

RECENT ESCALATION OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTIONS

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*(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do
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On March 18, 2025, Israel launched yet another round of unrelenting aerial and ground assaults on the besieged Gaza Strip, in what is being widely condemned as a blatant violation of multiple prior ceasefire agreements. This latest offensive marks the fourth major breach since the initial truce was agreed in the wake of the October 2023 hostilities. The humanitarian truce had been painstakingly negotiated through international mediators, including Egypt, Qatar, and the United Nations. These ceasefires were designed not only to halt violence but also to facilitate the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid to Gaza's beleaguered Palestinian population. After more than 15 months of war, a ceasefire deal agreed between Israel and Hamas had come into effect on January 19, 2025. It sought to create a longer-term buffer for aid reconstruction, but this too was shattered by Israel's gradual re-escalation of targeted strikes, culminating in the recent full-scale assault in March 2025. The latest attacks have not spared refugee camps, hospitals, or UN-run schools.

In response to Israel's latest wave of deadly attacks on Gaza, the Arab League has called for an economic boycott of Israel, urging all member states to suspend diplomatic and trade relations as long as the aggression continues. During an emergency session in Cairo on March 19, 2025, Arab foreign ministers condemned the targeting of civilians and described the military campaign as a

flagrant violation of international law. Several individual Arab nations echoed this position: Qatar denounced the attacks as “crimes against humanity,” while Jordan warned that Israel’s actions were pushing the region toward a broader explosion. Saudi Arabia reiterated its demand for an immediate ceasefire and reaffirmed support for a unified Arab response, including the acceleration of aid to Gaza.

As of April 11, 2025, the cumulative death toll since October 2023 had reached a staggering 50887 Palestinians¹, of which over 74% are women and children. More than 90,000 Palestinians have been injured, many critically, in what observers have described as systematic attacks on Gaza’s densely populated areas. Residential homes, makeshift shelters, and vital infrastructure including bakeries and water wells have been deliberately targeted. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure, including the flattening of hospitals, has rendered even the most basic medical services non-functional. The Ministry of Health in Gaza and humanitarian responders have warned of an increasing death toll as rescue operations continue to pull bodies from beneath rubble. Civilian infrastructure such as homes, schools, and aid distribution sites continues to be bombarded, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in a territory where more than 1.7 million people are already internally displaced. More than 500,000 people in Gaza are facing catastrophic hunger, with aid access blocked or severely restricted by Israeli forces.² Only 12 out of 36 hospitals remain partially operational, all under constant threat.³

According to a March 2025 United Nations report,⁴ Israel's actions in Gaza exhibit a deliberate pattern of targeting children, amounting to what experts are calling a form of child-targeted warfare.⁵ The UN’s Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories has emphasized that the overwhelming number of child casualties — now in the tens of thousands — is not incidental, but reflective of systematic military choices. The report condemns Israeli operations for bombing homes with children inside, attacking UN-run schools used as shelters, and destroying medical

1 "Gaza Invasion — Live Updates," Dawn, April 11, 2025.

<https://www.dawn.com/live/gaza-invasion>

2 “500,000 People in Gaza Face 'Catastrophic' Hunger, UN Agency Warns," ABC News, March 18, 2024, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/500000-people-gaza-face-catastrophic-hunger-unrwa/story?id=106593939>.

3 “Destruction of Gaza’s Healthcare System”, Al-Haq, January 2025.

https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2025/01/23/destruction-of-gaza-healthcare-system-two-pages-view-1737653720.pdf.

4 “The Impact of the Israeli Offensive on the Human Rights of Palestinians in Gaza,” United Nations Human Rights Council, March 2025.

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session58/a-hrc-58-crp-6.pdf>.

5 “Israel's War on Gaza Is Deliberately Targeting Children, New UN Report,” *The Conversation*, March 2025, <https://theconversation.com/israels-war-on-gaza-is-deliberately-targeting-children-new-un-report-252398>.

facilities treating young patients. It also accuses Israel of inflicting trauma as a weapon of war, pointing to the long-term psychological impact on survivors.

Meanwhile, on March 19, 2025, the U.S. State Department said that it fully supports Israel's resumption of air and ground operations in Gaza, and blamed Hamas for the violence. Military analysts and rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have pointed out that American-supplied weaponry, particularly precision-guided bombs, has been used in attacks on civilian targets, raising questions of complicity in potential war crimes.

In the midst of the humanitarian catastrophe, U.S. President Donald Trump proposed a controversial plan aimed at transforming the region. During a press conference on February 4, 2025, alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Trump stated: "We will take over Gaza, relocate its people, and develop it into the Riviera of the Middle East." This proposal involves the displacement of approximately two million Palestinian residents to neighboring countries, a move widely criticized by international leaders and organizations as a form of ethnic cleansing. Essentially the plan legitimizes apartheid-like conditions and seeks to permanently erode the prospect of a two-state solution as envisaged in numerous UN resolutions and international peace frameworks.

In the wake of latest developments, the Arab League convened an emergency summit in Cairo on March 4, 2025 to deliberate on a comprehensive response. Member states called for an urgent international peace conference under the United Nations auspices, insisting that any lasting resolution must adhere to internationally recognized legal principles and Security Council resolutions. The summit resulted in the endorsement of Egypt's \$53 billion reconstruction plan for Gaza, aiming to rebuild the region by 2030 while preserving its population. The plan also includes the establishment of an interim government composed of technocrats and independent Palestinian figures, supported by Arab, Muslim, and Western states. This governing body would oversee the rebuilding process, manage humanitarian aid, and facilitate future elections. The summit also underscored the need for immediate humanitarian relief, with several Arab nations pledging financial and logistical support for aid deliveries. The Arab League's communique adopted during the summit called on the international community and financial institutions to swiftly support Egypt's reconstruction plan for Gaza.

All in all, the renewed Israeli aggression in Gaza, carried out in flagrant violation of ceasefire agreements and with direct support from the United States, poses a serious threat to regional peace and security. The mounting civilian death toll, destruction of infrastructure, and humanitarian blockade are indicative of a deliberate strategy of collective punishment. The revival of unilateral

peace proposals, such as those recently put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump, further undermine the prospect of a fair and sustainable solution to this longstanding dispute.