

The humanitarian suffering has significantly increased in the Gaza Strip, with reports indicating that the number of martyrs has exceeded 40,000, of whom 40% are women and children. The number of injured has surpassed 100,000, many of whom are suffering from severe injuries. The war has forced over 1.6 million people to flee their homes, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis. Workers have been struck, with 195,000 workers losing their jobs, raising the unemployment rate to 79.1% in Gaza and 50.8% in the West Bank. Additionally, 12 Palestinian workers in the West Bank have been martyred since the beginning of 2024, and the financial losses in the labor sector have exceeded \$1.25 billion so far.

The ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip since October 7th, along with the increasing attacks on the West Bank by settlers, has halted economic growth in Palestine, raised unemployment rates, and reduced employment opportunities, particularly for women. It has also impacted all social, economic, political, and security aspects; thus, moving to cities and villages is more dangerous in the West Bank due to continuous attacks by settlers on roads between towns and villages.

The conditions facing Palestinian workers in the West Bank, including those working within the West Bank, in Israel, and within Israeli settlements, have led to thousands losing their jobs, especially after the Israeli government decided to expel Palestinian workers from its territories and close roads between Palestinian cities and governorates. There are now over forty thousand martyrs, most of them children and women, over one hundred thousand injured, and more than ten thousand missing. This report documents numerous crimes and violations committed against the defenseless Palestinian people by Israeli occupation forces, who have killed children, women, and civilians in Gaza, and blocked roads with hundreds of checkpoints in the West Bank between villages and cities.

### **Conditions of Palestinian Workers in Israel**

Hundreds of workers from Gaza were detained and forcibly returned to the Gaza Strip after October 7th. It is reported that many of them were mistreated during their detention.

The Threat of Thousands of Palestinian Families in the West Bank Losing Their Sources of Income Due to the Replacement of Palestinian Workers with Foreign Workers Inside Israel<sup>1</sup>.

### **Palestinian Labor in Israel Faces Increasing Risks**

Palestinian workers in Israel are facing continuously deteriorating conditions, as the escalation of violence and conflict has increased pressure on them. Israel has returned hundreds of Gaza workers detained since

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<sup>1</sup> [تاييمز أوف إسرائيل](#), [BBC](#)

October 7th to the Gaza Strip, in addition to forcibly deporting thousands. Many Palestinian families in the West Bank are at risk of losing their sources of income as a result of these repressive policies.<sup>2</sup>

Israel Accused of Torturing Detained Palestinians: UN reports and human rights organizations have indicated that Israel regularly tortures detained Palestinians, especially following the escalation of the current conflict. This includes the use of illegal methods and violations of basic human rights. It is noted that thousands of Palestinians have been arbitrarily detained since October 2023.<sup>3</sup>

#### A Significant Increase in the Number of Aid Worker Deaths in 2024

The year 2024 has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of aid worker deaths in the occupied Palestinian territories. They have been directly targeted by occupation forces while performing their humanitarian duties. The danger to aid workers in the region is increasing, weakening humanitarian efforts to alleviate suffering.

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#### **The Rise of Poverty Rates in the Palestinian Territories to Unprecedented Levels**

The poverty rate in the Palestinian territories has risen to over 55% due to the ongoing conflict, with more than half of the population unable to meet their basic needs. This increase reflects the significant deterioration of economic and social conditions, further exacerbating the suffering of the most vulnerable groups.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Deterioration of Conditions for Palestinian Workers in Israeli Industrial Areas**

Palestinian workers in Israeli industrial areas face severe deterioration in their conditions, being exploited with low wages and long working hours without basic rights. These conditions have worsened with the escalation of the conflict, as workers have become more vulnerable to harassment and arbitrary inspections by occupation forces.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Closure of Palestinian Factories Due to War Damage**

The war has led to the closure of many Palestinian factories due to extensive damage to infrastructure. This closure has resulted in thousands of workers losing their jobs, further aggravating unemployment and poverty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [timesofisrael.com](https://www.timesofisrael.com) , [euronewsah](https://www.euronewsah.com)

<sup>3</sup> [ohchr.org/](https://www.ohchr.org/)

