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تتمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة
NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

AL-HAQ

Re: Call for input on environmental destruction and its human rights impacts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

November 2026

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I. Context: Systematic, Escalating Pillage, Plunder and Ecological Destruction Undermining Possibilities for the Inalienable Palestinian Right to Self Determination

Across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Al-Haq is one of a number of Palestinian human rights organizations that has documented decades of ongoing systematic appropriation, pillage and destruction of Palestine's water, land, ecosystems and marine areas as well as the toxic contamination of the air, water and soil by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), state-sanctioned settlers and complicit corporate actors. Based on Al-Haq's field documentation, testimonials and legal analysis, this submission asserts that these acts cannot be considered in isolation from the

broader context of Israel's settler colonial apartheid and genocide, and prolonged illegal military occupation, which has contributed to:

- undermining Palestinian rights to life, livelihood as well as to health and a healthy environment;
- entrenching dispossession of Palestinian urban and rural communities;
- denying Palestinian people the bases of economic and food sovereignty; and
- deliberately eroding the material bases of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination.

Reports based on first hand research along with witness testimonies are referenced below to provide further details on the scale of the devastation, destruction and desecration wrought by the Israeli occupation regime on the fabric of Palestinian social, economic, cultural and physical survival — land, water and coastal areas, air and sites of historic significance — both before and after October 2023.

During 2021, Al-Haq, with partner organisations, made submissions on the drafting of the International Law Commission's (ILC) draft articles on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts, submissions which we believe positively contributed to significant improvement of previous draft sections on occupation law.[1] We note that the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its 2024 Advisory Opinion on the *Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (hereafter '*Palestine* Advisory Opinion'), referred to principle 20 of the ILC's 2022 "Draft principles on protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts, with commentaries"[2] when arriving at the conclusion "that Israel's policy of exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is inconsistent with its obligation to respect the Palestinian people's right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources".[3]

The prolonged denial of Palestinian self-determination, and the structural violations of international law characteristic of Israel's policies and practices since its establishment as a state, including the erasure of the Palestinian environment and heritage, are rooted in settler-colonialism. Recognition of such erasure, and its nexus to the realisation of the Palestinian right to self-determination is essential. We recall that in its written intervention to the ICJ in the Advisory Opinion on the *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United*

[1] Joint civil society submission to the Secretary General of the International Law Commission following First Reading, May 2021 https://ceobs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PERAC_CivSoc_joint_submission_ILC_final_06-21.pdf.
[2] *Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2024, p. 753,* para. 124, https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-jud-01-00-en.pdf
[3] *Ibid,* para 133.

Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory (hereafter '*UNRWA* Advisory Opinion'),[4] Vanuatu, aiming "to identify legal norms that can illuminate a path to peace, grounded in law and equity, where no people's story is silenced by ecological ruin or military attacks",[5] strove to centre such an analysis in legal terms, observing that:

> This crisis is not an aberration but the culmination of decades of policies that defy international law and this Court's rulings. The prolonged occupation, settlement enterprise, blockade, and now direct attacks on UN operations have left Palestinians without essential services—healthcare, food, water, and shelter—while severing their path to self-determination. The environmental toll—polluted water and soil, razed farmland, and uninhabitable land—further erodes the Palestinian people's means of subsistence.[6]

Vanuatu importantly emphasised the critical nexus between self-determination and environmental integrity:

> A people cannot freely determine its destiny if its material basis—water, fertile land, biodiversity—is destroyed or expropriated by an occupier. The Stockholm Declaration tied human rights to "an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being," acknowledging that this requires the elimination of "apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination." The right to a healthy environment consolidated these linkages. Israel's obligation thus extends to ceasing ecological harm and enabling Palestinian stewardship of their resources, including through ensuring and facilitating the unhindered provision of various forms of assistance.[7]

Each aspect discussed below is an integral component to sustaining Israel's illegal occupation and racist settler colonial apartheid regime, contributing to attempts to make the land, where Palestinian communities have been rooted for generations, uninhabitable, ultimately aiming to remove not only people but also to erase evidence of Palestinian existence. This submission also references the complicit role of corporations in enabling, bolstering and exacerbating a range of illegal plundering, pillaging and destruction of the land, water, air and resources across occupied Palestinian territory and the responsibilities of Third States, particularly in light of recent ICJ Advisory Opinions. It covers:

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[4] ICJ, Written Statement of the Republic of Vanuatu, 28 February 2025 <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/196/196-20250228-wri-18-00-en.pdf>
[5] *Obligations of Israel in Relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, other International Organizations and Third States in and in Relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, (22 October 2025), para 5, https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/196/196-20251022-adv-01-00-en.pdf
[6] *Ibid.,* para 31.
[7] *Ibid*, para. 54.

- Systematic patterns of environmental destruction/pillage and plunder prior to October 2023;
- Implications of escalating patterns of pillaging land and resources since October 2023;
- Corporate complicity;
- Rights violations associated with the current model of 'reconstruction' under the 20-point Trump Plan vs Palestinian-led recovery;
- Concluding considerations of options for accountability and reparative justice.

II. Pillaging of Land and Resources Prior to October 2023

Prior to October 2023, Al-Haq documented in detail the deeply entrenched environmental injustices faced by Palestinians,[8] particularly Bedouin communities as well as those dependent on farming and fishing, and highlighted how Israel's illegal occupation exacerbates climate crisis related harms, losses and damages.[9] Through this extensive documentation, Al-Haq has demonstrated how Israel's pillaging of land, ecosystems, water, marine resources and minerals is integral to maintaining its illegal settler colonial apartheid regime and illegal occupation denying the rights of Palestinians to self-determination over their futures, particularly in the midst of the urgency of taking locally appropriate steps towards implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Key issues highlighted include:

- Contamination of the air, soil and water in areas surrounding Israel's illegal industrial and agricultural settlements, as business interests involved that operate with impunity;[10]
- Untreated sewage from illegal Israeli settlements discharged into Palestinian streams, valleys, and onto agricultural land, rendering soil infertile and contaminated, while killing trees and crops, and spreading diseases to livestock and wildlife;[11]

[8] See for example, "Facts on the Ground" (2015): https://medium.com/@alhaq/facts-on-the-ground-542fb4d17d08. See also: "An Environmental Approach: The Protection of Natural Resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (2017): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2021/11/03/briefing-paper-an-environmental-approach-pdf-1635922530.pdf.
[9] See for example, "Protection of Natural Resources against Adverse Effects of Climate Change in Palestine: A Perspective Based on International Law" (2021): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/19154.html and "Cooperation with Israel on Climate without Palestinian Self-determination Entrenches Colonial Climate Vulnerability of Palestinians" (2022):https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20891.html. See also, "Adaptation Under Occupation: Climate Change Vulnerability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (2019): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2021/07/15/climatechange2019-1626328773.pdf.
[10] *See* for example: "Al-Haq Joins UN Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights and Hazardous Substances and Wastes and the Right to Food Expert Consultations in Geneva" (2016): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/6378.html.
[11] *Ibid.*

