



ISRAEL - PALESTINE TIMELINE



The following timeline was composed in order to help illustrate a point made by UN Secretary-General António Guterres -- that the October 7 attack by Hamas was “not occurring in a vacuum.”

It is important to highlight the warnings and condemnations concerning Israel’s increasing oppression of the Palestinian population in the months and years prior to October 7, 2023.

In showcasing the statements, reports, and investigations issued by the Lemkin Institute, Genocide Watch, and other international organizations in previous years, we hope to add much needed context to the current dialogue around the crisis taking place and demonstrate missed opportunities to prevent the worst, which is now unfolding in front of our eyes.



2021



April 6

Al-Haq, an independent Palestinian NGO based in Ramallah, West Bank, publishes “Field Report on Human Rights Violations in February 2021”, wherein it asserts that “the Israeli occupying authorities demolished 40 homes” and that “[h]ome demolitions resulted in the displacement of 222 Palestinians, including 115 children, 103 women and 66 school students.”

April 27

Human Rights Watch (HRW) releases a report called “A Threshold Crossed - Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution.”

May 17

Amnesty International publishes an article titled “Pattern of Israeli attacks on residential homes in Gaza must be investigated as war crimes.”

May 20

Genocide Watch issues a Genocide Warning, denouncing Prime Minister Netanyahu’s systematic discrimination against the Palestinian population and calls on Israel to halt the expansion of illegal settlement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

March 3

The International Criminal Court (ICC) opens an investigation into the situation in Palestine.

April 17

Al-Haq publishes “Field Report on Human Rights Violations in March 2021”, stating that “[h]ome demolitions resulted in the displacement of 130 Palestinians, including 58 women, 60 children, and 41 school students. Of these, 12 displaced persons were refugees.”

May 8

Lemkin Institute issues “Statement on Israeli Violence in Jerusalem” that states “the violence shown last night against Palestinians is genocidal. It is a red flag for possible international crimes. We call on the world to denounce and properly address the actions of the Israeli government - without fear of ad hominem accusations of antisemitism - as they are reflected in the tragic escalation and radicalization in its rhetoric, policy, and practice towards the Palestinian people over the past months, especially in East Jerusalem.”



2021



June 14

Al-Haq publishes “Field Report on Human Rights Violations in May 2021,” stating that in May 2021, “276 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli occupying forces (IOF), these included 240 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip. In addition to two inside the Green Line, 34 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank.”

July 7

Lemkin Insitute releases a podcast episode with Fadi Quran, campaign director at Avaaz, to discuss the arrests of two internationally known Palestinian human rights defenders.

September 29

Al-Haq publishes “Field Report on Human Rights Violations in August 2021”, and states that “Home demolitions resulted in the displacement of 125 Palestinians, including 75 children, 61 women, 47 school students and 70 refugees of the total number.”

October 29

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies publishes article, entitled “The International Community must support and protect Palestinian Civil Society,” which states that the “persecution of organizations and persons, by depriving them of fundamental rights and freedoms, ‘because they oppose apartheid’ is one of the methods used by Israel to maintain its domination and oppression over the Palestinian people.”

June 24

Amnesty International publishes article titled “Israeli police targeted Palestinians with discriminatory arrests, torture and unlawful force.”

August 23

HRW publishes article, “Gaza: Israel’s May Airstrikes on High-Rises - Apparently Unlawful Attacks Cause Major Lasting Harm” wherein it says “The Israeli military’s airstrikes that destroyed four high-rise buildings in Gaza City during the May 2021 fighting apparently violated the laws of war and may amount to war crimes...”

October 22

Amnesty International publishes article titled, “Designation of Palestinian civil society groups as terrorists a brazen attack on human rights.”



2022



February 1

Amnesty International publishes a report called “Israel’s Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity.”

May 11

Amnesty International publishes an article titled “Increase in unlawful killings and other crimes highlights urgent need to end Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians.”

August 18

Amnesty International publishes an article titled “Israel/OPT: The stifling of Palestinian civil society organizations must end.”

September 30

Lemkin Institute issues “Statement on the Closure of Palestinian NGOs by Israeli Armed Forces on August 18, 2022” referring to the military shutdown of seven Palestinian NGOs as “indicative of the shrinking political space for Palestinian survival as a coherent and cohesive identity group, especially in the context of intractable conflict characterized by disproportionate use of force by the powerful Israeli state and its occupation forces.”

March 25

The International Commission of Jurists releases a statement condemning Israel’s laws, policies and practices of racial segregation, persecution and apartheid against the indigenous Palestinian population in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

May 26

Lemkin Institute issues “Statement on Threats to Journalists Worldwide” asserting that “Israel’s culture of impunity serves neither Palestinians nor Israelis ... When the majority opinion within a country is convinced of its own impunity and the justification of its mass atrocities, formal accountability is often the only way to begin the long and hard push for justice and sustainable peace.”

