

Nowhere

is safe

in Gaza

the Gaza Strip

home to approximately 2.3 million people

almost half of them children

subjected by Israel to

6,000 bombs per week

Gaza is now a different colour

from space a different texture

Two mothers

are estimated to be killed every hour in Gaza

multiple eye-witness accounts of pregnant women

being killed by Israeli soldiers including while trying to access healthcare

5,500

pregnant Palestinian women in Gaza giving birth each month

in unsafe conditions

often with no clean water

in shelters in their homes in the streets

in overwhelmed healthcare facilities

— **Israeli Minister for National Security:** On 10 November 2023, Itamar Ben-Gvir clarified the government's position in a televised address, stating: "[t]o be clear, when we say that Hamas should be destroyed, it also means those who celebrate, those who support, and those who hand out candy — they're all terrorists, and they should also be destroyed."⁴⁵⁶

— **Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure:** 'Tweeting' on 13 October 2023, Israel Katz stated: "All the civilian population in Gaza is ordered to leave immediately. We will win. They will not receive a drop of water or a single battery until they leave the world."⁴⁵⁷ On 12 October 2023, he 'tweeted': "Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home. Humanitarianism for humanitarianism. And no one will preach us morality."⁴⁵⁸

— **Israeli Minister of Finance:** On 8 October 2023, Bezalel Smotrich stated at a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet that "[w]e need to deal a blow that hasn't been seen in 50 years and take down Gaza."⁴⁵⁹

— **Israeli Minister of Heritage:** On 1 November 2023, Amichai Eliyahu posted on Facebook: "The north of the Gaza Strip, more beautiful than ever. Everything is blown up and flattened, simply a pleasure for the eyes ... We must talk about the day after. In my mind, we will hand over lots to all those who fought for Gaza over the years and to those evicted from Gush Katif" [a former Israeli settlement].⁴⁶⁰ He later argued against humanitarian aid as "[w]e wouldn't hand the Nazis humanitarian aid", and "there is no such thing as uninvolved civilians in Gaza".⁴⁶¹ He also posited a nuclear attack on the Gaza Strip.⁴⁶²

— **Israeli Minister of Agriculture:** On 11 November 2023, Avi Dichter in a television interview recalled the Nakba of 1948, in which over 80 percent of the Palestinian population of the new Israeli State was forced from or fled their homes, stating that "[w]e are now actually rolling out the Gaza Nakba".⁴⁶³

— **Deputy Speaker of the Knesset and Member of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee:** On 7 October 2023, Nissim Vaturi 'tweeted' that: "[n]ow we all have one common goal — erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the earth. Those who are unable will be replaced."⁴⁶⁴

102. Similar statements have been made by Israeli army officials, advisers and spokespersons, and others engaging with Israeli troops being deployed in Gaza:

— **Israeli Army Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories ('COGAT'):** On 9 October 2023, in a video statement addressed to Hamas and Gaza residents, published by COGAT's official channel, Major General Ghassan Alian warned: "Hamas became ISIS and the citizens of Gaza are celebrating instead of being horrified. Human animals are dealt with accordingly. Israel has imposed a total blockade on Gaza, no electricity, no water, just damage. You wanted hell, you will get hell."⁴⁶⁵

— **Israeli Army Reservist Major General, former Head of the Israeli National Security Council, and adviser to the Defence Minister:**⁴⁶⁶ On 7 October 2023, Giora Eiland, describing the Israeli order to cut off water and electricity to Gaza, wrote in an online journal: "This is what Israel has begun to do — we cut the supply of energy, water and diesel to the Strip ...

the Israeli order to cut off water and electricity to Gaza, wrote in an online journal: "This is what Israel has begun to do — we cut the supply of energy, water and diesel to the Strip . . . But it's not enough. In order to make the siege effective, we have to prevent others from giving assistance to Gaza . . . *The people should be told that they have two choices; to stay and to starve, or to leave.* If Egypt and other countries prefer that these people will perish in Gaza, this is their choice."⁴⁶⁷ On the same day, he asserted in a national newspaper that "[w]hen you are at war with another country you don't feed them, you don't provide them electricity or gas or water or anything else . . . *A country can be attacked in a much broader way, to bring the country to the brink of dysfunction. This is the necessary outcome of events*" in Gaza.⁴⁶⁸ He has repeatedly asserted the benefits for Israel of the creation of a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, stating that "*Israel has no interest in the Gaza Strip being rehabilitated* and this is an important point that needs to be made clear to the Americans",⁴⁶⁹ and that "[i]f we ever want to see the hostages alive, the only way is to create a *severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza*".⁴⁷⁰ He has indicated that water should be targeted, noting that water in Gaza "comes from wells with salt water unfit for consumption. They have water treatment plants, Israel should hit those plants. When the entire world says we have gone insane and this is a humanitarian disaster — we will say, it's not an end, it's a means."⁴⁷¹ In a Times radio interview on 12 October 2023, he reiterated the army should:

"[C]reate such a huge pressure on Gaza, that Gaza will become an area where people cannot live. People cannot live, until Hamas is destroyed, which means that Israel not only stops to supply energy, diesel, water, food . . . as we did in the last twenty years . . . but we should prevent any possible assistance by others, and to create in Gaza such a terrible, unbearable situation, that can last weeks and months".⁴⁷²

Giora Eiland has repeatedly been given a media platform to call for Gaza to be made uninhabitable, declaring "*the State of Israel has no choice but to make Gaza a place that is temporarily, or permanently, impossible to live in.*"⁴⁷³ In an interview on 6 November 2023, he suggested that, "if there is an intention for a military action at Shifa [Hospital], which I think is inescapable, I hope that the head of the CIA got an explanation of why this is necessary, and why *the US must ultimately back even an operation like this, even if there are thousands of bodies of civilians in the streets afterward.*"⁴⁷⁴ Further he proposed that "Israel needs to create a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, compelling tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in Egypt or the Gulf . . . *Gaza will become a place where no human being can exist.*"⁴⁷⁵ Echoing the words of President Herzog, he has repeatedly underscored that there should be no distinction between Hamas combatants and Palestinian civilians, saying:

"Who are the 'poor' women of Gaza? *They are all the mothers, sisters or wives of Hamas murderers.* On the one hand, they are part of the infrastructure that supports the organization, and on the other hand, if they experience a humanitarian disaster, then it can be assumed that some of the Hamas fighters and the more junior commanders will begin to understand that the war is futile . . . The international community warns us of a humanitarian disaster in Gaza and of severe epidemics. We must not shy away from this, as difficult as that may be. After all, *severe epidemics in the south of the Gaza Strip will bring victory closer . . . It is precisely its civil collapse that will bring the end of the war closer.* When senior Israeli figures say in the media 'It's either us or them' we should clarify the question of who is 'them'. 'They' are not only Hamas fighters with weapons, but also *all the 'civilian' officials, including hospital administrators and school administrators, and also the entire Gaza population who enthusiastically supported Hamas and cheered on its atrocities on October 7th.*"⁴⁷⁶

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