<sup>4</sup> [ochaopt.](https://www.ochaopt.org/)

<sup>5</sup> [news.un.org](https://www.news.un.org)

<sup>6</sup> [aljazeera.](https://www.aljazeera.com)

<sup>7</sup> [aljazeera.](https://www.aljazeera.com) , [palestine-studies](https://www.palestine-studies.org) , [bbc.](https://www.bbc.com)

## **Wage Reductions and Delayed Salaries Due to the Economic Crisis**

Palestinian companies are facing a severe financial crisis, leading to wage reductions and delays in salary payments for workers. This situation adds to the economic burden on workers, who are already struggling with low living standards and high living costs.<sup>8</sup>

## **Increase in Cases of Torture Against Palestinian Workers in Israeli Prisons**

Human rights reports indicate a significant increase in cases of torture against Palestinian workers detained in Israeli prisons since the beginning of the current conflict. Torture is used as a means to pressure workers for information or force them to cooperate with Israeli authorities.<sup>9</sup>

## **Severe Shortage of Basic Supplies in Palestinian Markets Due to the War**

As a result of the siege and restrictions on the movement of goods, Palestinian markets suffer from a severe shortage of basic supplies. This shortage has led to a sharp increase in the prices of food and medicine, making daily life more difficult for workers and their families, especially in Gaza, where the humanitarian situation is catastrophic<sup>10</sup>.

## **Impact of the War on Palestinian Companies: Reductions in Labor and Working Hours**

The war has severely impacted Palestinian companies, particularly in the West Bank, with 98.8% of institutions reporting negative effects. As a result, 65.3% of companies have reduced their workforce, and 73.3% have reduced the working hours of some employees. This trend reflects the extent of economic deterioration and adds further pressure on workers who are already facing a lack of job opportunities<sup>11</sup>.

## **Sharp Increase in Unemployment Rates in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**

The conflict has led to a worrying increase in unemployment rates, reaching 50.8% across the occupied Palestinian territories, with Gaza's unemployment rate rising to 79.1%, compared to 32% in the West Bank. These figures reflect a complete economic collapse, with thousands of families losing their livelihoods due to widespread destruction and the near-total halt of economic activity.<sup>12</sup>

## **Rising International Calls to End Violence and Provide Humanitarian Aid**

As violence continues to escalate in the Palestinian territories, international calls for a ceasefire and the provision of humanitarian aid have intensified. Organizations such as the United Nations and the

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<sup>8</sup> [aljazeera.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [news.un.](#) , [bbc.](#) , [ohchr.](#) , [amnesty.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [bbc.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [ilo.org](#)

<sup>12</sup> [ilo.org](#)

International Committee of the Red Cross have called for unconditional access to medical and food supplies for those affected<sup>13</sup>.

### **Worsening Education Crisis in Palestine Due to the War**

The war has led to the closure of many schools in Gaza and the West Bank, depriving more than 300,000 Palestinian students of their right to education. Additionally, many schools have been converted into shelters for displaced persons, further straining the already weak educational infrastructure.<sup>14</sup>

### **Sharp Contraction in the Palestinian Economy Due to the War**

The current war has led to a significant collapse of the Palestinian economy, with GDP contracting by 32.8% in the first eight months of the conflict. The impact has been most severe in Gaza, where the contraction reached 83.5%, compared to a 22.7% contraction in the West Bank. This collapse reflects the destruction of infrastructure and the disruption of vital economic activities.

Due to this economic decline, the unemployment rate in the occupied Palestinian territories as a whole has reached 50.8% as a result of the downturn in economic activities. In Gaza, the unemployment rate has risen to 79.1%, making it one of the highest unemployment rates in the world due to the war. Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the unemployment rate has reached 32% due to the shrinking job opportunities<sup>15</sup>.

