

## Gaza situation update: 3 April 2024

1. **UN OCHA Updates:** As of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 the following statistics are updated:<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Palestinian casualties: According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, at least 32,975 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 75,577 have been injured since 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
  - b. West Bank: Since 7<sup>th</sup> October and as of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 428 Palestinians, including 110 children, have been killed by Israeli forces across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, of whom 131 were killed since the start of 2024. In addition, nine were killed by Israeli settlers and three by either Israeli forces or settlers. Four additional Palestinians from the West Bank have been killed while perpetrating attacks in Israel. During the same period, some 4,760 Palestinians have been injured, including at least 739 children, the majority by Israeli forces. According to the Palestinian Prisoners Club, 11 Palestinians have additionally died in Israeli prisons since 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, mainly due to reported medical negligence or abuse.
  
2. **ICJ order:** On 28<sup>th</sup> March, the International Court of Justice (“**ICJ**”) issued additional provisional measures against Israel following South Africa’s request of 6<sup>th</sup> March in the case. The Order states that *“in view of the worsening conditions of life faced by Palestinians in Gaza, in particular the spread of famine and starvation,”* Israel must:

*“Take all necessary and effective measures to ensure, without delay, in full co-operation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to Palestinians throughout Gaza, including by increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary.*

*[...and]*

*Ensure with immediate effect that its military does not commit acts which constitute a violation of any of the rights of the Palestinians in Gaza as a protected group under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, including by preventing, through any action, the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.”*<sup>2</sup>
  
3. **Siege of Shifa Hospital and attack on World Central Kitchen Convoy:** On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, the Israeli forces withdrew from an intensive operation on Al Shifa hospital. The entire hospital was left in ruins, with dead bodies strewn all around the exterior and interior of the complex.<sup>3</sup> Civilians were among the dead, who were bulldozed into the earth and burned in fires. Some of the bodies had cable ties around their hands and feet.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?\\_gl=1\\*\\_wsul4k\\*\\_ga\\*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx\\*\\_ga\\_E60ZNX2F68\\*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?_gl=1*_wsul4k*_ga*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/01/israeli-forces-withdraw-from-gaza-al-shifa-hospital-after-two-week-raid>

The residential houses around the complex were completely flattened. Also on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, seven international aid workers, including three British nationals, were killed in a series of targeted drone strikes on the coastal road in Gaza.<sup>4</sup> Israel has taken responsibility.<sup>5</sup> According to Campaign Against Arms Trade: *“The workers were killed by a strike from a Hermes 450 drone manufactured by Elbit Systems. The Hermes 450 is powered by a UK-made R902(W) Wankel engine, produced by Elbit subsidiary UAV Engines Limited in the UK.”*<sup>6</sup> The Israeli newspaper Haaretz similarly attributed the strike to a Hermes drone.<sup>7</sup> These are some of the most important developments in the period since the last update: for more information, see the enclosed Case Reports.

4. **Letters requesting cessation of arms trade:** Forces Network reported that a group of senior military and foreign policy experts have written to the Prime Minister calling for the UK to suspend arms sales to Israel. Signatories to the letter include a number of notable military personnel, including Brigadier John Deverell CBE, former Senior British Officer Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Major General Charles Vyvyan, former defence attaché in Washington. The letter says:

*“The UK has licensed at least £489m worth of military exports to Israel since 2015, including components for combat aircraft, missiles, tanks, small arms and ammunition... For example, the F-35 stealth bomber aircraft, containing many UK-made parts, is being used to devastate parts of Gaza, causing immense suffering and destruction... Our concern is heightened by the recurring misuse of these arms, risking UK complicity in war crimes... This not only leads to immense human suffering but also challenges the UK's commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty and national laws.”*<sup>8</sup>

5. In addition, on 27<sup>th</sup> March, more than 130 parliamentarians signed a letter addressed to the Foreign Secretary and Business Secretary, calling for immediate suspension of arms transfers to Israel. The letter, coordinated by Zarah Sultana MP, reads:

*“UK-made weapons are being used in Gaza. For example, the government grants export licenses for parts of Israeli F-16 fighter jets. According to a United Nations investigation, it was likely one of these jets – made with UK parts – that, in January, bombed British doctors at a compound in Gaza housing an emergency medical team from the International Rescue Committee and Medical Aid for Palestinians... We therefore call on you to immediately suspend export licenses for arms transfers to Israel.”*<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2024/04/02/strike-that-killed-world-central-kitchen-workers-bears-hallmarks-of-israeli-precision-strike/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://videoidf.azureedge.net/71f0e570-2768-4c97-a3ac-160572f4cb88>

