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Tents of Death

The Systematic Israeli Targeting of Displaced Persons' Tents in
Deir Al-Balah and Al-Mawasi – An Ongoing Crime of Genocide
in the Gaza Strip (2023–2025)



Prepared by
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Introduction:

Since October 2023, the Israeli occupation has continued to wage a large-scale military aggression against the Gaza Strip, characterized by a systematic nature and an unprecedented scale of crimes and violations committed against the civilian population. This aggression has resulted in the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, the majority of whom are women and children, in addition to causing massive injuries and near-total destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and displacement camps — leading to an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

Among the most egregious manifestations of these crimes is the deliberate and repeated targeting of tents sheltering internally displaced persons who had fled their homes under bombardment in search of safety. These attacks occurred in areas previously designated by the Israeli authorities as “safe zones,” such as Deir Al-Balah, Al-Mawasi, and Rafah, revealing a clear intent to inflict the maximum possible number of civilian casualties and refuting Israeli claims of taking precautionary measures to protect civilians.

This pattern of attacks — along with policies of siege, starvation, and mass forced displacement — constitutes a flagrant violation of the rules of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and even genocide. This necessitates urgent and serious international intervention to ensure accountability and to put an end to the aggression.

Objectives of the Report:

This report aims to monitor and document the grave and systematic violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip during the period between 2023 and 2024, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of targeting tents and shelter areas that were designated by the occupation authorities themselves as “safe zones.” The report seeks to analyze these violations in light of the provisions of international humanitarian law — especially the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols — as well as international human rights law, in order to highlight their severity and unlawful nature.

The report also aims to present urgent and practical recommendations to the relevant international bodies — foremost among them the United Nations and international courts — in order to ensure accountability for those responsible for these crimes, to strengthen international protection mechanisms for civilians, and to secure redress for the victims and their families through reparations and the provision of necessary humanitarian and legal support.

Forced Displacement and the Deception of “Safe Zones”:

In the context of the large-scale military aggression against the Gaza Strip, the Israeli occupation forces imposed a pattern of mass forced displacement on hundreds of thousands of civilians under the constant threat of aerial and artillery bombardment, as well as the systematic destruction of homes and residential neighborhoods. Instead of providing safe corridors or actual protected areas in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law, the occupation authorities issued military orders and directives compelling civilians to relocate to specific areas — most notably Al-Mawasi, located along the coastal strip — under the pretext that they were “safe zones.”

However, facts on the ground — supported by survivors’ testimonies and reports from international organizations such as the United Nations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) — expose the falsity of these claims. These so-called safe zones have become direct and repeated targets of military attacks, including the bombing of displaced persons’ tents and temporary shelter centers, resulting in hundreds of casualties among women, children, and the elderly. Such practices represent a clear pattern of deliberate military deception and constitute a grave violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction between civilians and combatants, and the protection of persons entitled to special protection.

The policy of forcibly directing civilians toward areas under threat, while falsely designating them as safe, constitutes a form of forced displacement prohibited under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. It may also amount to a war crime or a crime against humanity, warranting international accountability.

The Shrinking of “Safe Zones” and Their Transformation into Death Traps for Displaced Persons

The Israeli occupation forces have continued their military assault on the Gaza Strip in a systematic pattern of genocidal acts, through widespread bombing of infrastructure, targeting of civilians and shelter centers, and the imposition of forced displacement under inhumane conditions. These forces have driven hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into designated areas — most notably the coastal Al-Mawasi region — under the pretense that these are “safe zones,” despite the total lack of life-sustaining conditions or any genuine protection.

While international law defines a safe zone as a temporary area intended to protect civilians and subject to strict humanitarian requirements, the so-called “safe zone” in Al-Mawasi met none of these criteria. According to reports issued between July and August 2024 by the Palestinian Civil Defense and UNRWA, the area designated as “safe” was gradually reduced from 13.15% to just 9.5% of the Gaza Strip, consisting largely of agricultural or commercial land unsuitable for habitation.

The displaced persons who sought refuge in Al-Mawasi lived in worn-out tents amid conditions of hunger, disease, and thirst, and were nonetheless subjected to repeated attacks. This demonstrates that the displacement was not intended to protect civilians, but rather to exacerbate their suffering as part of a systematic policy of extermination.