- Israel's appropriation of Palestinian land to use as landfills for waste illegally transported/dumped from settlements,[12] while simultaneously denying Palestinians the right to develop waste treatment facilities;
- Israel's illegal quarrying industries in the OPT, leading to dust, soil and water contamination,[13] as well as extraction of minerals and diversion of water from the Dead Sea;[14]
- Israel's targeting of Palestinian civilian property and infrastructure as part of its widespread and systematic demolition policy in the West Bank and Gaza, including solar panels,[15] water facilities and resources,[16] schools and medical clinics;
- Aerial spraying of Palestinian agricultural land by Israeli aircraft[17], systematic uprooting of olive trees as well as other orchards and afforestation with European fir trees that are vulnerable to forest fires in the midst of the climate crisis;[18]
- Targeted demolitions of homes, water pumps, energy sources and livestock pens of Bedouin communities, torching their land and killing livestock;[19]
- Targeted shootings of Palestinians when they fish along Gaza's coastline, with ever-increasing restrictions on areas available for Palestinian fishing boats,[20] and

[12] *See* for example: "Environmental Rights Case Succeeds in Holding Israel Accountable for Illegal Hazardous Waste Dumping in Palestine" (2016): https://www.alhaq.org/publications/6392.html.
[13] *See* for example, "Discrimination in the Context of Natural Resource Extraction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Submission to the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance with regards to Thematic Report on Natural Resource Extraction and Racial Discrimination" (2019): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2025/10/08/al-haq-submission-thematic-report-on-natural-resource-extraction-and-racial-discrimination-31-january-2019-1759916336.pdf. See also: SOMO and Al-Haq, "Violations Set in Stone: HeidelbergCement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (2020). Available at: https://www.somo.nl/violations-set-in-stone/.
[14] *See* for example: "Pillage of the Dead Sea: Israel's Unlawful Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (2012): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/alhaq_files/publications/Dead-sea-web.pdf. *See* also: "Shrinking Dead Sea, at the Collusion between Israel's Intensive Exploitation, Corporate Extraction and Climate Change" (2021): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/19166.html.
[15] *See* for example, "COP26: Destruction of Solar Panels in Area C of the West Bank, An Attempt to Undermine Palestinian Development of Sustainable Energy" (2021): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/19157.html.
[16] For more details, see: "Corporate Liability: The Right to Water and the War Crime of Pillage" (2022). Available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/12/al-haq-report-2-1670826325.pdf.
[17] See for example, "Israeli Aircrafts Spray and Damage Palestinian Agricultural Lands near the Buffer Zone" (2015): https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6544.html. See also a 2016 Joint Al-Haq and Al-Mezan submission to UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and Human Rights and Hazardous Substances and Wastes: https://mezan.org/uploads/files/1478174138142.pdf.
[18] See for example, "Jerusalem Wildfires in Summer 2021, When Climate Change-Related Wildfires Expose the JNF's Colonial Afforestation Project" (2021): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/19171.html.
[19] See for example, "Unpacking Gender in Coercive Environments: The Case of the Jordan Valley" (2018): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/alhaq_files/publications/UnpackingGenderinCoerciveEnvironmentsTheCaseoftheJordanValley.pdf.
[20] See for example, "Israel's Deadly Catch: Israel Systematically Attacks Gaza's Fishermen" (2015): https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6410.html, See also "Israel's Systematic Attacks Against Palestinian Fishermen" (2016): https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6410.html.

- Israel's appropriation of Palestinian communities' water resources through the issuing of discriminatory zoning and planning orders, exploitation and redirection of core Palestinian water resources; and through licensing private water providers to exploit and supply the captive Palestinian market for commercial profit.[21]

Z.F., an activist and member of the Fishermen's Committee, testified to the importance of the fishing sector — along with farming — in Gaza, prior to October 2023:

> *The fishing sector is the second most important productive sector after agriculture. It contributes about 5% to the Palestinian national agricultural output across the country... It includes fishermen actively working at sea — around 4,500 fishermen — who collectively own approximately 1,050 engines, in addition to about 900 rowing boats.*[22]

He further shed light on how Palestinian fishermen were treated by the IOF:

> *Before the genocide, or before 7 October, the occupation was deliberately destroying the fishing sector through three main forms and major violations. The first crime was the suffocating naval blockade imposed on the fishermen, and the shrinking of fishing zones— from 20 nautical miles to 12 miles, then to 6 miles, and finally to just 3 miles. In the years leading up to the blockade, there was constant manipulation of these maritime boundaries. Sometimes they [the IOF] would close the sea or shrink the fishing zone, and other times slightly expand it — but overall, there is complete occupation of Palestinian waters. The second form of the occupation's control involved daily chases and pursuits of fishing boats. We recorded the longest racial siege in human history targeting a defenceless civilian fishing sector. Prior to the genocide — before 7 October — this siege lasted over 18 years, during which the fishing boundaries were continually manipulated. Over the past 18 years, the occupation committed thousands of daily violations against fishermen. As a result, nearly 1,000 fishermen were arrested, around 450 were injured, approximately 500 boats were either totally or partially destroyed, about 500 boats were seized, and thousands of fishing nets were damaged. In addition, 16 fishermen were deliberately and directly killed while working at sea. The third form of violation, no less dangerous than the others, is the ban on importing fishing equipment for the fishermen. Before 7 October, we could clearly say that approximately 97% of boat engines had become unfit for use — they needed to be replaced or repaired. This is the outcome of the systematic destruction carried out by the occupying forces.*[23]

[21] For more details, see: "Corporate Liability: The Right to Water and the War Crime of Pillage" (2022). Available at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/12/al-haq-report-2-1670826325.pdf.
[22] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from Z.F., resident of Hamad City, Affidavit No. GZ306.1, on file with Al-Haq.
[23] *Ibid.*

III. Pillaging of Land, Water and Other Resources Since October 2023

The following section considers the implications of IOF and settler pillaging of land, water, and offshore marine resources as well as physical attacks on Palestinians whose lives, economic, social and cultural well-being are intimately tied to the land, particularly in relation to forcible dispossession. It considers the far-reaching impacts of water, air and soil contamination, particularly in Gaza and a snapshot of the long-term harms to health, making the conditions of life increasingly difficult to endure. The issues raised below are interconnected and cumulative, aimed to destroy the social, economic, cultural and ecological bases on which Palestinian self-determination relies.

1. Land and Livelihood

Since 7 October 2023, the intensification — in frequency and brutality — of violent incidents carried out by illegally transferred in Israeli settlers against Palestinians across the occupied West Bank (typically undertaken in the presence of the IOF), contributes to the Israeli attempt to seize land and resources from Palestinians while inflicting such psychological and physical harms so as to render conditions of life on the land intolerable. For example, between October 2023 and April 2025, systematic forcible dispossession of pastoralist Bedouin communities has been documented by Al-Haq's Forensic Architecture Unit (hereafter 'Al-Haq FAU'). Al-Haq's FAU mapping revealing Israel's placing of electrical infrastructure near existing and proposed illegally sited Israeli solar fields in the occupied West Bank.[24] The IOF's destruction of Palestinian Bedouin homes and infrastructure while forcibly displacing them to make way for the expansion of solar energy infrastructure to serve settlements, constitutes the war crimes of destruction, forced transfer, and the pillaging land and resources: "Through violence, intimidation, and coercive policies, Israel is systematically pushing Palestinian communities off their land to expand illegal settlements and integrate the West Bank into Israel's national energy plan . . . [I]t is part of a broader settler-colonial objective that seeks to eliminate Palestinian presence from strategic areas, facilitated by settler violence and discriminatory policies. The use of infrastructure projects, such as power lines and solar fields, further entrenches the appropriation of Palestinian resources and deepens their dependency."[25]

[24] Al-Haq, Erasure in Motion: Israel's Forcible Displacement of West Bank Bedouin Communities (1 April 2025), https://www.alhaq.org/FAI-Unit/26161.html

[25] Specific details, including mapping can be accessed at: https://www.alhaq.org/FAI-Unit/26161.html. Further information about solar fields in the occupied West Bank, including companies involved has been documented by Who Profits (https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/20?israeli-solar-fields-in-the-west-bank), Peace Now (https://peacenow.org.il/en/power-plants-in-settlements) and Friends of the Earth (https://friendsoftheearth.eu/news/occupation-through-renewables).