### **Deterioration of Health Conditions in Gaza Due to Continuous Bombardment**

The ongoing bombardment in Gaza has severely degraded health services. Hospitals and health centers have suffered extensive damage, leading to acute shortages of medicines and medical equipment. Additionally, many patients are forced to receive treatment in unsafe conditions or endure long waits to access basic healthcare.<sup>16</sup>

### **The Historic Ruling of the International Court of Justice: Israeli Occupation is Illegal**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a historic ruling declaring the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories illegal. This ruling is considered a significant legal victory for Palestinians, as it acknowledges that Israel is violating international law by continuing its occupation of Palestinian lands<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [news.un.](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1135203)

<sup>14</sup> [ochaopt.org](https://ochaopt.org/)

<sup>15</sup> [ilo.org](https://ilo.org/)

<sup>16</sup> [hrw.org](https://hrw.org/) , [news.un.org/](https://news.un.org/) , [aljazeera.net/health/](https://aljazeera.net/health/)

<sup>17</sup> [www.amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org/)

## **According to the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU)<sup>18</sup>**

### **Human Losses**

The number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 40,000 since the beginning of the war, reflecting the scale of violence and destruction.

The number of injured has reached 100,000 people, with tens of thousands still missing. Additionally, 520 bodies have been retrieved from mass graves within hospitals.

Two Palestinian workers were martyred while attempting to reach their workplaces since the beginning of 2024, after being targeted by Israeli forces.

Another Palestinian worker from the West Bank was martyred in 2024 while detained at Hadarim prison in Occupied Territories.

Another Palestinian worker from Gaza passed away in 2024 at one of the shelter centers in Jericho in the West Bank due to a severe heart attack caused by the distress over his family's situation in Gaza.

### **Material Damage**

Around 150,000 housing units have been completely destroyed, while another 200,000 housing units have been partially damaged, rendering them uninhabitable.

A total of 332 schools have been partially or completely destroyed, along with 116 universities, significantly disrupting the educational process.

The healthcare system has been severely impacted, with 53 clinics damaged and 33 out of 35 hospitals forced to close due to bombing or fuel shortages.

Furthermore, 206 archaeological and heritage sites have suffered substantial damage due to the bombings, reflecting the extent of cultural destruction in the region.

### **Economic and Social Impact**

Since the beginning of the war, 19,200 work permits for Palestinian workers from Gaza who were employed in the Israeli market have been revoked, and the arrest of 3,200 of these workers has been documented, with them being sent back to Gaza.

Unemployment rates have soared to unprecedented levels, with more than 350,000 Palestinians in the West Bank out of work since October 7, 2023.

The Gaza Strip has been completely isolated from essential services such as electricity, water, and communications, leading to an almost complete halt in economic activity.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://pgftu.org/>

## **Health Situation**

Due to the ongoing bombings in Gaza, 33 out of 35 hospitals have been forced to close, putting 350,000 patients at risk of death due to the lack of medical care.

One million people in Gaza are facing the threat of starvation, as bakeries and food facilities have been severely damaged.

## **Women in Gaza**

Approximately 60,000 pregnant women among the displaced in Rafah face an uncertain fate due to the destruction of the city. More than 180 women give birth daily under extremely difficult circumstances.

Women are being forced to shave their heads due to the water shortage, exacerbating their suffering during menstruation.

Around 20,000 children were born during the war under unimaginable conditions, while two mothers are killed every hour.

About 3,000 women have become widows, with around 14,000 families now being solely supported by women.

More than 10,000 women and 19,000 children have been killed due to the war. Additionally, 37 children lose their mothers daily, and 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women face severe difficulties in accessing water and healthcare.

## **Forced Displacement**

Under these harsh conditions, two million people have been internally displaced, with 1,650,000 of them residing in Rafah alone. Many health and educational facilities have suffered significant damage, with 332 schools and universities partially damaged, and 116 schools and universities completely destroyed. Additionally, 50 UNRWA facilities have been targeted, resulting in 13 deaths and 195 injuries among the displaced.

## **Arrest of Workers**

Since the outbreak of aggression on October 7, 2023, the arrest of Palestinian workers, especially those employed in the labor market inside the occupied territories, has intensified. Numerous incidents of arrests targeting workers from Gaza and the West Bank have been documented, with 6,500 Palestinian workers arrested so far. These workers, whether from their workplaces or from shelters in the West Bank, endure harsh detention conditions, including physical abuse (torture) and starvation during interrogations by Israeli police at detention centers such as " Abu Kabir "and" Anatot "inside the occupied territories.

