same time that it would once more be permitting a limited quantity of food aid into the territory. The announcement was made after a blockade of eleven weeks and increasing reports of impending famine. Some Israeli officials had also recently confirmed anonymously to international newspapers that Gaza was on the brink of starvation unless aid was resumed soon. No timetable or the implementation of this

announcement has so far been made known. More than 60 % of soup kitchens are said to have now been forced to cease operations. Those remaining were only able to provide 260,000 meals per day, and were hence unable to meet demand. At the same time, ceasefire negotiations between the warring parties continued in Qatar.

On 12.05.25, the last hostage with US nationality was released by Hamas. Roughly 20 Hamas hostages are said to still be alive in the Gaza Strip.³⁰

West Bank: pregnant Israeli woman killed in attack

On 14.05.25, according to media reports a pregnant Israeli woman was killed in an attack by an armed Palestinian. It was reportedly possible to save the child via an emergency caesarean section. She was en route to hospital from her home in the Israeli settlement of Bruchin when the assailant opened fire on her vehicle, according to information from the Israeli military.

In Israeli military operations on the next day, at least five Palestinians are said to have been killed in an armed clash with the military.³¹

West Bank: Al Jazeera ban lifted

The Palestinian Authority (PA) announced on 12.05.25 the lifting of a ban on the broadcaster Al Jazeera. The ban was imposed on 01.01.25 after the PA had accused the broadcaster of inciting unrest and interfering in internal Palestinian affairs. The PA has now announced the lifting of this ban. Members of the Fatah-run PA have previously accused the broadcaster of supporting Hamas. The ban was imposed during the PA's military operations in some localities which also targeted Hamas fighters.

The head of the Al Jazeera office in Ramallah stated that the office would remain closed for the time being, as Israeli military orders had also forced it to shut down. Reporters would however resume their work in the West Bank.³²

02 June 2025

Gaza Strip: recent developments

The war events in the Gaza Strip still continue. There have been contradictory reports and statements regarding several incidents in connection with the distribution of humanitarian aid, particularly as a result of the disputed new distribution system by means of which Israel itself states that it seeks to prevent Hamas from gaining access to humanitarian aid. Hamas has issued repeated threats to Palestinians should they seek assistance there. The following list of incidents is not exhaustive.

On 27.05.25, the distribution of humanitarian aid via the new scheme was launched. Scenes occurred at a distribution hub in Rafah in which civilians stormed the centre for a time and stole food.

On 30.05.25, a field hospital in Deir al-Balah was looted, according to media reports. Large quantities of medical equipment and nutritional supplements intended for malnourished children were stolen in this incident. According to the UN, the attack had been carried out by a well-organised armed group, which had given it a completely different quality than looting by desperate civilians.

On 31.05.25, according to media reports 77 trucks had been looted which were intended for the distribution of food organised by the UN and NGOs.

On 01.06.25, according to further media reports, a deadly incident occurred near to a distribution centre for humanitarian aid in the south of the Gaza Strip. According to the Hamas-run health ministry, at least 31 people were killed and some 180 others were wounded. Hamas and Israel have accused one another of causing this incident. After initially making vague statements, Israel published a drone video alleged to show masked men shooting at people attempting to collect humanitarian aid, whilst only acknowledging gunfire several hundreds of

metres away from the aid hub in a similar period. Sources close to Hamas in turn report, citing eyewitnesses, that the Israeli Army is said to have shot at people seeking aid.³³

16 June 2025

Gaza Strip: conflict events; attacks on emergency aid supplies; diplomatic efforts

The war events continue in the Gaza Strip. According to the Hamas-run health ministry, a total of 55,100 Palestinians had been killed and 127,394 injured up to 11.06.25. The health ministry does not distinguish in these figures between combatants and civilians. There is however a considerable imbalance among the numbers of victims between adult men and women: 22,265 men between the ages of 18 and 65, and 8,304 women, had reportedly been killed up to 22.03.25.