As explained in Al-Haq's statement marking fifty years of commemorating Land Day in March 2026:

> Between October 2023 and late 2025 . . . 1,732 documented incidents of settler violence targeted Palestinian homes, farmland, livestock, and olive groves, including the uprooting of approximately 2,500 olive trees near Ramallah. In recent months, the scale, frequency and coordination of these attacks have reached unprecedented levels. State-backed settler groups, acting with impunity, have escalated attacks on Palestinian communities and critical infrastructure, including water and sanitation systems — forcing displacement and appropriating Palestinian lands. Road closures, checkpoints, and other movement restrictions imposed by the IOF have further isolated Palestinian communities, limiting access to livelihoods, health care and emergency services. The cumulative effect of the settler colonial apartheid policies constitutes a systematic process of forcible transfer, population displacement and territorial fragmentation, carried out under a regime of annexation.[26]

Testimonies of the escalated violence against Palestinians during the 2024 olive harvest season in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank and the deliberate attempts to block access to their lands have been documented by Al-Haq[27], contextualized as part of the broader genocidal violence denying the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination, including sovereignty over lands and natural resources. While violence during last year's olive harvest season led to an alert being issued by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council[28], during the current season, we have witnessed a pattern of arbitrary and illegal abductions and detentions of Palestinians for several hours, during which Israeli settlers inflicted acts amounting to inhuman and degrading treatment and torture upon them. As explained in the following testimonial of K.Z., the brother of a man who was abducted in March 2026, these attacks have the effect of not only depriving Palestinians from physically accessing their lands and carrying out the work needed to sustain their livelihoods but also instil a sense of intimidation and humiliation carried across generations:

> *The incident has also deeply affected our parents, especially my mother, who lives in constant anxiety and fear for her children. On a social level, this incident has created a climate of tension and fear among the villagers, particularly the farmers who now hesitate*

[26] Al-Haq, "Al-Haq Marks 50-year Anniversary of Land Day Amidst Ongoing Genocide" (2026): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/27435.html.
[27] Al-Haq, "Killings, Beatings and Prohibited Access: Israeli Systemic Denial of Palestinian Farmers from their Land during the 2024 Olive Harvest" (2024): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2025/03/01/special-focus-olive-harvest-final-1-1740827461.pdf.
[28] Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, "The Peak of Terrorism in Two Decades: Israeli Settler Terrorism as a Tool of Demographic Engineering in the Occupied Territory. Accountability Must Be Enforced; Organizations Declared Terrorist and Perpetrators Disarmed" (2025): https://www.mezan.org/en/post/46802/The-Peak-of-Terrorism-in-Two-Decades.

> *to access their land for fear of similar attacks . . .We used to use this land freely, including taking our children to play there, but now we can no longer approach it due to repeated attacks. Every time we try to reach our land, we are harassed and assaulted.*[29]

Al-Haq's documentation provides clear evidence of the high degree of collaboration between settlers and the IOF, illustrating how state sanctioned settler violence is intended to systematically coerce Palestinians to leave their land, making way for the establishment of more settler outposts and settlement expansion.

The denial of access to the land for harvesting coupled with the brutality of attacks on Palestinians along with the desecration and uprooting of olive trees, orchards and fields has far-reaching intergenerational implications. While denying families the rights to livelihood, sustenance and economic income, it also fractures deep social and cultural ties as care for the land and for olive trees are passed on from generation to generation, remaining as a collective assertion of the right to remain on the land. It also has negative impacts on peoples' health and sense of well-being, as households are forced to increasingly rely on imported foods, cope with decreased incomes, and no longer have opportunities for cultural and social gatherings among family and community members on the land especially during harvest times, given the restrictions on accessing land and overwhelming climate of fear created by repeated attacks.

It is in this context that the continued attacks on families farming along the terraces of Al-Makhrour and Battir in northern Bethlehem Governorate — a UNESCO World Heritage Site approved in 2014 in consideration of its historical cultural value as a 'land of olives and vines' with a unique irrigation system, and archaeological remains — must be viewed. Currently, the site is categorized as 'in danger' due to the expansion of settlement infrastructure, including proposed developments of the Annexation Wall, and consistent acts of violence carried out by Israeli settlers. The World Heritage Committee "continues to express deep concern regarding the condition of the property and the reported information about illegal constructions, settlements and other developments, as well as restrictions on farmers and damages to agricultural areas within the property and its buffer zone".[30] Al-Haq has followed up with Palestinian families that have depended on farming this land

[29] Affidavit provided to Al-Haq field staff *in* "Settler Kidnappings: Torture, Sexual Abuse and Terrorisation Of Palestinian Abductees as Israel Deepens Annexation Of West Bank" (2026). Accessed at: https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2026/09/25/settler-kidnappings-1790329969.pdf. This publication provides additional details about this specific instance as well as others based on testimonies of abducted Palestinians as documented by Al-Haq.

[30] World Heritage Committee, Decision 48 COM 7A.11 *on* "Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine)" (2026): https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/9003.

for generations, recording testimonials of how Israeli forces have appropriated their land, subjecting them to relentless intimidation, violence and criminalization.[31]

In Gaza, according to analysis[32] undertaken by Forensic Architecture between 7th October 2023 and October 2024:

- Patterns of clearing and destroying greenhouses, fields and orchards emerged, through aerial bombardments, bulldozing, ploughing and construction of military infrastructure, such that by October 2024, 74% of agricultural land was destroyed, all greenhouses around Gaza City and 90% of those in north Gaza had been destroyed;
- Infrastructure for cultivation, including irrigation ponds and canals were consistently targeted, with bulldozers uprooting the earth and creating berms, preventing families from returning;
- Areas of once fertile land were compacted, losing capacity to hold nutrients and water, and also contaminated with fuel and machine oil leaks from military vehicles;
- Repeated land clearing and airstrikes were carried out around east Jabalia, Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, all considered as previously important areas for agricultural cultivation;
- At least 83% of all existing vegetation/plant life was destroyed;
- Families who depended on the land became no longer able to support themselves, forced to rely on aid to provide basic food provisions, and into a situation of widespread malnutrition and famine conditions.