<sup>6</sup> <https://caat.org.uk/news/media-release-the-uk-is-complicit-in-israels-killing-of-uk-aid-workers-in-gaza/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-04-02/ty-article/.premium/idf-bombed-wck-aid-convoy-3-times-targeting-armed-hamas-member-who-wasnt-there/0000018e-9e75-d764-adff-9eff29360000>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.forces.net/middle-east/former-british-army-generals-back-call-suspend-arms-sales-israel-amid-gaza>

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/zarahsultana/status/1772898790053155083/photo/2>

6. **UNSC Resolution:** On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2728 (2024),<sup>10</sup> with 14 members voting in favour, and the United States abstaining. The resolution demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza for the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is almost over, and there has been no ceasefire. To the contrary, Israeli attacks have continued at pace. Israeli forces and state representatives have explicitly responded by making it clear they would not abide by the resolution. The Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, called the resolution “scandalous,” while war cabinet minister Benny Gantz said Israel “has a moral obligation to continue to fight until the hostages are returned and the Hamas threat is removed, and that is what we will do.” He dismissed the UNSC resolution as **“lacking operational significance for us.”**<sup>11</sup> Similarly, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said **“The state of Israel will not cease fire... We will destroy Hamas and continue to fight until the last of the hostages returns home.”**<sup>12</sup>
7. **“Lavender” artificial intelligence (“AI”) program:** The Israeli-Palestinian publication +972, which has carried out some of the most revelatory journalism involving interviews with current Israeli soldiers, published on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 an article detailing an AI program previously unknown in the public domain. The article confirms the Claimant’s earlier assessment that individuals suspected of being Hamas fighters are being targeted in their homes with their families as a matter of regular practice. It is now apparent that this is not an aberration but a deliberate policy. The article includes the following highly alarming quotes:<sup>13</sup>
- a. *“Formally, the Lavender system is designed to mark all suspected operatives in the military wings of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), including low-ranking ones, as potential bombing targets. The sources told +972 and Local Call that, during the first weeks of the war, the army almost completely relied on Lavender, which clocked as many as 37,000 Palestinians as suspected militants — and their homes — for possible air strikes.”*
  - b. *During the early stages of the war, the army gave sweeping approval for officers to adopt Lavender’s kill lists, with no requirement to thoroughly check why the machine made those choices or to examine the raw intelligence data on which they were based. One source stated that human personnel often served only as a “rubber stamp” for the machine’s decisions, adding that, normally, they would personally devote only about “20 seconds” to each target before authorizing a bombing — just to make sure the Lavender-marked target is male. This was despite knowing that the system makes what are regarded as “errors” in approximately 10 percent of cases, and is known to occasionally mark individuals who have merely a loose connection to militant groups, or no connection at all.*

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<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/080/81/pdf/n2408081.pdf?token=n37JteGzhdbgFU9rwr&f e=true>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-nixes-us-rafah-talks-as-washington-allows-unsc-resolution-demanding-gaza-ceasefire/#:~:text=Defense%20Minister%20Yoav%20Gallant%2C%20who,the%20hostages%20to%20th eir%20homes.%E2%80%9D>

<sup>12</sup> <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2024/03/25/middleeast/un-security-council-gaza-israel-ceasefire-intl>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.972mag.com/lavender-ai-israeli-army-gaza/>

- c. Moreover, the Israeli army systematically attacked the targeted individuals while they were in their homes — usually at night while their whole families were present — rather than during the course of military activity. According to the sources, this was because, from what they regarded as an intelligence standpoint, it was easier to locate the individuals in their private houses. **Additional automated systems, including one called “Where’s Daddy?” also revealed here for the first time, were used specifically to track the targeted individuals and carry out bombings when they had entered their family’s residences.** “We were not interested in killing [ Hamas ] operatives only when they were in a military building or engaged in a military activity,” A., an intelligence officer, told +972 and Local Call. “On the contrary, the IDF bombed them in homes without hesitation, as a first option. It’s much easier to bomb a family’s home. The system is built to look for them in these situations.”
- d. Another source said that they had personally authorized the bombing of “hundreds” of private homes of alleged junior operatives marked by Lavender, with many of these attacks killing civilians and entire families as “collateral damage.”
- e. In an unprecedented move, according to two of the sources, **the army also decided during the first weeks of the war that, for every junior Hamas operative that Lavender marked, it was permissible to kill up to 15 or 20 civilians; in the past, the military did not authorize any “collateral damage” during assassinations of low-ranking militants. The sources added that, in the event that the target was a senior Hamas official with the rank of battalion or brigade commander, the army on several occasions authorized the killing of more than 100 civilians in the assassination of a single commander.**
- f. “At 5 a.m., [the air force] would come and bomb all the houses that we had marked,” B. said. “We took out thousands of people. We didn’t go through them one by one — we put everything into automated systems, and as soon as one of [the marked individuals] was at home, he immediately became a target. We bombed him and his house.”
- g. “It was very surprising for me that we were asked to bomb a house to kill a ground soldier, whose importance in the fighting was so low,” said one source about the use of AI to mark alleged low-ranking militants. “I nicknamed those targets ‘garbage targets.’ Still, I found them more ethical than the targets that we bombed just for ‘deterrence’— highrises that are evacuated and toppled just to cause destruction.”
- h. Three intelligence sources [...] told +972 and Local Call that junior operatives marked by Lavender were assassinated only with dumb bombs, in the interest of saving more expensive armaments. The implication, one source explained, was that the army would not strike a junior target if they lived in a high-rise building, because the army did not want to spend a more precise and expensive “floor bomb” (with more limited collateral effect) to kill him. But if a junior target lived in a building with only a few floors, the army was authorized to kill him and everyone in the building with a dumb bomb.