Violence has repeatedly broken out in connection with the distribution of humanitarian aid by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), leading to the deaths of several people in each case according to the health ministry, but the information on the extent and causes is contradictory, both among those involved and from the reporting media. It is currently not practically possible to independently investigate, report or verify victim numbers. It is also equally unclear whether these incidents took place close by or on one of the access routes. Security concerns meant that the distribution centres remained largely closed on 04.06. and 05.06.25. The GHF was largely communicating with the residents of Gaza via a Facebook page providing information on opening times. These appear to be primarily dependent on the availability of aid at the respective distribution centre.

In the night of 11.06. to 12.06.25, Hamas attacked a bus carrying GHF personnel, killing at least eight of them. Media reports speak of the suspicion that further individuals may have been taken hostage. Hamas had previously issued multiple murder threats against personnel of the organisation, as well as against civilians taking up aid from the GHF.

After a video was posted on social media on 02.06.25 in which Yasser Abu Shabab, the leader of a local militia primarily made up of members of the infamous Abu Shabab clan, telling the people of Rafah to return home since the militia would provide security, shelter and food, there was a critical debate in Israel and abroad on cooperation with Palestinian militias. Both Palestinian and Israeli opposition figures have criticised the cooperation, especially since Israel is said to have also armed the militia, as confirmed by prime minister Netanyahu on 05.06.25. The group was being deployed in order to keep Israeli losses lower.

It was announced on 10.06.25 that the president of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas had sent a letter to French president Macron and Saudi crown prince Mohammad bin Salman on the previous day calling on Hamas to surrender its weapons to Palestinian security forces, release all “prisoners and hostages”, and hand the governance of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority. Security was to be ensured by “Arab and international troops”, supported by a UN Security Council mandate.

The bodies of five hostages held in Gaza were recovered as part of the latest offensive by Israeli forces. This currently leaves 53 hostages detained by Hamas and their allies.³⁴

Israel: war with Iran

A large-scale surprise Israeli bombardment of the Iranian nuclear programme and the leaders of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, as well as of other armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, started an open war between Israel and Iran on 13.06.25. This section will only cover the impact on Israel.

A large number of ballistic missiles have been fired at Israel since hostilities commenced on 13.06.25. Reports to date suggest that targets have included Israeli missile defence and the defence ministry. Some critical voices in the Israeli public debate have pointed out that the defence ministry is located in central Tel Aviv, thus placing the surrounding residential blocks at higher risk.

Israeli reports speak of a total of 22 missiles so far having penetrated Israeli air defences, killing at least 14 civilians in Israel. There have also been injuries in the West Bank as a result of Iranian missile strikes.³⁵

23 June 2025

Gaza Strip: current developments

The war events continue in the Gaza Strip. 82.4 per cent of the surface area of the Gaza Strip has now been placed under displacement orders of the Israeli military. According to the Hamas-run health ministry, 5,334 Palestinians and 20 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the fighting resumed on 18.03.25, albeit the figures do not distinguish between civilian victims and combatants. 680,000 people have since been newly displaced. After the death of Muhammad Sinwar, Hamas announced that it would not be appointing a new high command for the time being, but that a council of brigade commanders would take decisions, with the individual local commanders having broad decision-making discretion.

There have been repeated escalations involved with the distribution of humanitarian aid by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), albeit it is still practically impossible to independently investigate the circumstances. Hamas and Israel accuse one another of opening fire on people seeking aid. The Hamas-run health ministry cites a total of 450 people killed in this context up to 17.06.25.

The GHF released a statement on 21.06.25 according to which both it and various other organisations stated that the quantity of food reaching Gaza was not sufficient, and acknowledged that it was currently unable to reach the goals that had been set. More distribution centres were to be opened as soon as possible. According to a UNICEF report of 20.06.25, just 40 % of Gaza's drinking water production facilities now remain functional.

The bodies of three hostages who had been held in Gaza were recovered in the latest offensive by Israeli troops. Hamas and its allies are currently still holding 50 hostages.³⁶

30 June 2025

Gaza Strip: reports of regular killings at food dispensaries and emergence of additional armed players

The war events continue in the Gaza Strip. A long article in an Israeli daily newspaper on 27.06.25 caused a considerable stir on the basis of statements by various Israeli soldiers and officers recording accusations that civilians had been killed at the distribution points of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid organisation. The report alleges that it had become customary, especially in the 252nd division of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), to use live ammunition in order to disperse groups of Palestinian civilians not posing a recognisable danger. Internal investigations were said to be initiated by division commanders, but not pursued.