Two years later, the further devastation of land by airstrikes and bulldozing, the corralling of Palestinians in Gaza into ever shrinking space behind the so-called 'yellow' and 'orange' lines, denial of access to the sea to fish without fear of an attack, and Israel's continued blocking of trucks carrying fresh, healthy food into Gaza means that Palestinians remain living in a state of chronic malnutrition. The intentional destruction of healthy ecosystems and contamination of soil has dire consequences for food self-sufficiency/sovereignty for decades to come, effectively severing sources of livelihood for families that have been dependent on farming for generations — acts intended to destroy the Palestinian people. Observations of the build-up of military infrastructure and earth berms reveals the underlying intention to forcibly transfer Palestinians off their land over the long term, while destroying the basic means for survival.[33]

[31] Al-Haq, "Field Focus: Strategic Land Theft and Forced Displacement in Al-Makhrour – UNESCO Site Under Threat" (2025): https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/26315.html.
[32] Forensic Architecture, "A Spatial Analysis of the Israeli Military's Conduct in Gaza since October 2023" (2024): https://content.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/FA_A-Spatial-Analysis-of-the-Israeli-militarys-conduct-in-Gaza-since-October-2023.pdf.
[33] For more details and updated information, see Forensic Architecture's "Cartography of Genocide", accessed at: https://gaza.forensic-architecture.org/database/.

As part of Israel's genocide, the IOF have completely destroyed the traditional food system in Gaza, entrenching the starvation of Palestinians with genocidal intent. Z.F., whose testimony was partially quoted above, states:

> *To this day, the genocide . . . is still ongoing. We are now nearing the end of the year, and we are talking about an entire year during which Palestinian fishermen have not entered or worked in the sea — because they are forbidden to do so, forcibly prevented by gunboats deployed along the entire coastline. These are not the patrol boats that previously pursued fishermen; we are now talking about large warships equipped with the most advanced and powerful military weaponry. The genocide has become a golden opportunity for the occupier to carry out a mechanical extermination of the fishing sector. From the very first moments of the war on Gaza, aerial and naval bombardments targeted Gaza's port, completely destroying all the boats there.*
>
> *We are speaking here of the destruction of nearly all large motorboats—about 96 launches. Not a single launch remains in Gaza. In addition, about 484 rowing boats and engines were destroyed. The jetty of the port itself was bombed, leaving a crater approximately 20 metres in length. The fishermen's rooms and shelters were also entirely destroyed — we are talking about 120 rooms wiped out. Warships, naval gunboats, and aircraft bombed Gaza's port daily. At the same time, genocide was being carried out at the other harbours. For example, in northern Gaza City, no boats or remains of boats are left. So we can say that in Gaza and the north, the fishing industry has been entirely eradicated — both in terms of physical infrastructure and all structures directly linked to the fishing sector.*
>
> *This includes the destruction of ice factories, fish storage facilities, the fish wholesale market, shops selling fishing nets — all of them were destroyed . . . We are talking about the total destruction of the fishing sector. As for the other harbours—none of them have been spared from bombardment. . . So far, around 160 fishermen have been martyred overall—more than 30 of them while working at sea. Therefore, even if this sector were to resume now—even if the war were to stop today—it would not be able to operate at even 20% of its former capacity. There are no longer any large boats, and both large and small boats are gone.*

Z.F. added that Palestinian fishermen have lost nearly 90% of their property accumulated over the years, as well as all sources of income and livelihood.[34]

[34] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from Z.F., resident of Hamad City, Affidavit Number GZ306.1, on file with Al-Haq.

2. Water

The IOF's systematic destruction of water, sanitation facilities, deliberate decisions to cut off the flow of piped water operated by the Israeli water company, Merkorot, as well as actions to contaminate aquifers and other water sources, violates Palestinian rights to access clean water and undermines the right to health and a healthy environment. In Gaza, according to investigations[35] undertaken by Forensic Architecture, between 7th October 2023 and October 2024:

- Israeli military practices of pumping water from the sea into the ground claimed for the purposes of flushing out underground tunnels, raised risks of rendering groundwater unusable and of irreparable harm to aquifers;
- Desalination and wastewater treatment facilities were damaged or destroyed by a combination of airstrikes and bulldozing, to such an extent that by mid-2024, no wastewater treatment facilities were functional, 8 desalination plants were rendered non-functional, with a further 16 unconfirmed as operational;
- Water storage reservoirs were deliberately destroyed with manually laid explosives;
- Water wells were systematically targeted for destruction;
- The only piped water source, operated by Merkorot was reportedly cut from 9th October-end of October 2023, only to be restored but with an intermittent and unpredictable flow thereafter; and
- The sustained presence of pools of untreated waste water heightened risks of illness, containing bacteria, fungi, viruses and other pathogens as well as toxic residues of military ordinances.

By early 2025, Israel had destroyed or damaged 89% of the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector facilities, amounting to 1700 kilometers of water and sanitation networks destroyed.[36] The only remaining desalination facilities in Northern Gaza were destroyed in January 2025, which was the only safe and reliable source of clean water available in the area at the time.[37]

The IOF have conducted deliberate strikes directed at hospitals' water resources. T. A. recounted to Al-Haq an attack that occurred in October 2024:

[35] See: (https://content.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/FA_A-Spatial-Analysis-of-the-Israeli-militarys-conduct-in-Gaza-since-October-2023.pdf. This analysis includes additional photographs, maps and more detailed information. Updated information is available at: https://gaza.forensic-architecture.org/database/.
[36] Oxfam GB, "Less than seven per cent of pre-conflict water levels available to Rafah and North Gaza, worsening a health catastrophe" (Feb 2025): https://www.oxfam.org.uk/media/press-releases/less-than-seven-per-cent-of-pre-conflict-water-levels-available-to-rafah-and-north-gaza-worsening-a-health-catastrophe/.
[37] Middle East Monitor, "Israel destroys only water desalination plant in northern Gaza" (Jan 2025): https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20250125-israel-destroys-only-water-desalination-plant-in-northern-gaza.

> *At one point, the Israelis tightened the pressure further by bombing the hospital roof. They hit a diesel tank that supplied the reception tower. The tank and the tower both caught fire. We couldn't control the flames. The fire spread through the water pipes, and we were shocked. The pipes caught fire. Then, the water supply was cut off . . . The diesel tanks — both above and below —were burned. It was a catastrophe. The desalination stations — we had two advanced filtration stations above the hospital — were completely destroyed. We also had water reserves that the hospital kept for emergencies in case the supply ran out. That reserve was destroyed too. Even the water inside the hospital became undrinkable.*[38]

Similar incidents caused by attacks launched by the IOF include:

- The destruction of the water tanks of the Kamal Adwan hospital during its first siege in December 2023;[39]
- The destruction of the water pipes of the Nasser Medical Complex in February 2024, causing "water leaking everywhere".[40]

This Israeli policy of destroying water sources is not limited to hospitals, as the IOF have denied water to all sectors of activities in Gaza. Dr M.A. (41), Director of the Department of Execution and Expansion at the Civil Defence Directorate, recounted to Al-Haq that the IOF destroyed most of the resources available to Civil Defense in Gaza after 7 October 2023, including a water tanker.