Humanitarian agencies warned of the catastrophic situation, with UNRWA describing the situation in Gaza as “dark days,” amid the complete absence of any real safe haven.

Targeting Displaced Persons’ Tents – Documented Incidents and Compelling Testimonies

Field data, eyewitness accounts, and reports issued by local and international human rights and humanitarian organizations reveal a consistent and systematic pattern of targeting tents and shelter centers housing Palestinian displaced persons in areas such as Deir Al-Balah, Al-Mawasi, and Rafah by the Israeli occupation forces. These attacks have been carried out using warplanes, heavy artillery, and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), in clear violation of the rules of international humanitarian law — particularly the principle of protecting civilians and temporary shelters during armed conflict.

According to verified field documentation collected up to the end of September 2024, at least 41 land, air, and naval attacks were recorded specifically targeting displaced persons’ tents, resulting in the killing of 355 Palestinian civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, and injuring approximately 743 others with varying degrees of severity, all amid catastrophic humanitarian conditions and a near-total absence of medical and emergency services.

The following are some of the most prominent massacres that have been documented:

- 13 March 2024: Israeli warplanes targeted tents sheltering displaced persons within the premises of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah, killing several civilians — including journalists and displaced persons who had sought refuge at the hospital. This crime reflects a blatant disregard for medical facilities protected under international law.

- 14 July 2024: Israeli forces bombed a large gathering of displaced persons' tents in the Al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis — an area previously designated by Israel as a “safe zone.” The massacre resulted in the killing of over 90 civilians, including women, children, and two members of the civil defense teams participating in relief efforts.
- 27 May 2024: The occupation carried out a horrific attack on displaced persons' tents near UNRWA warehouses in Rafah, resulting in the death of at least 40 civilians, including several children. This massacre occurred less than 48 hours after the International Court of Justice issued a judicial order requiring Israel to halt its military operations in Rafah.
- 27 June 2024: A massacre was committed in the Al-Shakoush area west of Rafah, where occupation forces directly bombed displaced persons' tents, killing 20 civilians and injuring more than 50 others, many of whom were critically wounded.

These incidents clearly indicate that the targeting was neither random nor accidental, but part of a deliberate and systematic policy aimed at spreading terror among displaced persons and forcing them into constant displacement or flight with no destination — thereby intensifying the tragedy of forced displacement and placing these civilians in a continuous state of insecurity and homelessness.

These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of several binding customary rules of international humanitarian law — particularly the 1949 Geneva Conventions — and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, necessitating international criminal accountability and prosecution.

Legal Analysis – A Grave and Egregious Violation of International Humanitarian Law

The targeting of tents sheltering Palestinian displaced persons — particularly in areas designated by the Israeli occupation authorities themselves as “safe zones” — constitutes a grave and systematic breach of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international criminal law. These acts rise to the level of international crimes warranting criminal accountability. This can be demonstrated through a review of the most relevant legal instruments:

1. The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949:

This Convention is a cornerstone of civilian protection during armed conflicts and clearly prohibits targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, requiring their protection at all times.



- Common Article 3 prohibits “violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture,” against persons not actively participating in hostilities, including civilian populations and displaced persons.
 - Article 33 explicitly prohibits collective punishment and reprisals against protected persons, and forbids the destruction of property unless rendered absolutely necessary by military operations — a condition that does not apply to tents and shelter centers housing displaced civilians.
2. Additional Protocol I of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions:
- This Protocol obliges parties to a conflict to distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and forbids the use of civilians as objects of attack or as means of pressure.
 - It prohibits indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, as well as acts of reprisal against civilians — provisions that directly apply to the systematic targeting of displaced persons’ tents.
3. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998):
- Article 8 defines intentional attacks against civilian populations and humanitarian infrastructure — such as hospitals and shelters — as war crimes.
 - Article 7 defines widespread or systematic attacks against civilian populations, including murder, torture, persecution, and forced displacement, as crimes against humanity.
 - Article 6 defines the crime of genocide, encompassing acts such as:
 - Killing members of a national, ethnic, or religious group;
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
 - Deliberately inflicting conditions of life intended to destroy the group, in whole or in part — as is the case with Gaza’s population, deprived of basic life-sustaining necessities through systematic targeting.
4. Ruling of the International Court of Justice – 26 January 2024:
- In the context of a case brought by the Republic of South Africa, the ICJ ordered Israel to immediately cease military operations in the city of Rafah, emphasizing that some of the acts being committed may amount to genocide.
 - Despite the binding nature of this ruling under the UN Charter, Israeli forces ignored the Court’s decision and continued committing grave violations against civilians, particularly in areas presumed to be “safe.”