8. This further reinforces widespread claims that unguided “Dumb Bombs” have been used extensively in this war – according to CNN, 40-45%.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/12/13/politics/intelligence-assessment-dumb-bombs-israel-gaza/index.html>

9. **Kill zones:** According to the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, the Israeli army is operating “kill zones” and “*anyone who crosses into them is shot.*”<sup>15</sup> The claims made in the Haaretz article are founded on a series of interviews conducted with “*a host of reserve and standing army commanders*” of the IDF. They represent direct evidence of policies that conflict with the cardinal principle of distinction. The statements in the article include the following:
- a. Speaking of a double-tap airstrike on four unarmed men in civilian clothing: “*This was a very grave incident,*” a senior Israel Defense Forces officer told Haaretz. “*They were unarmed, they didn't endanger our forces in the area in which they were walking.*” In addition, says an intelligence officer who is familiar with the story, it was not at all certain that they were involved in launching the rocket. He says that they were simply the people who were closest to the launching site – it's possible they were terrorists, it's possible they were civilians out looking for food.”
  - b. “*In every combat zone, commanders define such kill zones,*” says the reserve officer. “*This means clear red lines that no one who is not from the IDF may cross, so that our forces in the area are not hit.*” The boundaries of these kill zones are not determined in advance, nor is their distance from the house in which the forces are situated... “*As soon as people enter it, mainly adult males, orders are to shoot and kill, even if that person is unarmed,*” says the reserve officer.”
  - c. “*For our commanders, if we identified someone in our area of operation who was not part of our forces, we were told to shoot to kill,*” said a soldier from a reserve brigade in describing his experience. “*We were explicitly told that even if a suspect runs into a building with people in it, we should fire at the building and kill the terrorist, even if other people are hurt.*”
  - d. “*The senior commander estimates that there were incidents in which civilians tried to reach areas they thought the army had left, possibly in the hope of finding food left behind. When they went to such places, they were shot, perceived as people who could harm our forces,*” says this commander.”
10. Haaretz thus casts significant doubt on the Israeli claim that “*9,000 terrorists have been killed since the Gaza war began,*” because it is clear that within the Israeli army’s definition of “terrorist” is anybody killed in the areas in which the IDF operates.<sup>16</sup> These “kill zones” are entirely consistent with reports of Israeli forces killing large numbers of civilians through sniper fire in circumstances where civilians do not even know where they can and cannot go without being shot. For example, The Guardian published a report on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in which doctors were interviewed about their experiences of treating gunshot wounds in children.<sup>17</sup> In one case, two 7- or 8- year old **children had “sniper shots to the brain”, and had been left paraplegic.** The doctor interviewed said: “*They were not the only ones. I saw even small children with direct sniper shot wounds to the head as well as in the chest. They were not combatants, they were small children.*” The report, based on interviews with nine doctors, states: “[...] doctors said

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<sup>15</sup> <https://archive.is/bMTGS#selection-1603.0-1603.341>

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* “In practice, a terrorist is anyone the IDF has killed in the areas in which its forces operate”, says a reserve officer who has served in Gaza.”

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/02/gaza-palestinian-children-killed-idf-israel-war>

*they did not know the circumstances of the shootings but that they were deeply troubled by the number of children who were severely wounded or killed by single gunshots, sometimes by high-calibre bullets causing extensive damage to young bodies.”*