Meanwhile in the occupied West Bank, the IOF consistently targets and destroys Palestinian water infrastructure, claiming that households do not hold required permits or arbitrarily seizing land where water sources are located and designating them as closed military zones, nature reserves or other types of 'state land'. Between the beginning of 2024 and March 2025, Al-Haq documented that at least 81 water wells used for agricultural or household purposes were destroyed.[41] Israeli water company Merkorot operates the water pipelines running into the illegal settlements and supplying Palestinian homes in urban areas, leading to severely inequitable distribution practices that enable settlers to consume substantially more water at a subsidized rate, in comparison to Palestinians who are forced to pay exorbitant rates and face arbitrary water cuts.[42] Taken together, Israel's pillaging of water resources and deliberate denial of access to Palestinians sustains a system

[38] Affidavit taken from T.A., resident of Jabalya City (11 March 2025), GZ822, on file with Al-Haq.
[39] Affidavit taken from S.A., resident of Beit Layiha, (5 April 2025), GZ436, on file with Al-Haq.
[40] Affidavit taken from K.A., resident of Khan Younis, (2 April 2025), GZ398, on file with Al-Haq.
[41] Al-Haq, "World Water Day: Deprivation of Water and destruction of water installations are tools of Israel's Genocide against the Palestinian people" (March 2025): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/26121.html.
[42] See, Al-Haq, Corporate Liability: The Right to Water and the War Crime of Pillage (10 December 2022), https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/12/al-haq-report-2-1670826325.pdf, p. 45.

of water apartheid, contributing to efforts to permanently force the transfer of Palestinians from their lands.[43]

Recent examples of such attacks include the IOF's incursion into the town of Beit Furik on 11 February 2026. The IOF carried out wide-scale administrative demolitions with a Volvo bulldozer, including the demolition of a water tank, a water pump, and a concrete water well with a capacity of two cubic meters, filled with water. The affected farmers had received "stop-work" notices in November 2025 and had initiated legal proceedings to challenge these orders. The demolitions were carried out regardless of these proceedings.[44] Further, on 25 March 2026, the IOF, accompanied by a white vehicle belonging to the Civil Administration and a Hyundai excavator, demolished a water tank as well as a 3x4-meter storage room used to store agricultural equipment in the Jayyus village.[45]

On 14 July 2026, the IOF, accompanied by a bulldozer and a truck — raided a well site, as well as two other nearby wells that had been operational for years. The owner of the well site stated the following:

> *They dismantled the main pump, turbines, and electrical panels. By doing so, the Israeli force severed the lifeline supplying agricultural lands planted with grapes, olives, and bananas — lands that sustain more than 4,500 . . . dunams. They confiscated additional equipment belonging to the three destroyed wells — specifically three water pumps (boosters), three electrical control panels for the artesian wells, and electric generators — and also destroyed and confiscated the wells' camera systems' . . . The wells were merely backfilled superficially, without the soil or cement.*

The destruction was completed by another demolition operation that tore out the pipes extending deep into each well on 29 July 2026.[46]

Bolstered by the settlement expansion and the impunity they have been enjoying for acts of violence committed against Palestinians, Israeli settlers have created an inhospitable and coercive environment forcing Palestinians to leave their lands, which include attacks on their water sources and facilities — sometimes with the active support of the IOF. Al-Haq has documented numerous examples of such attacks:

[43] *Ibid,* p. 72.
[44] Al-Haq, Report on the Demolition of Agricultural Structures in Khirbet al-Ja'wana, Beit Furik, East of Nablus Governorate, (11 February 2026), on file with Al-Haq.
[45] Al-Haq, testimony taken from I.N., 43, resident of Qalqilya, (31 March 2026), on file with Al-Haq.
[46] Al-Haq, Testimony taken from N.B., 42, resident of Tammun, (23 August 2026), on file with Al-Haq.

- On 13 March 2025, Khirbet al-Marajim was subjected to a large-scale attack carried out by approximately 50 Israeli settlers from nearby settlement outposts, who caused extensive damage, including the destruction of 18 olive saplings and water tanks;[47]

- In December 2025, settlers attacked the Qabalan Town, seized the *"Ein al-Qasab"* water spring and stole one water tank and punctured and otherwise damaged the other tanks;[48]

- On 7 February 2026, a large number of settlers invaded the Jerusalem Water Undertaking, a water facility in the village of Kafr Malik, and assaulted a staff member, severed the main power line of the facility, destroyed three surveillance cameras and several floodlights; stole three monitors, the facility's telephone, an electric flashlight, door keys, and the remote control for the main gate; the keys to the water wells, and personal belongings. As a result of the power supply being cut off, the station ceased operations temporarily until the damage could be repaired, which disrupted the station's continued water supply;[49]

- On 14 April 2026, Israeli settlers smashed a surveillance camera and severed electrical cables and water pipes in Khirbat al-Marajim;[50]

- On 7 May 2026, Israeli settlers attacked a farm in Beit Furik and destroyed a concrete water cistern with a capacity of 45 cubic meters, which had been used to collect rainwater for irrigation and three water tanks were destroyed.[51]

3. Offshore Oil and Gas

In July 2026, Israel launched a new round of bidding for offshore oil and gas exploration[52] covering an area designated as 'Zone C' that falls directly within Palestine's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as outlined under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Granting of exploration licenses in this area by Israel as the Occupying Power constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and customary international law. Accordingly, corporations that conduct exploratory drilling and extract fossil gas from Palestinian territorial waters resources are in direct

[47] Al-Haq, "A report on the situation of residents and ongoing violations in Khirbet al-Marajim, southwest of Duma", (29 August 2026), on file with Al-Haq.
[48] Al-Haq, testimony taken from H.A., 65, resident of Qabalan, (29 June 2026), on file with Al-Haq.
[49] Al-Haq, testimony taken from R.B., 44, resident of Kafr Malik, (2 October 2026), on file with Al-Haq.
[50] United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affair (OCHA) , "Humanitarian Situation Report | 23 April 2026", (24 April 2026), https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-23-april-2026https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-report-23-april-2026.
[51] Al-Haq, Field report on an attack by settlers against agricultural structures and property in Khirbet al-Ja'wana, east of the town of Beit Furik, in the eastern part of Nablus Governorate, 13 May 2026, on file with Al-Haq.
[52] Israel Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, "5th Offshore Bid Round (OBR5)" (July 2026): https://energy-sea.gov.il/home/obr5/.

violation of international law and may be complicit in criminal acts of pillage.[53] Beyond IHL and the 2024 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the illegality of Israel's occupation, the 2025 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change is applicable, in particular para 427, which affirms that "*Failure of a State to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from GHG emissions — including through fossil fuel production, fossil fuel consumption, the granting of fossil fuel exploration licences or the provision of fossil fuel subsidies — may constitute an internationally wrongful act which is attributable to that State.*"[54]

From an environmental perspective, exploratory operations for offshore fossil gas have destructive impacts on marine ecosystems, particularly because the drilling of test wells and the installation of rigs leads to contamination of marine waters with heavy metals while the noise from air guns used by seismic survey ships triggers stress responses in marine life, threatening ecosystem biodiversity.[55] These activities consequently affect fish populations which have been historically relied upon by Palestinian families along Gaza's coast. In this context, the 2024 International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Advisory Opinion regarding state obligations to protect and preserve marine environments in relation to climate change is also applicable, as it confirms that states must take all due diligence measures to protect and restore marine habitats and ecosystems when threatened / degraded by the activities of state or non-state actors (e.g. corporations).[56] Importantly, if oil and gas is extracted by corporations illegally granted licenses by Israel within the Palestinian EEZ, it would require build out of pipeline infrastructure, further encroaching on Palestinian territorial waters and coastal areas, amounting to pillage and also leading to further ecological damage with high risks of contamination from leaks and spills. By opening up bidding for exploration and extraction of fossil gas resources, Israel's attempt to control