Taken together, these violations cannot be viewed in isolation from the broader context of the ongoing aggression. The recurring pattern of disregard for international law and the erosion of humanitarian principles forms a solid legal basis for prosecuting Israeli officials before competent international judicial bodies — including the International Criminal Court and other UN-established accountability mechanisms.

International and Communal Responsibility – Urgent Legal and Moral Obligations

In light of the ongoing grave crimes and violations committed by Israeli occupation forces against civilians in the Gaza Strip, the international community — particularly the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions — bears a clear legal and moral responsibility to take immediate and effective action to halt these crimes, hold perpetrators accountable, and ensure non-repetition.

Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions obliges the Contracting Parties to “respect and ensure respect for the Conventions in all circumstances.” This obligation extends beyond the parties directly involved in the conflict and applies to the entire international community, including states that claim neutrality. It requires tangible measures that go beyond verbal condemnation and include the imposition of sanctions, suspension of arms transfers, and activation of international accountability and investigative mechanisms. The continued supply of weapons and military equipment to Israel by certain states — with full knowledge of their use in systematic violations against civilians — not only constitutes a breach of international legal standards but may amount to complicity or indirect participation in the commission of international crimes. Such actions expose those states to potential legal liability under international law.

Furthermore, international silence or reluctance to take decisive action fosters a culture of impunity, undermines the international justice system, and sends a dangerous message that grave crimes may go unpunished when committed by politically supported or powerful states.

Accordingly, the international community — including the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Council, and influential states — must take immediate and serious steps, including:

- Ceasing all forms of military and political support to Israel;
- Initiating independent and impartial international investigations into the crimes committed;
- Activating the principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

- Supporting efforts toward reparations and compensation for Palestinian victims, both materially and morally.

Failure to fulfill these obligations represents not only a legal failure, but a moral collapse that threatens the very foundations of the international legal order based on the protection of human rights and the dignity of peoples.

International Testimonies and Reports – Compelling Evidence of the Magnitude of the Catastrophe and Violations

International reports and field testimonies indicate the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe and grave violations inflicted upon Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, particularly the displaced persons, as a result of ongoing Israeli military operations. Reliable international bodies have issued statements exposing the falsity of Israeli claims regarding the provision of safe zones, documenting the use of lethal means against civilians, and illustrating the unprecedented scale of destruction affecting various aspects of life.

- **United Nations:** The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) condemned the reduction of “safe” areas in Gaza to no more than 9.5% of the total area of the Strip, which has exacerbated the suffering of displaced persons and deprived them of minimum protection. UNRWA warned that these zones are no longer capable of accommodating the massive numbers of displaced people due to the absence of infrastructure and essential services.
- **International Human Rights Organizations:** Prominent international organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have documented the use of wide-scale explosive weapons by Israeli forces in densely populated areas, including tents and temporary shelter centers. This constitutes a violation of the principles of proportionality and distinction under international humanitarian law. These organizations affirmed that the attacks were systematic and lacked military justification.
- **Survivors’ and Eyewitnesses’ Testimonies:** Numerous survivors have provided harrowing accounts of events in targeted areas. They reported that Israeli tanks deliberately crushed displaced persons’ tents during incursions into civilian areas and ran over civilians attempting to flee, evidencing direct targeting of unarmed civilians in blatant violation of established rules of engagement.

Visual Appendix – Maps and Satellite Images Documenting the Shrinking of Safe Zones and Targeting of Displaced Persons

This appendix provides a collection of documented visual evidence illustrating the reduction of the so-called “safe zones” in the Gaza Strip and the intensity of bombardment targeting displaced persons’ tents and civilian facilities, based on satellite imagery, analytical maps, and recorded testimonies.