**11. Airstrikes, starvation, and attacks on healthcare and humanitarian workers:** In addition to the new developments outlined above, Israel’s unlawful airstrikes in Gaza continue unabated. There are too many to enumerate. However, for example, to choose one of the seven airstrikes referenced in the latest UN OCHA update “*On 31 March, at about 13:00, four Palestinians were reportedly killed, and at least 17 others injured, including eight journalists, when an IDP tent was hit in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah. A World Health Organization (WHO) team was at the medical facility at the time of the strike to assess needs and collect incubators to be sent to northern Gaza.*”<sup>18</sup> Further, despite the ICJ provisional measures ordered on 28<sup>th</sup> March, Israel continues to impede access to humanitarian aid within the Gaza Strip. Again, there are too many examples to enumerate. But for example on 2<sup>nd</sup> April UNRWA Commissioner-General Phillipe Lazzarini reported that the Israeli authorities have denied UNRWA’s participation in aid convoys to northern Gaza, including to Al Shifa hospital.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the danger of airdropping aid was further demonstrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March when 12 Palestinians drowned while trying to reach aid airdropped that fell into the sea of the shore of Beit Lahiya.<sup>20</sup> Attacks on healthcare and humanitarian workers also continue unabated. On 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) reported that the whereabouts of eight PRCS team members remain unknown and seven were released by the Israeli authorities 47 days after they were detained from Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis.<sup>21</sup> The WHO also released data showing that, as of 12 March, more than 400 attacks on health facilities and personnel have been carried out in the Gaza Strip. It also reported that in that same period, 685 people were killed in ‘health attacks’ and 118 health workers have been arrested or detained.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?\\_gl=1\\*wsul4k\\*\\_ga\\*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx\\*\\_ga\\_E60ZNX2F68\\*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?_gl=1*wsul4k*_ga*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w)

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?\\_gl=1\\*wsul4k\\*\\_ga\\*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx\\*\\_ga\\_E60ZNX2F68\\*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-149?_gl=1*wsul4k*_ga*MTY5NzY4OTA0My4xNzEwODcxNjUx*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTcxMjE2NjlyOC4xMS4wLjE3MTIxNjYyMjguNjAuMC4w)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-147>

<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/PalestineRCS/status/1773253807423504646?s=20>

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep\\_-\\_issue\\_25.pdf?ua=1](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/Sitrep_-_issue_25.pdf?ua=1)

*Note: references are to GLAN's internal databasing system. Because of the high incidence of take-downs where social media sites are concerned, in particular due to the graphic content associated with incidents in Gaza, we have linked only to our archived copies of online posts. These contain the original links, which can be followed if desired.*

## **CASE REPORT: GAZ225, GAZA CITY, Siege of Al-Shifa Hospital**

**Case: GAZ225, GAZA CITY, Siege of Al-Shifa Hospital**

**Location: 31.523876748086035, 34.443750271474805**

**Date: 2024.03.18-2024.04.01**

Between around 18 March and 1st April 2024, Israeli forces carried out an intensive operation in and around Al Shifa Hospital.

Multiple online sources stated that after the withdrawal of the Israeli army, families returned to Shifa Hospital to look for their loved ones. Written and audiovisual content depicts comprehensive destruction of the hospital complex and a range of dead and decomposing individuals, many with cable ties around their wrists and ankles. Some bodies visible in OAVC were completely submerged under the earth in Shifa's courtyard, having been bulldozed, and others had to be exhumed by family members.

Structures around the outside of the hospital compound have been completely flattened. A satellite image ([PAL1145-3](#))<sup>1</sup> released by Maxar and posted on X by the New York Times journalist Aric Toler depicts the scene in high resolution. The image can be compared with an image ([PAL1145-1](#)) captured by Maxar in June 2022 to show grave levels of destruction in and around the hospital. Buildings all around the main hospital compound have been comprehensively flattened, while the buildings inside the compound show levels of damage consistent with the ground-level images - that is to say, total destruction without comprehensive demolition. This difference is consistent with reports that buildings around the hospital were being attacked using aerial explosives while Shifa itself was being burned using fire and other smaller-impact explosives. CNN has published a Juxtapose of the two images, in which a slider can be used to compare them.<sup>2</sup>

Video [PAL1112](#)<sup>3</sup> performs a 360-degree pan around the hospital courtyard, (camera is located somewhere around [31.5238, 34.4438](#)) pausing in particular on the Special Surgical Building, which has been destroyed and is blackened in a manner indicative of burning. The area above most windows is blackened, evidencing the flames that were seen in earlier OAVC. Another video, [PAL1113](#)<sup>4</sup> is a combination of video clips, including two filmed from a higher vantage point which show the same destruction, in particular the complete levelling of the courtyard, which is now brown