August 29

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies publishes open letter to President Biden, entitled “President Biden: Stop Israeli Government’s Attacks on Palestinian Civil Society,” which warns that the response to date by the Biden administration “has only enabled and empowered the Israeli government to sustain and escalate its repression.”

November 29

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies releases statement titled “198 Organizations Call on ICC to Expedite Investigation of Israel’s Crimes in Palestine and Protect Palestinian Civil Society.”



2023



January 11

Amnesty International publishes article on “Israel/OPT: Flag restrictions are the latest attempt to silence Palestinians and reduce their visibility.”

January 27

Lemkin Institute issues Red Flag Alert (RFA) for Genocide for Israel”in light of Netanyahu’s profoundly disturbing statement, as well as the recent provocations by Israeli political leaders in an increasingly extremist political context.”

March 20

Amnesty International publishes article titled “EU needs to acknowledge the reality of Israeli apartheid.”

April 6

Amnesty International publishes article titled “Second night of horror at al-Aqsa mosque.”

May 2

Amnesty International publishes article titled “Israel/OPT: Israeli authorities are using facial recognition technology to entrench apartheid.”

January 20

The UN General Assembly requests an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.”

March 5

Lemkin Institute issues RFA Update #1 for Israel wherein it warns that “In the context of Israel’s new far-right government and an escalating cycle of violence over the past two months, in which over 50 Palestinians have been killed, this massacre is a red flag of an early stage of the mass murder form of genocide against the Palestinian people.”

March 21

Amnesty International publishes article titled “Israel/OPT: 200K people demand an end to Israel’s apartheid.”

April 16

Lemkin Institute issues RFA Update #2 for Israel, wherein it “calls on the international community, especially Israel’s closest ally, the United States, to make it absolutely clear that further atrocities will not be countenanced.”

May 14

Genocide Watch issues Israel and Palestine Report: wherein it states that “Prime Minister Netanyahu is committed to the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. Israeli-imposed restrictions in the West Bank and Gaza prevent Palestinians from living in freedom.”



2023



July 28

Amnesty International publishes article titled “Israel/OPT: 500 Palestinians facing forcible eviction, displacement, and segregation.”

October 7

Hamas launches a surprise attack on Israel, murdering roughly 1,200 Israeli civilians and military personnel, and taking another 240 hostages.

October 12

UN Independent Experts issue a press release strongly condemning “Israel’s indiscriminate military attacks against the already exhausted Palestinian people of Gaza...They have lived under unlawful blockade for 16 years...”

October 14

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory warns that “There is a grave danger that what we are witnessing may be a repeat of the 1948 Nakba, and the 1967 Naksa, yet on a larger scale.”

The Lemkin Institute issues a SOS Alert for Palestinians in Gaza following Israel’s demands that over 1 million Palestinians evacuate northern Gaza within 24 hours.

May 15

Al-Haq, publishes “Israeli Apartheid - The Legacy of the Ongoing Nakba at 75.”

July 30

Lemkin Institute issues RFA Update #3 for Israel, which “condemns the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements and the Israeli state’s support for settler violence against Palestinians.”

October 8

Israel formally declares war on Hamas, calls upon 350,000 reserve troops and begins an intensive airstrike campaign against Gaza.

October 13

Lemkin Institute issues “Active Genocide Alert (AGA) - Israel-Palestine: There is No Justification for Genocide”, wherein it identifies and condemns several atrocities committed by both Hamas and Israel that indicate genocidal intent. It “calls for an end to Israel and Egypt’s brutal blockade on Gaza and for freedom of movement for Palestinians who live in the region.”

HRW publishes “Letter to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court”, wherein it reminds the office that “impunity for grave abuses committed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over many years is seen as proof positive that there are double standards at work with respect to international justice.”



2023



October 18

In a statement on X, the Lemkin Institute calls for the ICC to indict Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the crime of genocide in light of the siege and bombardment of Gaza and the many expressions of genocidal intent.

HRW publishes an article on “Unlawful Gaza Blockade Deadly for Children”, stating that the “collective punishment of the population is a war crime.”

October 21

Lemkin Institute publishes “Statement on the Murder of Six-Year-Old Wadea Al-Fayoume in Illinois and the Role of Genocidal Language in His Death” condemning “US officials and the media for their reckless embrace of genocidal language against Palestinians, which inflames pre-existing anti-Muslim sentiment and inspires fresh violence.”

HRW publishes article titled, “Israel: Immediately Restore Electricity, Water, Aid to Gaza,” asserting that “[d]enying Population Essential Services is Collective Punishment, a War Crime.”

October 24

HRW publishes Dispatch, “Israel’s Unlawful Blockade of Gaza Sparks Women’s Rights Crisis.”