1. Shrinking of Safe Areas (Map 1)
 - Source: United Nations – Satellite Data
 - The map shows the gradual decrease in the area classified as “safe”:
 - July 2024: 48 km² (13.15% of the Strip)
 - August 2024: 11%
 - September 2024: 9.5% (including agricultural and service areas)
2. Bombardment Density in Deir al-Balah and Al-Mawasi (Map 2)
 - Source: Conflict Monitoring Program – “Thakirat” Project
 - Red dots indicate attacks on displaced persons’ tents and hospitals, especially at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and the Al-Mawasi area.
3. Satellite Images Documenting the Destruction
 - Image (1): Al-Mawasi tents before and after bombardment (December 2024)
 - Source: Maxar Technologies
 - Approximately 85% of tents disappeared
 - Image (2): Bombardment of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital (January 2024)
 - Source: BBC Satellite Images
 - Severe structural damage resulting from seven consecutive airstrikes
4. Legal Analysis with Images
 - Violation of the principle of distinction:
 - Displaced persons’ tents and hospital surroundings with no nearby military objectives
 - Use of disproportionate weapons:
 - 9-meter deep craters indicate the use of highly destructive bombs in populated areas

5. Recorded Testimonies

- Video (1): Targeting of displaced persons' tents in Rafah (June 2024)
 - Source: UNICEF
 - Shows Apache rocket strikes and ensuing fires

A map illustrating the areas claimed by the Israeli occupation forces to be safe for civilian refuge.



**Major Violations Involving the Targeting of Displaced Persons' Tents
Inside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital – Deir al-Balah**

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Governmental Hospital, located east of Deir al-Balah city in the central Gaza Strip, is one of the main hospitals under the Palestinian Ministry of Health. It has become a primary refuge for displaced persons following the Israeli occupation's imposition of forced evacuation zones around it. Despite its classification as a civilian facility protected under international law, the hospital, its yards, and surroundings have been subjected to a prolonged series of direct Israeli attacks targeting the displaced persons' tents inside it, in blatant violation of fundamental international protection rules.

On January 14, 2024, Israeli occupation aircraft launched an airstrike on displaced persons' tents and a house in Deir al-Balah, resulting in the martyrdom of 9 civilians and injuring others. On March 13, 2024, occupation aircraft targeted a tent within the hospital's perimeter, killing 4 civilians and injuring 17 others, including journalists Nawaf Abu Labdeh, Ibrahim Labdeh, Saeed Jaras, Hazem Abu Dahrouj, and Mohammad Abu Dahrouj. The Government Media Office in Gaza condemned this massacre, confirming that the shelling directly targeted tents sheltering journalists and displaced persons within the hospital boundaries.

Subsequently, on July 22, 2024, Israeli shelling of the displaced persons' tents inside the hospital perimeter recurred, causing several casualties and injuries. This was followed by a new aerial attack on August 4, 2024, targeting the hospital yard, resulting in massive fires, the martyrdom of 5 civilians, and injuries to 15 others. The hospital spokesperson confirmed this was the third time displaced persons inside the hospital were subjected to direct shelling.

On September 5, 2024, the occupation carried out a new massacre by bombing the primitive displaced persons' tents within the hospital, which the occupation itself had previously classified as a "safe zone," killing 4 Palestinians, most of whom were women and children, and injuring others. Then, on September 27, 2024, Israeli Apache helicopters fired on displaced persons' tents inside the hospital, causing the martyrdom of two civilians, injuring others, and destroying a large number of tents.

On October 7, 2024, shelling of the hospital yard was repeated, resulting in multiple injuries, including children who were admitted for treatment inside the hospital. A week later, on October 13, 2024, occupation forces committed **the seventh massacre at the same location** through three consecutive airstrikes on displaced persons' tents inside the hospital, leading to the martyrdom of several civilians and injuring dozens. Large fires engulfed more than 30 tents, spreading to parts of the hospital.

According to testimonies from the Civil Defense and eyewitnesses, the shelling caused gas cylinder explosions, which ignited the tents and burned several displaced persons alive inside. Social media circulated tragic scenes of displaced persons waving their hands amid the flames, unable to be rescued.

The spokesperson for Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital confirmed that a large number of martyrs and injured resulted from the targeting of the tents, while the Government Media Office in Gaza described this shelling as a new burning crime within the framework of the genocide and ethnic cleansing crimes being carried out by the Israeli occupation against civilians. The office noted that the seven repeated airstrikes on displaced persons'

tents inside the hospital had resulted by that date in the martyrdom of 4 civilians and more than 70 injuries, including critical cases.