<sup>1</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1145/5ebead34-3258-4b.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/01/middleeast/israel-idf-withdraws-al-shifa-hospital-intl-hnk/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1112/16211c3a-34e4-40.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1113/ce700cef-d033-4c.html>

earth. This corroborates earlier OAVC depicting bulldozers in the hospital's grounds.<sup>5</sup> PAL1113 then cuts to an interior which is unlit before returning to yet more shots of the destruction outside, this time from the ground level. [PAL1116](#)<sup>6</sup> is a 4-minute long video in which an Palestinian-Canadian nurse, Ahmed Kouta, describes the destruction. He points to what he calls the "Specialty Building", in reference to the building named the Special Surgical Building; the ER; the garden of Al-Shifa hospital, the midwifery building, the laboratory for blood samples and the management department. All are destroyed. He says dead bodies are all around Shifa hospital and all around the streets surrounding the hospital. He says there are ants and insects coming out of the bodies with "such horrific smells" because they have been left there. The camera then pans to what he says is a body being removed from the hospital by a group of men. At around 2.16 he narrates a close up of the E.R., which is completely destroyed, before noticing that he is stepping on some dead bodies. The video cuts to the interior which he describes as the ICU and the Green Zone, and he then points to an unexploded munition. Finally, he demonstrates the entrance to Shifa hospital which has been blockaded with vehicles, all of which are destroyed. Other posts showed the destruction in images, such as [PAL1140](#)<sup>7</sup>, a post which shows two pictures of the destroyed Special Surgery Building ([PAL1140-1](#) and [PAL1140-4](#)), while [PAL1140-3](#) shows the destroyed connecting bridge between the Special Surgery Building and the adjacent building (located at [31.524167688841516, 34.44379452792602](#)). There are numerous other videos which show the comprehensive destruction.<sup>8</sup>

### *Corpses*

Video [PAL1111](#)<sup>9</sup> depicts an indoor location and begins following a large red smear through a doorway. The interior is generally very chaotic in appearance, with miscellaneous items strewn about and large amounts of dust and rubble. At 0.28 an individual in front of the cameraman lifts a blanket to reveal the body of a man lying at the bottom of a staircase with his eyes open and his arm outstretched. His teeth are exposed as if his skin has peeled back, and the body appears to be decomposing or burnt based on the blackening and shrivelled skin. The man's chest is exposed but he is wearing a jacket. The camera zooms in on a single cable tie around the man's wrist. Later, the video focuses on what appears to be the corpse of a cat. [PAL1114](#)<sup>10</sup> depicts corpses covered by blankets. At 0.07, a corpse can be identified by its hand, leg and shoe - the corpse appears to be lying face down. The camera then moves at 0.11 to another hand, this time with a cable tie around it, emerging from the blanket or tarpaulin. In the middle ground of the video, another foot can be seen. The camera moves around, passing what is apparently a further pair of legs, before filming another body which is covered only by a rigid piece of cardboard or metal. This corpse is lying on its side,

<sup>5</sup> See [PAL979](#), an X video showing bulldozer at work in the courtyard of Shifa hospital (<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal800/6cc5794f-0b9b-4d.html>)

<sup>6</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1116/1ec19dca-8825-46.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1140/091c004a-775c-40.html>

<sup>8</sup> See, for example, PAL 1138

(<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1138/6cd9baa5-03a0-43.html>); PAL1137

(<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1137/7b49c688-d47a-41.html>)

<sup>9</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1111/551721be-28e3-4f.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1114/65744653-e87c-49.html>



facing a kerb. There are pools of liquid which have been absorbed by the earth, which could be blood or water, it is not clear from the video. Based on the location of the pools relative to the bodies and the absence of it elsewhere, it appears to be blood. [PAL1115-1](#) depicts the head of a person - lying face up in some dirt and/or leaves. It is not possible to identify where the rest of their body is, because of the close-up nature of the photograph. PAL1115-2 depicts a hand emerging from some earth and debris. PAL115 1 and 2 cannot be geolocated due to their close-up nature. [PAL1143](#)<sup>11</sup> is a video posted on X showing a hand emerging from packed earth. Although the text accompanying the video says “some say it’s the body of a female child”, it’s not possible to tell from the video. There are numerous other videos and photographs which depict corpses.<sup>12</sup> [PAL1120](#)<sup>13</sup> shows an image of a man, face down in the dirt, with a cable tie around his ankles.

At least one makeshift graveyard can also be seen on satellite image [PAL1145-3 \(Marked Up\)](#). This location matches the image [PAL1146](#)<sup>14</sup>-2, an image posted on X by the well-known analyst account “Samir”, who states that the graveyard was established in late December.