[53] A summary of legal analysis is provided by Al-Haq dated 3rd April 2026 with references to *Article 55 of the Hague Regulations as well as Articles 43 and 48, in light of Israel holding the de facto and illegal administrative authority of the occupied Palestinian Territory in addition to the ICJ's 2024 Advisory Opinion paras 277-278.* See: "Palestinian Organisations Welcome Withdrawal of Eni from Israeli Gas Exploration Consortium, and Encourage Corporations to End Trade in Illegally Occupied Territory": https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/27441.html. Further legal analysis can be found in a letter sent to Israel's Minister of Energy as well as Israel's Attorney General in February 2024 by Adalah (https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/Letter_Tender_Gas_Gaza_Eng.pdf) as well as letters issued on behalf of Al-Haq, Al Mezan and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights by legal counsel Foley & Hoag in February 2024 to three companies awarded licenses for exploratory drilling by Israel in late October 2023 that fall within the Palestinian EEZ, Eni S.p.A (https://mezan.org/uploads/files/2024/1/1707303834Zone%20G(1)%20ltr%20(Descalzi)(11853650.1).pdf), Ratio Petroleum (https://mezan.org/uploads/files/2024/1/1707303834Zone%20G(1)%20ltr%20(Raphael).pdf) and Dana Petroleum (https://mezan.org/uploads/files/2024/1/1707303834Zone%20G(1)%20ltr%20(Nam).pdf).

[54] See: ICJ, "Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change" (July 2025): https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-adv-01-00-en.pdf.

[55] See for example: Center for International Environmental Law, "Offshore, Off-Limits: The Risks of Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration" (2025): https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Offshore-Off-Limits-Exploration.pdf. See also: ClientEarth, "How do oil and gas affect the ocean?" (2025): https://www.clientearth.org/latest/news/how-do-oil-and-gas-affect-the-ocean/.

[56] ITLOS, Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law (May 2024). Accessed at https://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/cases/31/Advisory_Opinion/C31_Adv_Op_21.05.2024_orig.pdf.

Palestine's maritime areas amounts to a flagrant violation of the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which encompasses permanent sovereignty over its natural resources.

In this vein, Israel's previous exploitation of gas reserves in the contiguous border field, and operation of the EMG pipeline running inside the Palestinian Maritime Zone along the Palestinian coast off Gaza, to export gas to Egypt, likewise breaches the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over their maritime resources.[57]

4. Health and Intergenerational Harms

Contaminated water, soil and air — caused by toxic residues of exploded and unexploded munitions as well as incendiary military materials (including TNT, DNT, depleted uranium and white phosphorous), asbestos and heavy metals from destroyed buildings, solar panels and other infrastructure[58] — means that Palestinians in Gaza are severely exposed to known carcinogens and other toxins that lead to pulmonary, liver and kidney malfunctioning.[59] Contamination is exacerbated by the deliberate destruction of water treatment and sanitation facilities by the IOF,[60] the impossibility of safe disposal of waste in Gaza, and toxins released from the burning of plastics along with other wastes by families left with no other options for cooking and heating due to Israel's ongoing restrictions on fuel into Gaza and destruction of electrical infrastructure.[61] Exposure to such compounded toxins has intergenerational effects as cancers may take several years to develop, and contamination from heavy metals may be passed on through pregnancy to unborn children.[62]

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[57] Al-Haq, Special Focus: No to Second Oslo: Al-Haq Condemns the Palestinian Authority Gas Agreement, Subjecting Generations of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to Corporate Capture and Perpetual Closure (27 March 2021), https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/18108.html

[58] UN Environment Programme, "Environmental Impact of the Escalation of Conflict in Gaza (2025), pp. 11, 19-22, 29-30, 36-37.

[59] World Health Organisation (WHO), "War and environmental health in Gaza" (2025): https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-31-2025/volume-31-issue-2/war-and-environmental-health-in-gaza.html; see also Euronews, "Hundreds of Gaza kidney's failure patients die from lack of dialysis in blockaded territory" (April 2025), https://www.euronews.com/2025/04/23/hundreds-of-gazas-kidney-failure-patients-die-from-lack-of-dialysis-in-blockaded-territory.

[60] OCHA, "Reported impact snapshot/ Gaza Strip (4 November 2026)" (November 2026), https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-4-november-2026: see also OHCHR, "Thirst as a weapon": UN experts condemn Israel's deliberate and starvation of the Palestinian people" (July 2025): https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/thirst-weapon-un-experts-condemn-israels-deliberate-dehydration-and.

[61] OCHA, "Reported impact snapshot/ Gaza Strip (4 November 2026)" (November 2026), https://www.ochaopt.org/content/reported-impact-snapshot-gaza-strip-4-november-2026. See also UN News, "Gaza: UN urges Israel to allow fuel into Strip" (June 2025): https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1165131.

[62] WHO, "Restoring stolen dreams and futures, saving Gaza's children from generational trauma" (2025), https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-31-2025/volume-31-issue-4/restoring-stolen-dreams-and-futures-

Given the repeated bombing of hospitals, including those offering diagnosis, treatment and care for cancer patients (such as Nasser Medical Complex, al-Shifa Medical Complex, the European Hospital and the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital), targeted arrests of medical staff, destruction of medical supplies, the deliberate refusal of Israeli authorities to allow the entrance of medicines, medical equipment and laboratory supplies or grant permission for urgently needed medical evacuations, those already with cancer face nearly insurmountable barriers to get needed treatment or medicines.[63] Meanwhile, there is little chance of early detection in the current context. Despite this situation, according to information documented by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, on average 200 new cancer cases are diagnosed every month.[64] Several testimonies recorded by Al-Haq in Gaza include reports of Palestinians with cancer and the impossibility of them receiving treatment. For example, as explained in an affidavit provided to Al-Haq from A.A.:

> *I have cancer . . . In the uterus. Yes, they removed my uterus, and I underwent 28 radiotherapy sessions at the Augusta Victoria (Al-Mutala') Hospital. Now I can't even find treatment. Where is the Turkish hospital treatment? I used to go to the Turkish Hospital — they bombed it. I used to go to that one by the relief agency next to Al-Nasr, near Abdel Rantisi — they bombed that too. We're sitting here without treatment . . . Medicine needs money. Where am I supposed to get it from, my child? Who will bring it to me?*[65]

The intensity of Israeli bombings on Gaza have had serious health consequences on Palestinians, especially children, highly polluting the air in targeted locations. Illustrating such pollution, R. K testified that his grandson died of asphyxiation from smoke inhalation on 1 December 2023, after they were evacuated to Rafah, a so-called "safe" zone. She and her family were directly hit by missiles that killed 12 people.[66]

Al-Haq has further documented instances where the IOF deliberately used white phosphorus in Gaza. Ranin Hatem Salman, who used to live with her family in the western area of Al-Satar, in Khan Younis, stated that the IOF started spraying white phosphorus across Gaza in October 2023:

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saving-gazas-children-from-generational-trauma.html; See also, Arab News, "What Gaza's rubble reveals about the scale, dangers and politics of reconstruction" (October 2026): https://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/what-gazas-rubble-reveals-about-the-scale-dangers-and-politics-of-reconstruction-3004848.