On November 9, 2024, the eighth shelling occurred when a helicopter targeted a displaced persons' tent inside the hospital grounds, destroying six adjacent tents and causing widespread fires that killed 3 Palestinians and injured 26 others, including three journalists with various injuries. The media office confirmed that tents housing journalists and displaced persons were repeatedly targeted.

The ninth attack took place on November 12, 2024, when occupation aircraft bombed displaced persons' tents west of Deir al-Balah, resulting in the martyrdom of two civilians and injuries to others, including women and children admitted to the hospital.

Prior to all this, on January 4, 2024, occupation artillery targeted a displaced persons' tent near Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital Street, coinciding with intense gunfire from military vehicles. Likewise, on January 14, 2025, 9 civilians were killed by shelling of tents in Deir al-Balah, followed by the bombing of displaced persons' tents in Al-Bassa area west of the city on January 16, 2025, causing fires and further casualties.

These repeated and systematic assaults against displaced persons inside the hospital demonstrate **a persistent pattern of targeting civilians** in places that are supposed to be safe havens, according to the classification imposed by the occupation itself. They indicate an intentional intent to inflict maximum human losses among the displaced, in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions, particularly the provisions related to the protection of hospitals, healthcare facilities, and internally displaced persons.

The series of attacks on Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital constitutes one of the clearest evidences of using "safe zones" as a field deception tool paving the way for war crimes and crimes against humanity. This pattern of crimes requires urgent international action to hold occupation leaders accountable and to ensure the protection of civilians and healthcare facilities, which have been turned into deliberate targets in a war that makes no distinction between military and civilian.

Major Violations Involving the Targeting of Displaced Persons' Tents in the Al-Mawasi Area – Khan Yunis

The Al-Mawasi area stretches along the coastal strip of the Gaza Strip, from the southwest of Deir al-Balah city, passing west of Khan Yunis, to the west of Rafah. It is known for its sandy terrain, fertile agricultural lands, and fresh groundwater; however, due to Israeli occupation practices, it has turned into barren lands and a central hub for displaced Palestinians. The occupation army classified it as a “safe zone” and called on Palestinian civilians to seek refuge there following their forced displacement from combat areas.

Despite its classification as a safe place, Israeli occupation forces carried out a series of brutal attacks against displaced persons' tents in Al-Mawasi, most notably:

- January 24, 2024: Direct targeting of displaced persons' tents west of Khan Yunis, resulting in martyrs and injuries.
- February 20, 2024: Israeli forces conducted a ground assault under heavy aerial bombardment in Al-Mawasi west of Khan Yunis, killing 11 Palestinians, including 3 female children and 3 women, and targeting a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) facility.
- March 10, 2024: Israeli artillery fired several shells at displaced persons' tents west of Hamad city, resulting in the martyrdom of 14 civilians, including children, women, and persons with disabilities.
- March 26, 2024: An airstrike targeted tents west of Khan Yunis, causing multiple martyrs and injuries.
- July 14, 2024: Intensive shelling targeted a densely populated displaced persons' area on Al-Nisf Street, killing over 90 Palestinians, half of whom were children and women, and injuring 300 others, including Civil Defense personnel who were directly targeted while performing their duties.
- September 5, 2024: Shelling targeted a displaced persons' tent, killing one Palestinian and injuring more than ten.
- September 10, 2024: Four rockets targeted tents in Al-Mawasi, resulting in at least 40 deaths and 60 injuries; about 20 tents caught fire.
- September 13, 2024: Displaced persons' tents were targeted again in Al-Mawasi despite the occupation's declaration of these as safe zones, resulting in the destruction of tents and many injuries.
- September 16, 2024: Rocket shelling targeted a cluster of displaced persons' tents and a bakery frequented by residents, killing 6 civilians and injuring 8 others.