### *Israeli claims*

The Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennet, stated on X on 1st April 2024:

*“Amazing battlefield achievement. The IDF has just completed a 2 week operation on a Hamas command center that Hamas embedded within the Shifa Medical Center. Hamas used staff and patients as human shields in order to cause maximum civilian casualties as to create more criticism and pressure on Israel.*

*The results are remarkable:*

- 6,000 civilians were evacuated by the IDF to keep them safe.*
- 200 Hamas terrorists were killed.*
- 500 Hamas terrorists have been captured.*
- **\*No civilian was killed\*. Not one.***

*This is unprecedented in urban warfare. Our military is learning and improving by the day. These results undermine the false claim that the IDF is targeting civilians. **If we didn’t care about innocent lives, we’d have simply bombed the whole complex, without risking lives of our own fighters.** Israel will continue until we remove Hamas and bring the hostages home. I’m proud to be Israeli and proud of the IDF, a beacon of light.”*

<sup>11</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1143/cbbf8b8f-f991-4d.html>

<sup>12</sup> See for example, PAL1139

(<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1139/d002be1d-9cc6-4c.html>);

<sup>13</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1120/38a31fbf-530e-48.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1146/07098f67-b1e9-44.html>

### *Known victims and other noncombatants*

This statement is not true - large numbers of known civilians have been killed or disappeared. Just three of many examples of known or apparent civilian deaths include:

- [PAL1142-2](#)<sup>15</sup> appears to depict a woman's body, the body being dressed in a purple dress and black hijab. This woman has been identified as the mother of Mohamed Qariqa, a contract researcher at the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory.<sup>16</sup> His mother had accompanied him for treatment before the Israeli army stormed the hospital, arresting Mr Qariqa and then releasing him. He came back to find his mother deceased by sniper fire.
- [PAL1117](#)<sup>17</sup> depicts an apparently burned body being removed from buildings at al Shifa hospital. The body appears to be smaller than an adult, and the sources claim that it is a child.
- Dr. Ahmed Maqadmeh and his mother, Dr Yosra Maqadmeh, were confirmed dead after their bodies were recovered on 1st April. Dr Ahmed Maqadmeh won the Royal College of Surgeons of England's Humanitarian Innovation Fellowship.<sup>18</sup>

Civilians reported remaining trapped in the building for the duration of the 2-week siege, such as photojournalist Abdullah al-Hajj, who lost his legs in an earlier airstrike.<sup>19</sup> Another video, [PAL1131](#)<sup>20</sup>, appearing on X showed an emaciated, injured boy named Rafiq, who was reportedly besieged in the hospital without any food or medical assistance for two weeks.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1142/7f52cf20-4875-4c.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://x.com/RamAbdu/status/1775151752209203293?s=20>

<sup>17</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1117/2614d4f6-24fd-42.html>

<sup>18</sup> <https://x.com/GhassanAbuSitt1/status/1774721630251438427?s=20>

<sup>19</sup> See PAL1141 (<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1141/0c568a0c-c038-47.html>);

<sup>20</sup> <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1131/4b0de659-25d0-46.html>

**Exhibit:** PAL1142-2

**Description:** X image depicting the mother of Mohamed Qariqa

**Source:**  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1142/7f52cf20-4875-4c.html>



Exhibit: PAL1125-1

Description: X image depicting a corpse covered by a rigid sheet

Source: <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1125/29cf10ad-4b6d-4c.html>

