



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
24 September 2024

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

Fifty-seventh session

9 September–9 October 2024

Agenda item 7

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

### **Written statement\* submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

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

[11 August 2024]

---

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



## **Destruction of Infrastructure in the Gaza Strip**

The Palestinian people continue to suffer under a belligerent occupation that has persisted for over 56 years, exacerbated by ongoing political, humanitarian, and economic crises. The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, remains tense, marked by an increase in human rights violations perpetrated by Occupying Power, the occupying power, against the Palestinian civilian population, particularly women and children. Additionally, there has been a rise in settlement activities and a gradual annexation of land. Occupying Power continues to enforce measures that contravene international law and United Nations resolutions and also to prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their rights.

The two-decade land, air, and sea blockade imposed by Occupying Power on the Gaza Strip has resulted in significant restrictions on Palestinian access to essential services and materials, impacting hospitals and critical health care. This blockade undermines livelihoods and stifles development, further entrenching the humanitarian crisis in the region. The continued limitations hinder the population's ability to rebuild and thrive, resulting in widespread suffering and despair.

A recent report from the World Bank and the United Nations, supported financially by the European Union, estimates the damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza to be approximately \$18.5 billion. This figure represents about 97% of the total GDP of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the year 2022.

The Preliminary Damage Assessment utilized remote data collection methods to evaluate the damage to vital physical infrastructure that occurred from October 2023 to the end of January 2024. The findings indicate that infrastructure damage impacts every economic sector, with housing alone accounting for 72% of the total costs. Damage to essential public services, including water supply, healthcare, and education, represents 19%, while damage to commercial and industrial properties constitutes 9%. In many sectors, the extent of the damage appears to have stabilized, as only a few facilities remain operational. The destruction has resulted in approximately 26 million tons of debris, a volume that may take years to clear.

Over half of Gaza's population is on the verge of famine, and the entire populace is experiencing severe food insecurity and malnutrition. More than a million individuals are now homeless, with 75% of the population displaced. The devastating cumulative impacts on both physical and mental health disproportionately affect women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, with the youngest children facing potential lifelong developmental challenges.

With 84% of healthcare facilities either damaged or destroyed and a critical shortage of electricity and water for the remaining centers, access to medical care, medications, and life-saving treatments is severely limited. The water and sanitation systems are nearly nonfunctional, providing less than 5% of their previous capacity and leaving residents dependent on limited water supplies for survival. The education system has completely collapsed, resulting in all children being unable to attend school.

The Gaza Interim Damage Assessment report employs remote data collection and analytics to deliver an initial assessment of the physical damage caused by the conflict, following the Rapid Damage & Needs Assessment (RDNA) methodology.

According to a UN report, Occupying Power's bombardment of Gaza over the 10 months following the October 7 has resulted in widespread destruction, flattening buildings, devastating agricultural land, and obliterating critical infrastructure to such an extent that rebuilding the economy may take decades.

Various Occupying Power military operations have occurred in the Gaza Strip in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021, 2022, May 2023, and October 2023.

These operations have led to internal displacement and recurring destruction of vital infrastructure, including residential buildings, capital assets, productive resources, agricultural land, crops, livestock facilities, greenhouses, fruit trees, storage units, fishing boats and equipment, as well as irrigation systems, water pumping infrastructure, electricity networks, internet systems, factories, office spaces, housing units, schools, and health centers.

### **Recommendations**

We strongly urge the international community and the Security Council to take decisive action aimed at permanently ending the war and protecting civilians in Gaza. The Palestinian people are facing extreme aggression from Occupying Power, resulting in devastating loss of life. Ambiguous positions only serve to perpetuate this violence, allowing double standards and selective application of international law to thrive. Ongoing illegal measures by Occupying Power exacerbate the occupation and despair, fostering further conflict and injustice. Civilians and civilian infrastructure, including UN facilities hosting displaced people, must be protected everywhere. Forced displacement of the Palestinians must stop. International law should be upheld.

---