

# ***UNDERSTANDING LIFE IN THE GAZA STRIP***



**Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people did not start in October 2023.** The Gaza Strip has been subjected to brutal violence for decades, which is part of Israel's ongoing system of apartheid against all Palestinians. **The British government is complicit with these crimes**, including by approving the export of millions of pounds worth of weapons to Israel.

Since 2007, **Israel has imposed a debilitating siege by land, air, and sea on the Gaza Strip.** This has turned the once flourishing hub of Palestinian culture and industry into the world's largest open air prison. **Palestinians are calling for this to end.**

The siege prevents free movement of goods and people, including essentials like medicines and building materials. **It has triggered major socioeconomic and health crises**, exacerbated by periodic military assaults that have devastated Gaza's already fragile infrastructure.

In 2012 the UN warned that Gaza would become uninhabitable by 2020 unless the illegal siege was lifted. Instead, life has got worse for Palestinians in Gaza. **This is the root cause of the problems manifesting today...** and why the UK must urgently call for an end to the siege.

**Palestinians in Gaza demand freedom.  
The siege must be lifted, now.**



- Gaza is one of the **world's most densely populated areas**, with 2.3 million Palestinians living there.
- Roughly **50% are children**, and have only known life living under siege.
- Over **63% of the population is regularly food insecure**, and **81.5% live in poverty**.
- **70% are refugees**, their families having been **displaced by Israel since 1948** and denied their right to return home since.
- Access to clean water and electricity is consistently at crisis level and impacts nearly every aspect of life. **During 'normal' times clean water is unavailable for 95% of the population**, and **electricity only runs for an average of 11 hours a day**.
- Essential medicines are regularly unavailable in Gaza, and **Palestinians denied access to healthcare**.

**Gaza was already in a dire situation... which is now unbearable. Thousands have been killed by Israel's latest assault - over 40% are children - and many more injured and displaced.**

Palestinians have called on Western governments, like Britain, to call for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the flow of weapons to Israel. This couldn't be more pressing.

**Join us calling for: #CeasefireNOW #StopArmingIsrael**



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