[63] See generally, Al-Haq, The Systematic Destruction of Gaza's Healthcare System: A Pattern of Genocide (23 January 2025), https://www.alhaq.org/publications/25846.html, p. 36.

[64] For specific documentation of the situation of cancer patients and the access to medical support, see recent documentation from the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, "Pink October: Breast Cancer Patients in Gaza Face Growing Risks" (October 2026): https://pchrgaza.org/pink-october-breast-cancer-patients-in-gaza-face-growing-risks/.

[65] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from A.A., GZ450,

[66] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from R.K., 53, resident of Jabalya, on 17 March 2025, GZ182, on file with Al-Haq.

> *We stayed there after the war started on 7 October, and we left because of the shelling on 10 October . . . There was white phosphorus being sprayed in our area. I was one month pregnant at the time . . . The first time they used phosphorus was across the entire area, and after that, we left and went to Al-Hannawi School. We stayed at Al-Hannawi School for a while, and while we were there, a house next to us was bombed — they issued a warning, then bombed it, then sprayed phosphorus on us while we were inside the school.*
>
> *. . . I had trouble breathing, just like the previous time. We stayed at the school until December. On 3 December, the exact same thing happened again — white phosphorus was dropped on us . . . white phosphorus again . . . the same situation. I got sick and had to go down to the medical point we had below, just so they could give me more water to drink and inhale the steam — nothing else. During this period, we kept moving from one place to another. We would leave and come back to the western part of Al-Satar. They would tell us it was safe, so we'd return — and then the same problems would happen. They'd bomb a house near us, and after the bombing they'd fire white phosphorus on us again. Then we'd leave — we'd go to another area and relocate. The last place we were displaced to was Rafah.*[67]

On 17 March 2024, she gave birth to her son, Ahmad in Rafah, where doctors told her that he had a "severe lung infection" caused by white phosphorus. She added:

> *He had a heart condition caused by white phosphorus — a problem with the valves. The valves were too narrow; the blood would enter the heart but not exit properly.*[68]

Baby Ahmad eventually died on 2 July. He needed an open-heart surgery and a valve replacement operation which could not be performed in Gaza, but they could not travel abroad due to the genocidal closure imposed on Gaza.

Around 28 December 2023, one of the sons of Abdul Rahman Kamal Abdul Rahman Al-Dahdouh was killed, partly due to unbreathable air:

> *During one of the attacks, the area came under shelling. Shrapnel and the smell [of chemicals] reached us, and he was martyred — he was the first to die . . .*
>
> *The child was hit with a bit of shrapnel, and the smell of phosphorus and the black smoke reached him. He always needed to be on oxygen, but the oxygen ran out. He also needed*

[67] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from R.S., 26, resident of Khan Yunis, on 1 March 2025, on file with Al-Haq, GZ119.
[68] *Ibid.*

> *medication for his seizures — he used to take "Rivotril" and "Pacitane". With the shrapnel and everything else, he passed away.*[69]

Other incidents involve the use of toxic "smoke bombs" by the IOF, as recounted by Su'ad Saeed Awad Abu Ghanem, whose son died in the Jabalia camp:

> *My son was martyred on 16 May 2024, as a result of injuries he sustained. On 12 May, we were at home when we were besieged by Israeli tanks. There was heavy gunfire from quadcopter drones and the firing of toxic smoke bombs . . .*
>
> *He said their house was burning. He went out to check and never came back. His other brother went out to pull him back and found the house filled with thick smoke. That's when it hit me too — this thing here, it even affected me when I ran outside.*
>
> *That was a toxic bomb — poisonous smoke. My son was severely affected by it, and after that, he passed away from his injuries. . .*
>
> *At first, he began to have difficulty breathing, he started shaking, and felt like he was suffocating.*[70]

IV. Corporate Complicity

Al-Haq considers business entities involved in developing, manufacturing, supplying, transporting, financing or investing in the material components, machinery and other equipment, fuel, technical support and data collection or other supply processes which enable Israel's relentless appropriation, pillaging, destruction, ecocidal contamination and forcible dispossession of Palestinians as complicit in the genocide of Palestinians and sustaining Israel's illegal settler colonial apartheid regime. Third states, financial institutions (including multilateral development banks), pension funds, academic institutions among others should be aware that engaging with such entities carries legal and reputational risks, as recognised in the 2024 ICJ *Palestine* Advisory Opinion on the illegality of Israel's occupation. The web of complicity includes but is not limited to companies:

[69] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from A.A., resident of Eastern Gaza, on 13 April 2025, GZ461.1, on file with Al-Haq.
[70] Al-Haq, Affidavit taken from S.G., resident of Jabalya, on 2 March 2025, GZ128, on file with Al-Haq.

- providing TNT, DNT, white phosphorous, tritonal as well as other explosive/incendiary chemical components of weapon munitions and munitions casing[71], such as Poland's Nitro-Chem[72] as well as Pine Bluff Arsenal and Bayer[73];
- military metal and magnet components, such as Australia's Bisalloy[74], as well as other military hardware;
- supplying jet fuel and other fuel for military ground vehicles;
- providing shipping and other transport services;
- supplying bulldozers (such as D9 Caterpillars and HD Hyundai models)[75], logistics and transport involved in deliberate demolition of infrastructure, uprooting of trees and agricultural lands as well as contracts in Gaza for rubble pulverizing and removal;
- involved in plundering resources from the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza and offshore territorial waters (in addition to the Dead Sea, water, agribusiness, chemical, quarrying and fossil fuel companies).

On the international stage, such as during recent UN Climate Conferences (UNFCCC COPs), Israel and Israeli companies present a 'green' facade of 'climate tech' start-ups[76], typically connected to Israel's military entities, despite the reality of the heavy carbon and ecocidal footprint of military occupation, apartheid and settler colonial aggression.[77] Israeli climate tech companies that have been the subject of concern from broader civil society organizations networks include Stardust, a solar geoengineering firm which is beginning testing of a model which relies on using