October 17

The Lemkin Institute issues SOS Alert - Update 2 for Gaza, wherein it “continue[s] to urge Western leaders to de-escalate the situation by putting real pressure on Israel to stop its genocidal campaign against Palestinians and return to the peace table after such a long time away.”

October 20

Lemkin Institute issues third SOS Alert for Gaza, urging “the international community to act immediately to prevent another strike against a hospital in Gaza ... We urge policymakers, world leaders, and other stakeholders to pressure Israel to protect Al-Quds Hospital and all other hospitals in Gaza while working towards an immediate ceasefire.”

HRW issues Commentary titled “We Are Seeing Urgent Signs of More Mutual Mass Atrocities to Come in Israel and Gaza.”

October 23

HRW publishes article titled, “Israel Still Blocking Aid to Civilians in Gaza,” stating that “[t]he Israeli government is deliberately deepening the suffering of civilians in Gaza by refusing to restore the flow of water and electricity and blocking fuel shipments. Willfully impeding relief supplies is a war crime, as is collectively punishing civilians for the actions of armed groups.”



2023



October 25

HRW publishes Dispatch, “Countries Should Back ICC Investigation on Israel-Palestine.”

Amnesty International publishes report titled “Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories: ‘They were just kids’: Evidence of war crimes during Israel’s August 2022 Gaza offensive.”

October 29

HRW publishes an article titled “Israel/Palestine: Grave Concerns for Civilians in Ground Offensive.”

November 9

Three Palestinian rights groups - Al-Haq, Al Mezan, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights - file a lawsuit with the International Criminal Court “urging the body to investigate Israel for ‘apartheid’ as well as ‘genocide’ and issue arrest warrants for Israeli leaders.”

October 27

Lemkin Institute issues “Statement of Mourning for the Gazans and the World”, stating that “these two major military powers [Israel and the US] are committing genocide in Gaza only weeks after actively enabling genocide against another besieged people: the Armenians of Artsakh...If the world allows these two powers to continue to act with this level of impunity, genocide will become the normative policy of both dictatorships and the world’s so-called democracies alike.”

November 7

Human Rights Watch publishes article titled “Gaza: Israeli Ambulance Strike Apparently Unlawful,” stating that “[t]he Israeli military’s strike on a marked ambulance just outside of Gaza City’s al-Shifa hospital on November 3, 2023, was apparently unlawful and should be investigated as a possible war crime.”

November 12

UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO Regional Directors call for immediate action to halt attacks on health care in Gaza, writing in a statement on X that “The world cannot stand silent while hospitals, which should be safe havens, are transformed into scenes of death, devastation, and despair. Decisive international action is needed now to secure an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and prevent further loss of life, and preserve what’s left of the health care system in Gaza.”



2023



November 12 #2

Al Jazeera reports that “[t]he Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) says the al-Quds Hospital, the second largest in Gaza, has ceased operations due to a fuel shortage as Israeli forces continue to bomb the besieged enclave.”

November 14

HRW publishes report titled “Gaza: Unlawful Israeli Hospital Strikes Worsen Health Crisis.”

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention issues a fourth SOS Alert for the people in the besieged Gaza Strip.

November 16

HRW publishes article titled “Israeli Authorities’ Cutting of Water Leading to Public Health Crisis in Gaza” wherein it states that “The Israeli government should immediately end its total blockade of the Gaza Strip, an act of collective punishment and a war crime, restore water and electricity access, and allow desperately needed food, medical aid, and fuel into Gaza, including via its crossing at Kerem Shalom.”

November 13

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital warns that “patients’ next transfer will be to mass graves if Israeli aggression continues.”

November 15

Israelis seize Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza, asserting “that the sprawling medical complex doubles as a secret military command center” and begin interrogating people inside.”

November 16 #2

New York Times reports that “Jordan’s foreign minister has signaled that his country, one of the driest in the world, will not sign a new water-for-energy deal with Israel because of the Israeli military’s continued bombardment of Gaza.”



2023



November 23

Reporters Without Borders issues a statement saying that “journalism is in the process of being eradicated in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israel’s refusal to heed calls to protect media personnel”. Ten reporters were killed in three days, 48 since the start of war.

November 27

UN experts call “for prompt, transparent and independent investigations into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity, perpetrated in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory on 7 October 2023 and thereafter.”

December 1

UNICEF’s Executive Director warns that “the Gaza Strip is once again the most dangerous place in the world to be a child”.

December 3

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights “expressed grave fears that the renewed and intensified hostilities after a seven-day pause would lead to even more death, disease, and destruction than seen so far.”

December 4

Save the Children warns that more than a million children - the entire child population of Gaza - have been left without a safe place to go since military ground operations resumed after the temporary ceasefire.