The wave of arrests began in December 2023 when three workers from Gaza were arrested in the town of Aqraba, southeast of Nablus. The following week, 67 workers from Gaza were arrested in the town of Fara'un, south of Tulkarm. The intensity of arrests increased in January 2024, with 15 workers from Gaza arrested in the Bidya Municipality complex, along with the storming of the headquarters of the General

Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions, resulting in the arrest of 50 Palestinians from Hebron in January, including 16 workers who were targeted while trapped in their workplaces.

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### **The Historic Ruling by the International Court of Justice: The Israeli Occupation is Illegal**

The International Court of Justice issued a historic ruling declaring that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal. This ruling is a significant legal victory for the Palestinians, as it acknowledges that Israel is violating international law by continuing its occupation of Palestinian territories. According to Amnesty International.

### **Human Losses**

The number of martyrs in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 40,000 since the beginning of the war, a staggering figure reflecting the scale of violence and destruction. The number of injured has reached 100,000, with tens of thousands still missing. Additionally, 520 bodies have been recovered from mass graves within hospitals.

Two Palestinian workers were martyred while attempting to reach their workplaces since the beginning of 2024, after being targeted by occupation forces. A Palestinian worker from the West Bank was martyred in 2024 while being detained at Hadarim prison in the occupied territories. Another Palestinian worker from Gaza passed away in 2024 at a shelter in Jericho, West Bank, due to a severe heart attack caused by distress over his family's situation in Gaza.

### **Material Damage**

150,000 housing units were completely destroyed, while another 200,000 housing units were partially damaged, rendering them uninhabitable.

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The healthcare system was severely impacted, with 53 clinics destroyed, and 33 out of 35 hospitals were forced to close due to bombing or fuel shortages.

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### **Economic and Social Impact**

The work permits of 19,200 Palestinian workers from Gaza who were employed in the Israeli market were revoked since the start of the war, with 3,200 of them documented as having been arrested and sent back to Gaza.

Unemployment rates have reached record levels, with over 350,000 Palestinians in the West Bank unemployed since October 7, 2023.

Gaza has been completely cut off from basic services such as electricity, water, and communications, leading to an almost complete halt to economic activity.

### **Health Situation**

33 out of 35 hospitals were forced to close due to bombing or fuel shortages, putting 350,000 patients at risk of death due to the lack of medical care.

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Around 3,000 women have become widows, with around 14,000 families now solely reliant on women for support.

Over 10,000 children have lost their mothers daily, and 19,000 women have been injured due to the war. Additionally, 155,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women face significant challenges in accessing water and healthcare.

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### **Arrest of Workers**

Since the aggression began on October 7, 2023, the arrest of Palestinian workers, especially those working in the labor market within the occupied territories, has increased. Many incidents of arrest targeting workers from Gaza and the West Bank have been documented, with 6,500 Palestinian workers arrested so far. These workers, whether from their workplaces or from shelters in the West Bank, live under harsh detention conditions, enduring torture, physical assaults, and starvation during interrogations by Israeli police at detention centers like "Abu Kabir" and "Anatot" within the occupied territories.

The arrest campaign began in December 2023 when three workers from Gaza were arrested in the town of Aqraba, southeast of Nablus. The following week, 67 workers from Gaza were arrested in the town of Fara'un, south of Tulkarm. The arrests intensified in January 2024, with 15 workers from Gaza arrested at the Bedia Municipality complex, and the Union of Palestinian Workers' Federation office was raided.



Additionally, 50 Palestinian workers were arrested in Hebron in January, targeting workers stranded at their workplaces.

Arrests continued in the following months. In February 2024, 49 Gazans were arrested in the town of Barta'a, south of Jenin. In March 2024, Israeli forces launched wide-scale raids targeting workers in various areas, resulting in the arrest of 65 workers and 36 of them being held for investigation.

The arrest campaign peaked in May 2024, with Israeli forces arresting a large number of workers from inside residential apartments, workshops, and even from trucks while they were traveling to their workplaces. Among these incidents was the arrest of 25 workers without permits near the Hizma checkpoint and the arrest of 54 workers from a construction site in Jerusalem.