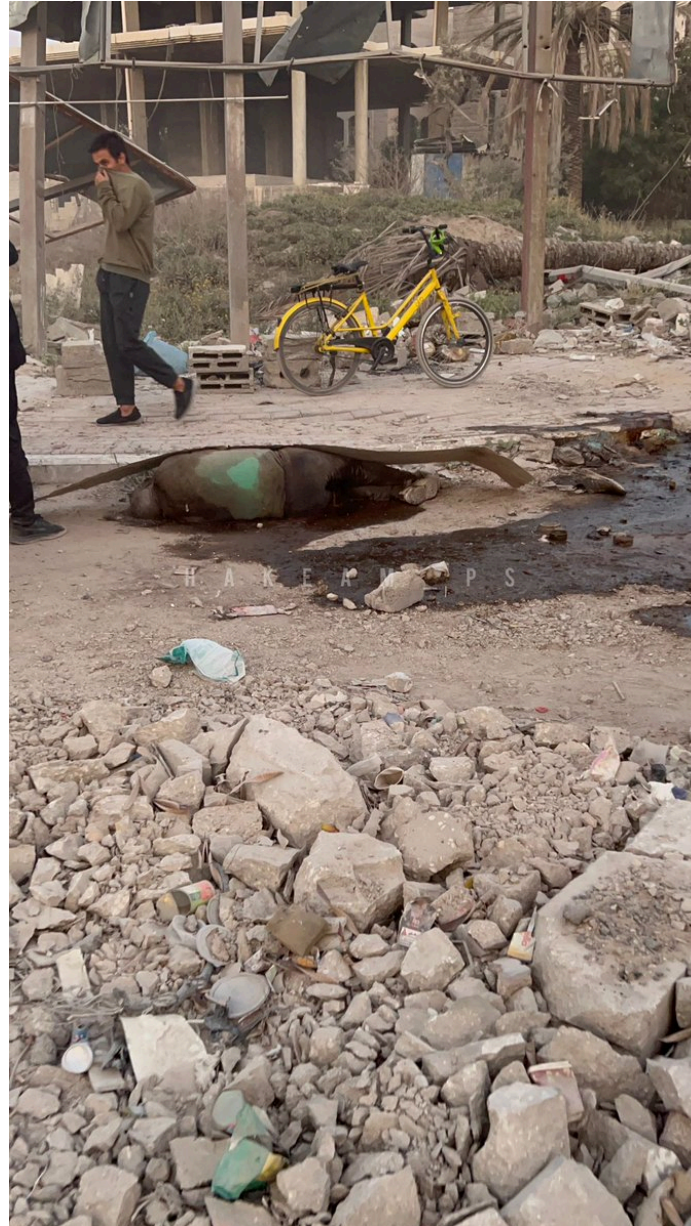


Exhibit: PAL1125-2

Description: X image depicting corpses  
under blankets

Source:  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1125/29cf10ad-4b6d-4c.html>



**Exhibit:** PAL1115-1

**Description:** X image depicting a face in  
the dirt and leaves

**Source:**  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1115/d576b90d-9c37-44.html>

**IMAGE REDACTED**

**Exhibit:** PAL1120-1

**Description:** X image depicting a man lying face down with cable tie around his legs

**Source:**  
<https://gfan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1120/38a31fbf-530e-48.html>



Exhibit: PAL1140-1

Description: X photograph depicting  
Special Surgery Building

Source:  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1140/091c004a-775c-40.html>





Exhibit: PAL1140-4

Description: X photograph depicting  
Special Surgery Building

Source:  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1140/091c004a-775c-40.html>



**Exhibit:** PAL1140-3

**Description:** X image depicting destroyed walkway between Special Surgery Building and adjacent building

**Source:** <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1140/091c004a-775c-40.html>



Exhibit: PAL1145-1-1

Description: Maxar Image captured in June 2022

Source:  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1145/5ehead34-3258-4b.html>



Exhibit: PAL1145-3

Description: Maxar Image captured on 1 April 2024

Source: <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1145/5ebad34-3258-4b.html>



Exhibit: PAL1145-2

Description: Planet Labs (lower resolution)  
image taken on 20 March 2024

Source:  
<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1145/5ebad34-3258-4b.html>



## CASE REPORT: GAZ226, DEIR AL-BALAH, Attack on World Central Kitchen Convoy

**Case:** GAZ226, Attack on three vehicles in which aid workers with the World Central Kitchen were travelling.

**Locations:** [31.4118 34.3231](#), [31.4168, 34.3290](#) and [31.4005, 34.3115](#)

**Date:** 1 April 2024

On 1st April 2024, three World Central Kitchen vehicles were attacked by separate, targeted drone strikes. Footage and images emerged online depicting the destroyed vehicles,<sup>21</sup> deceased aid workers and rescuers holding their passports up to the cameras,<sup>22</sup> to demonstrate their nationalities. Their driver was Palestinian. The convoy was bombed three times in succession - after the team survived the first hit and attempted to take cover in another vehicle, another attack was launched. Survivors then moved to the third vehicle, and were targeted again, at which point they were all killed.

World Central Kitchen released a statement which included the following quotes:<sup>23</sup>

*“The WCK team was traveling in a deconflicted zone in two armored cars branded with the WCK logo and a soft skin vehicle. Despite coordinating movements with the IDF, the convoy was hit as it was leaving the Deir al-Balah warehouse, where the team had unloaded more than 100 tons of humanitarian food aid brought to Gaza on the maritime route.”*

*[...] “The seven killed are from Australia, Poland, United Kingdom, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, and Palestine.”*

In response to the strike, the Israeli forces have expressed their condolences at the “tragic” event, and have stated that it has “been reviewing the incident at the highest levels to understand the circumstances of what happened and how it happened.”<sup>24</sup>

The incident was investigated by Bellingcat, who geolocated the strikes to three locations on the Al-Rasheed coastal road. The locations are [31.4118 34.3231](#), [31.4168, 34.3290](#) and [31.4005, 34.3115](#) respectively.

The Bellingcat article states:

<sup>21</sup> See [PAL1177](#), an X post featuring images of the destroyed vehicles (<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1177/ec3e6dff-2bf8-47.html>)

<sup>22</sup> See [PAL1178](#), an X video showing a British, Polish and Australian passport (<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1178/cd5fbca6-cbd1-46.html>); see also [PAL1171](#), an X post featuring four images in which the deceased are photographed with their passports open on their chests;

<sup>23</sup> <https://wck.org/news/gaza-team-update>

<sup>24</sup> See, for example, [PAL1167](#) (<https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1167/f853176f-df18-44.html>), a video message from Daniel Hagari.