It goes on to describe a complex picture of the situation regarding the GHF distribution centres. There had been virtually no incidents in the inner perimeter of the four centres, as private security services were responsible there. The problems were said to occur above all as a result of the frequently unclear logistics and of problems in communication. Ambiguous opening hours on the one hand, and a lack of training and equipment on the other, were regularly causing major problems in the outer perimeter surrounding the inner zone of the distribution centres. It was for instance the case that the sound of firing was the only form of communication used, and the signal to approach the distribution points was the lack of such noise. This was said to regularly cause misunderstandings, but also a brutalisation of soldiers' approach to the crowds of people. In several cases reported, non-threatening groups had evidently been dispersed by being deliberately shot at with artillery or armor-piercing shells, instead of with warning shots. An overall picture emerged of situations at the individual distribution centres and on different days that were highly diverse and subject to a great degree of uncertainty, whilst at the same time too little aid was arriving.

The newspaper article identifies the division commanders of the 252th division as the main culprits. The Israeli government is not considered or presumed to have given such orders. There are also reports of corruption among private construction companies working with heavy equipment around the security zones. As they are paid per demolished building, they act without consideration, and frequently provoke clashes with Palestinian civilians who have stayed behind, including outside active combat zones. Since the IDF is ordered to protect these companies,

this is said to regularly lead to the expulsion and illegitimate killing of civilians. The Israeli public prosecution office confirmed that investigations had been launched. The GHF also calls for the incidents to be investigated and further ones to be prevented.

Arab media close to the PLO also report of incidents in which Hamas has explicitly attacked people seeking aid. GHF's direct distribution to those seeking aid is said to be currently undermining Hamas' control of food distribution, leading to repeated threats from Hamas against civilians accepting such aid.

Parallel to this, there is an increasingly unclear picture of armed groups fighting for control of territories in Gaza. According to different reports, there are now armed groups based on clan affiliation in several parts of Gaza. On 27.06.25, there was a gunfire exchange between members of such a group and of Hamas' "Arrow" Unit, after the latter had killed a member of a clan. According to reports, the ensuing gunfire exchange led to several fatalities, and the Hamas fighters are said to have been forced to withdraw to Nasser Hospital. The Abu Shabab militia, which has previously come to notice several times, seems to only have a very small part of Rafah under its control, and to be able to hold it primarily thanks to support from the IDF.³⁷

West Bank: heavy violent clashes

According to media reports, there have been several violent clashes between Palestinians, Israeli settlers and Israeli security forces around the Palestinian village Kafr Malik since 25.06.25.

An attack took place on the Palestinian village on 25.06.25, carried out by allegedly more than 100 settlers who according to eyewitnesses set fire to houses and cars and threw stones in the presence of the IDF. This was followed by an exchange of fire between the army and armed Palestinians, the circumstances of which are unclear, and in which at least three Palestinians were killed. According to an Israeli army spokesperson, the latter had first opened fire on the soldiers present. Six settlers are said to have been detained on 28.06. and 29.06.25 when a wave of violent attacks was carried out by settlers on Israeli soldiers in this context.

A further arson attack by some ten settlers is said to have taken place on 29.06.25 in the village of Hizma, north of Jerusalem. The settlers are said to have also shot at Palestinian civilians and to have fled the scene before the army arrived.

Settlers laid waste to a military facility in the night of 29.06. to 30.06.25.

On 29.06.25, the Israeli Shin Bet domestic counterintelligence service furthermore announced that a total of ten Hamas cells had been discovered in the West Bank over the past three months, and that it had arrested 60 Hamas operatives. Many of them reportedly already had relevant previous convictions.

Some 950 people have lost their lives in clashes between Israeli security forces, Israeli settlers and Palestinian civilians as well as armed groups in the West Bank since 07.10.25.³⁸

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration
Briefing Notes

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Imprint

Published by

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
90461 Nuremberg

ISSN

2943-1573

Valid as of

06/2025

Printed by

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Design

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Reference source

Publications Centre, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

www.bamf.de/publikationen

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