Reports from human rights organizations and testimonies from recently released Gaza workers indicate that detention conditions are harsh, with workers subjected to torture and inhumane conditions. However, Israeli reports state that no charges were proven against the detained Palestinian workers. After investigating thousands of workers, it was found that they posed no security threat, highlighting that these arrests are part of the ongoing occupation policy of harassing Palestinian workers and fighting for their livelihood.

### **Palestinian Workers in the Occupied Territories**

Palestinian workers who work inside the occupied territories have suffered a complete work stoppage, affecting around 225,000 workers. As a result, their income sources have completely dried up, forcing some to sell their household furniture to provide food for their families. The monthly losses incurred by these workers are estimated at more than 1.25 billion shekels, leading to an economic paralysis in the West Bank and causing more than 80,000 workers to be laid off from their jobs in the Palestinian labor market.

In 2023, the number of "livelihood martyrs" among Palestinian workers was 113, divided between the labor market inside the occupied territories, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. In the labor market inside the occupied territories, 79 workers were martyred, including two targeted by settlers and two others who fell due to the current war. Additionally, 12 workers from Gaza were martyred while at their workplaces inside the occupied territories, including Majed Ahmed Zaqoul and Mansour Nabhan, who were martyred due to torture during interrogation in occupation prisons after their arrest following the events of October 7.

In the labor market in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 27 workers were martyred in 2023. Among these martyrs, a settler targeted a worker while he was harvesting olives on October 28, 2023, and a taxi driver was martyred after being targeted by occupation forces in Hebron Governorate on November 13, 2023. Another worker was martyred at Beit Einun Junction in Hebron while working as a parcel delivery driver on December 20, 2023. Additionally, five workers were martyred while trying to reach their workplaces, including 22 others since the beginning of 2024. Two of them were targeted by occupation forces while trying to go to and return from their workplaces inside the occupied territories, both from Hebron Governorate.

### **In the West Bank**

Palestinian cities did not escape the occupation's raids, house demolitions, and targeting of civilians. Since October 7, 2023, 620 Palestinians have been martyred in the West Bank, and the unemployment rate has risen to 350,000 people after the cessation of work in the Israeli market. Palestinian workers also suffer from arrest and persecution, with 15,118 Palestinians arrested in the West Bank and Gaza since the start of the aggression, and the number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons is at least 11,000 people, including 355 children and 184 women.

**Targeting and Raiding :** Palestinian cities such as Jerusalem, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho, Salfit, and Qalqilya suffer from occupation raids, house demolitions, and targeting of civilians and children.

#### **Martyrs:**

- 527 martyrs in the West Bank in 2023.
- 664 martyrs after October 7, 2023.
- 346 martyrs in the first 8 months of 2024.

#### **House Demolitions:**

- More than 1,363 homes were demolished by the occupation since the events of October 7, 2023.
- More than 495 buildings and houses were destroyed by the occupation in 2023.

**Displaced People:** More than 4,509 displaced people in the West Bank due to building and house demolitions.

**Prisoners:** There are approximately 9,600 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank in occupation prisons.

#### **Movement:**

- Traveling between cities in the West Bank poses a great danger due to checkpoints and coercive measures, making travel take much longer than usual.
- The usual time to travel from Nablus to Ramallah is 50 minutes, but with current measures, it takes at least 3 hours.
- The King Hussein Bridge, the only outlet for 3.5 million Palestinians, is only open for three hours daily and completely closes on Saturdays.

Workers in the Occupied Territories:

- The occupation police raid workers' housing and pursue them even while they are at work, in coordination with Israeli employers.
- Over 6,500 cases of criminal detention of Palestinian workers, whether from Gaza or the West Bank.
- 225,000 workers have stopped working since the events of October 7, 2023.
- Providing food and legal support to 4,350 workers from Gaza in shelter centers.

- The emergency hotline number is 120-120-1800, established by the General Federation of Trade Unions in Palestine.
- Economic losses: The estimated economic losses for Palestinian workers since October 7, 2023, is one billion euros.
- The unemployment rate across Palestine, including the West Bank, Gaza, and the occupied territories, has risen to over 500,000 unemployed after October 7, 2023.