*“These locations are approximately 12 kilometres away from the [newly built](#) pier that was set up by WCK specifically to deliver aid, and are on the outskirts of Dier al-Balah, where the WCK [facilities](#) are based.”*

The article, which is written by a former member of the British armed forces with relevant weapons expertise, further analyses the cause of the damage and assesses that *“Although not possible to be certain without fragments of the munition itself, the WCK vehicles bear the hallmarks of a precision strike by inert or low-yield missiles.”* The author then comments on the technology used alongside such low-yield or inert missiles, which must hit their targets exactly to be effective: *“In order to hit moving targets, such as cars, it is necessary for this kind of munition to be able to track the target in real time. For missiles similar to the R9X which have either low or no yield, this accuracy is essential, as it is necessary to hit a moving target with extreme accuracy. This is because the missile kills using the kinetic energy of the body of the munition impacting, rather than metal fragments thrown out by the blast, which is how most other conventional munitions operate.”*

He states that the most common method of targeting in this context is laser guidance, in which *“a laser is shone at a target and a missile “rides” down the reflection of the laser beam until it impacts. In order to successfully accomplish a laser guided strike it is necessary for a platform, such as a drone, to “illuminate” the target with a laser while the missile is launched. In order to achieve accurate targeting, platforms which take part in this kind of targeting, such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or fast jets, are equipped with advanced optics and sensor pods. These are capable of extremely high optical magnification. This is notable because at least one of the vehicles clearly bears the logo of World Central Kitchen on the roof. It is likely these markings would have been visible from above when the strike was carried out, although this depends on the capability of the optic used to track the vehicle.”*

This is consistent with widespread drone use by Israel in Gaza. Furthermore, it accords with an article by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz which claims, based on interviews, that *“the Israeli strike that killed seven World Central Kitchen aid workers in the Gaza Strip on Monday night was launched because of suspicion that a terrorist was travelling with the convoy”*<sup>25</sup> The article’s sub-headline states: *“The strike on the aid convoy, which travelled along a route approved by the Israeli army, killed seven workers of the World Central Kitchen – but the target, an armed man thought to be a terrorist, never left the warehouse with the cars.”* It goes on to say:

*“According to the defense sources, the cars were clearly marked on the roof and sides as belonging to the organization, but the war room of the unit responsible for security of the route that the convoy travelled **identified an armed man on the truck** and suspected that he was a terrorist.”*

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<sup>25</sup><https://web.archive.org/web/20240402145821/https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-04-02/ty-article/premium/idf-bombed-wck-aid-convoy-3-times-targeting-armed-hamas-member-who-wasnt-there/000018e-9e75-d764-adff-9eff29360000?lts=1712064039285&lts=1712069617074>

This confirms that high resolution sensors were being used, as envisaged by the Bellingcat article. It continues:

*“A few minutes later, the three cars left the warehouse without the truck, on which the ostensibly armed man was located. According to the defense sources, that armed man did not leave the warehouse. The cars travelled along a route preapproved and coordinated with the IDF.*

*At some point, when the convoy was driving along the approved route, the war room of the unit responsible for security of the route ordered the drone operators to attack one of the cars with a missile. Some of the passengers were seen leaving the car after it was hit and switching to one of the other two cars. They continued to drive and even notified the people responsible that they were attacked, but, seconds later, another missile hit their car.*

*The third car in the convoy approached, and the passengers began to transfer to it the wounded who had survived the second strike – in order to get them out of danger. But then a third missile struck them.”*

It is thus very clear that, even taking the claims made in the Haaretz article at their highest, three airstrikes were ordered against known humanitarian aid workers because the attacker believed that someone travelling with them was a “terrorist.”

The Haaretz article also reported that the airstrike was carried out by a Hermes 450 drone, which is manufactured by Elbit Systems. It is therefore possible that the technology used in this drone was manufactured in the U.K.



Exhibit: PAL1168-1

Description: Graphic created by the journalist Marc Owen Jones depicting the locations

Source: <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1168/99ce2ecf-e698-4d.html>



Exhibit: PAL1177-1

Description: X photograph depicting Vehicle 2, the vehicle with the hole in the roof. Located at 31.411822998170305, 34.32311971624579

Source: <https://gla1.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1177/ec3e6dff-2bf8-47.html>



Exhibit: PAL1177-2

Description: X photograph depicting Vehicle 1, the vehicle with the destroyed bonnet. Located at 31.416826200905156, 34.3289678134872

Source: <https://glan.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/pal1177/ec3e6dff-2bf8-47.html>



**Exhibit:** PAL1195

**Description:** X photograph depicting Vehicle 1, the vehicle with the destroyed bonnet. Located at [31.4005, 34.3115](#)

**Source:** <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-april-2-2024/>