- November 15, 2024: Shelling in the Bir Znun area north of Khan Yunis destroyed tents and caused severe damage to refugees.
- December 4, 2024: Israeli forces targeted 21 tents sheltering displaced persons northwest of Khan Yunis, killing 23 persons, including children and two women, and injuring 18 others.
- December 23, 2024: Shelling near the British Hospital west of Khan Yunis resulted in 8 deaths and over 20 injuries, mostly women and children.
- January 2, 2025: Displaced persons' tents in Al-Mawasi were targeted again, killing 10 displaced persons and injuring 15 others, including women and children.
- January 8, 2025: A tent sheltering displaced persons west of Khan Yunis was struck by a drone, killing five children.
- January 18, 2025: Tents sheltering a displaced family in Khan Yunis were targeted, killing five members of one family.

These incidents, as documented by Civil Defense testimonies and human rights organizations, prove that occupation forces flagrantly violated the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution established under international humanitarian law. These systematic attacks against locations presumed safe represent a clear pattern of war crimes and even rise to the level of genocide, as they did not target military sites but purely civilians, including children, women, and persons with disabilities, in temporary tents that offer no minimum protection.

Major Violations Involving the Targeting of Displaced Persons' Tents in the Al-Mawasi Area – Rafah

The Mawasi area west of Rafah city constitutes one of the areas classified by Israeli occupation forces as “safe zones,” to which Palestinian civilians were urged to flee in order to escape bombardment and military operations sweeping the Gaza Strip. However, the facts on the ground, as revealed by a series of repeated massacres, clearly demonstrate that this classification was nothing but a military deception aimed at concentrating the largest number of displaced persons in exposed areas to facilitate targeting them.

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, Israeli occupation forces expanded their ground operations, reaching the far northwest of Rafah, specifically at Abu Ataya Hill. There, a military vehicle occupied the hill and fired several sound grenades toward the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters. While a number of displaced persons were gathered in the area, the vehicle fired an explosive shell at them, resulting

in the martyrdom of 25 civilians and injuries to 20 others. This incident caused hundreds of displaced persons to flee again out of fear of a repeated massacre.

On March 2, 2024, occupation aircraft committed a new massacre when they bombed displaced persons' tents in Rafah city, specifically near the gate of Al-Emarat Maternity Hospital in the Tel Sultan area, resulting in the martyrdom of 11 civilians and injuries to about 50 others, including a large number of children. Among the martyrs was paramedic Abdel Fattah Abu Mar'i, who was performing his duties inside the hospital.

On May 27, 2024, warplanes bombed a newly established displacement camp near UNRWA warehouses northwest of Rafah, killing at least 40 civilians and injuring many others. Due to the dysfunction of Abu Yusuf Al-Najjar Central Hospital, located within forcibly displaced areas, paramedics were forced to transfer the victims to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis and other field hospitals. Images and videos showed charred and dismembered bodies in a horrific scene.

This shelling occurred less than 54 hours after the International Court of Justice issued a ruling on May 24, 2024, calling on Israel to cease its attack on Rafah. Despite the ruling, the aggression continued, prompting widespread condemnation, including by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, which considered the shelling a blatant challenge to international legitimacy.

On June 19, 2024, occupation forces targeted displaced persons' tents in Mawasi Rafah, killing 7 Palestinians and injuring dozens, with large fires breaking out. Two days later, on June 21, 2024, two Merkava tanks ascended a hill opposite the Shakoush area and shelled displaced persons' tents, killing 25 people and injuring 50 others, with several tents set ablaze.

On the evening of June 27, 2024, the occupation army launched a new attack on the Shakoush area, where the tents were densely populated with displaced persons. The shelling resulted in the martyrdom of 20 civilians and injuries to 50 others. Eyewitnesses reported that tanks entered without prior warning, ran over several tents, and soldiers opened random fire on civilians. The raids caused the mass displacement of at least 5,000 people, according to the United Nations.

On June 30, 2024, occupation forces launched an artillery and aerial assault on the Shakoush area. The shelling killed 13 civilians and injured others, including journalists. The forces also destroyed approximately 5,000 dunams of agricultural greenhouses, the last cultivated areas in the Gaza Strip.

On September 9, 2024, military vehicles fired indiscriminately at displaced persons' tents, causing a new massacre, followed by further massacres on December 23 and 28,

2024, when occupation aircraft bombed tents in Mawasi, resulting in martyrs and injuries.

The occupation forces have consistently justified these massacres by alleging the presence of Hamas elements in the area but have provided no tangible evidence. Rights investigations indicate that Israel was aware of the presence of civilians in these locations and deliberately conducted strikes during peak hours when gatherings were at their largest, indicating a premeditated intent to cause maximum casualties.

Human rights organizations confirm that these crimes constitute a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, especially the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution. Israel's adherence to these rules is a legal and moral obligation that cannot be circumvented by security pretexts.

International organizations call for halting arms supplies to Israel, opening international investigations to hold those responsible accountable, providing immediate protection to civilians, and ending the policy of impunity that fuels the continuation of genocide crimes in the Gaza Strip.

Recommendations:

1. Call upon the United Nations Security Council to convene an emergency session to adopt immediate and concrete measures to halt the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, including the issuance of binding resolutions to enforce a ceasefire and protect civilians.
2. Demand the urgent referral of crimes committed in the Gaza Strip to the International Criminal Court to ensure the prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in accordance with international law.
3. Hold Israeli political and military leaders legally responsible for crimes described as genocide and for grave violations of international humanitarian law.
4. Call for the immediate and comprehensive international protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip through the deployment of monitoring missions or United Nations protection forces, applying the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).
5. Impose deterrent international sanctions on Israel, including arms embargoes and suspension of relations with institutions involved in committing or supporting violations.

6. Support and implement International Court of Justice decisions demanding the cessation of Israeli military operations in Gaza, ensuring Israel's compliance under the threat of international accountability.
7. Secure safe and urgent humanitarian corridors to deliver relief assistance to displaced persons and affected civilians, guaranteeing unhindered access to aid.
8. Initiate a comprehensive reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip, including the repair and development of destroyed infrastructure, with priority given to hospitals, schools, and vital facilities.
9. Urge states with influence on the international stage to cease all forms of political and military support to Israel that contribute to the continuation of aggression and violations of international law.
10. Endorse international efforts aimed at granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations, reinforcing the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Conclusion

This report concludes that Palestinian displaced persons in the Gaza Strip are subject to direct and systematic targeting within their tents and areas of refuge, in blatant violation of all international norms and laws, foremost among them international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This recurrent pattern of attacks, combining deliberate killings, forced displacement, and the destruction of life-sustaining means, constitutes a fully constituted crime amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and even genocide under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

This targeting can only be understood as part of a deliberate policy aimed at depopulating the Gaza Strip and subjecting its inhabitants to collective suffering that undermines their dignity and their fundamental right to life and existence. Furthermore, the ongoing disregard for international appeals and defiance of judicial decisions issued by UN bodies — foremost the International Court of Justice — reflects a clear intent to evade accountability and the absence of any legal or moral deterrent within the occupation authorities.

Therefore, the magnitude of the tragedy and the gravity of the documented violations impose on the international community, in all its diversity and institutions, an ethical and legal duty to intervene immediately and effectively by:

- Immediately halting the aggression and providing urgent and comprehensive international protection for civilians;
- Referring the crimes to the International Criminal Court for the prosecution of those responsible for these violations;
- Imposing deterrent international sanctions on Israel, particularly in the fields of arms supplies and political support;
- Ensuring the safe and unconditional delivery of humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and affected areas;
- Initiating a fair international process for reparations and the just redress of victims, materially and morally, within a framework of comprehensive and fair accountability.

Ignoring this catastrophe will not only entrench a culture of impunity but also undermine the foundations of international law and threaten international peace and security. The time for action is now, and a clear and firm international stance is imperative to save what remains of the lives and human dignity in the Gaza Strip.



Palestinians inspect destroyed temporary tents in a camp for internally displaced persons in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Hospital, after the area was hit by an Israeli airstrike in Deir al-Balah



The Israeli occupation forces bombed a tent compound at Al-Aqsa Hospital



Several tents caught fire while some Palestinians desperately tried to extinguish the flames



Rescue workers are trying to put out the flames



A Palestinian woman looks sorrowfully at the wreckage of the tents after
a night of terror around the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital



A heartbreaking image of the burned tents of displaced people in the
vicinity of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital



A painful image of the displaced persons' tents in the vicinity of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital



The Israeli army has bombed the displaced persons' tents at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital for the seventh time since the beginning of the aggression on the Gaza Strip



Palestinians flee from the fire burning the tents of displaced people in
Deir al-Balah



A little girl carries her younger brother and passes through the
fire-damaged area searching for her family in Deir al-Balah