[71] See: Al Jazeera, Israel used weapons in Gaza that made thousands of Palestinians evaporate" (February 2026): https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2026/2/10/israel-used-weapons-in-gaza-that-made-thousands-of-palestinians-evaporate.
[72] Al-Haq, "Criminal Complaint Filed in Poland Against Largest Producer of TNT in NATO for its Role in the Gaza Genocide" (June 2026): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/27682.html. See also: Palestinian Youth Movement, "The Missing Ingredient: Polish TNT" (July 2026): https://static1.squarespace.com/static/68f39f06eb2e2f1e3c961bee/t/6a355ace6c69e036c0bc7414/1781881550360/Missing-Ingredient-Polish-TNT.pdf.
[73] See: Corruption Tracker, "Behind the Smoke: The Unlawful Use of White Phosphorus" (February 2024): https://corruption-tracker.org/blog/behind-the-smoke-the-unlawful-use-of-white-phosphorus.
[74] See: Bisalloy, "Bisalloy Armour" (2025): https://www.bisalloy.com/app/uploads/sites/6/2025/09/20260813-BIS0303-C1L10P1-BISALLOY-Armour-Brochure-COMBINED-FINAL-V2.pdf?download=20260813_bis0303_c1l10p1_bisalloy_armour_brochure_combined_final_v2. See also: Bisalloy, "Bisalloy Steels" (2024): https://www.illawarrashoalhavendefence.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AUSA-2023-Bisalloy-Capability-Statement-.pdf.
[75] See for example: Business and Human Rights Centre, "Caterpillar D-9 bulldozer allegedly used to harm civilians and demolish houses in Gaza, incl. co. non-response" (October 2026): https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/iopt-caterpillar-d-9-bulldozer-allegedly-used-to-harm-civilians-and-demolish-houses-in-gaza-co-non-response/.
[76] See: Israel Innovation Agency, "Israel's State of Climate Tech 2024-2025" (2024): https://innovationisrael.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Israels-State-of-Climate-Tech-2024-5.pdf
[77] See for example: CEOBS, "Militaries and Conflict: Critical Gaps in Climate Action" (October 2026): https://ceobs.org/militaries-and-conflict-critical-gaps-in-climate-action/.

high altitude flying airplanes mounted with reflective proprietary aerosol chemical particles to inject into the stratosphere, aiming to 'cool' weather patterns by altering sunlight penetration.[78]

While a range of negative human rights impacts of solar geoengineering were considered in a 2023 OHCHR commissioned study on the "Impact of new technologies intended for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights" and is a subject of consideration in a forthcoming report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change[79], there is considerable concern about potential military intentions and outcomes if test flights are launched by unmanned jets from Israel in undisclosed locations. Notably, the CEO/cofounder of Stardust is a former deputy chief scientist at the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, and among its venture partners are AWZ Ventures (which has ties to Israel's intelligence services) and SolarEdge, which operates solar projects in the illegal settlements of the occupied West Bank.[80]

As outlined in Al-Haq's statement during COP 27:

> *Israel's greenwashing discourse[81] has its foundation in the Zionist settler-colonial and racist logic that Zionists are "more advanced and civilised" to develop the land of Palestine than its indigenous Palestinian people, and that they came to Palestine to "make the desert bloom" . . . Israel's greenwashing strategy puts a blind eye to its direct violation of Palestinians' ability to develop self-determined resilience strategies of mitigation and adaptation to the climate crisis[82] under its system of settler-colonialism, apartheid and prolonged occupation. This is specifically due to Israel's policies of fragmentation, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the denial of the peoples' collective right to self-determination,*

[78] See: Palestinian Initiative for Climate Strategy, Solar Engineering Briefing (February 2025), https://palclimateinitiative.org/publications/solar-geoengineering-briefing. See also: CIEL, "US-Israeli Start-Up Announces Reckless Solar Geoengineering Experiments" (April 2026), https://www.ciel.org/news/us-israeli-start-up-announces-reckless-solar-geoengineering-experiments-from-april-2026.

[79] A/HRC/54/47: Impact of new technologies intended for climate protection on the enjoyment of human rights – Report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (August 2023). https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/54/47. See also OHCHR, UN SR on Climate Change, "Call for Input – Technologies related to climate change and their impacts on human rights" (September 2026), https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2026/call-input-technologies-related-climate-change-and-their-impacts-human-rights.

[80] Notably, SolarEdge has bolstered its international profile through winning contracts abroad, including in 2025 from the Asian Development Bank for a solar project in the Philippines. See: Who Profits, SolarEdge (2022): https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3732?. See also the Asian Development Bank's Fact Sheet on Israel (December 2025), https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/1051691/isr-2025.pdf and Civil Society Joint Letter to ADB – Concerns Re: Growing Engagement with Israel (September 2025) https://rightsindevelopment.org/news/adb-israel-engagement/.

[81] Yara Hawari, "Resisting greenwashing in the Naqab: Unity Intifada continues" (Al Jazeera, January 2022): https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/1/28/resisting-greenwashing-in-the-naqab-unity-intifada-continues

[82] Al-Haq, "Adaptation Under Occupation: Climate Change Vulnerability in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (October 2019), https://www.alhaq.org/publications/15261.html.

development and the appropriation, exploitation and degradation of Palestinian land and natural resources.[83]

In the current context of Israel's illegal settler-colonial apartheid regime and ongoing genocide against Palestinians, it is crucial that Third States, public finance institutions — including multilateral development banks — as well as academic and research institutions refrain from entering into business contracts or partnerships with Israel's "climate tech" companies, most especially given the high risks of links to Israel's illegal settlements and military complex.

V. Rights violations associated with current model of 'reconstruction' under the 20-point Trump Plan vs Palestinian-led recovery

Israel is presently engaged in an industrial rewriting of the Palestinian environment in Gaza, processing the wreckage of its genocidal campaign. The Israeli occupation forces, sustained by the 'Board of Peace'[84] and international complicity, are, particularly within the so-called Yellow Line, and in an act of settler-colonial erasure, engaged in the wholesale transformation and removal of the ruins of Gaza, both its natural and built environment, and of the Palestinians of Gaza. An already destroyed landscape, where rubble holds the mortal remains of untold numbers of Palestinians, is being further reduced, combined, and expropriated.

The scale of such erasure is unprecedented, yet such conduct has been engaged before the ICJ in *The Gambia v Myanmar* proceedings.[85] The UN's March 2026 Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment estimated over 68 million metric tons of rubble resulting from Israeli attacks, and notes that thousands of Palestinians are 'feared buried under rubble' alongside thousands of

[83] Al-Haq, "COP27: The Truth Behind Israel's Greenwashing Delegation" (Nov 2022): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20897.html.

[84] In securing full civil and political authority and sole responsibility for the governance of the Gaza Strip, the so-called 'Board of Peace' is preventing the exercise of Palestinian self-determination while perpetuating Israeli impunity. This is a clear and direct contradiction of the ICJ's assertion that "a key element of the right to self-determination is the right of a people freely to determine its political status and to pursue its economic, social and cultural development" and that "[t]he dependence of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and especially of the Gaza Strip, on Israel for the provision of basic goods and services impairs the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, in particular the right to self-determination". See: International Court of Justice, *Advisory Opinion on Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,* (19 July 2024), para. 241. Contrary to the conclusions of the ICJ—to be read alongside the Court's Provisional Measures Orders in the ongoing Genocide Convention proceedings in *South Africa v Israel,* and its 2025 *UNRWA* Advisory Opinion—the Security Council, through its endorsement of the 'Board of Peace' in its Resolution 2803, is actively and unlawfully participating in the denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Given this fact, the resolution must be recognised as being violative of *jus cogens* norms of international law and further recognised as being void and legally ineffective.

[85] Public sitting. 14 January 2026, in the case concerning Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar: 11 States intervening) VR, pp 32-45. https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/178/178-20260114-ora_01-00-bic.pdf

unexploded bombs and ammunition.[86] The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimates that, on top of the official death toll from the health ministry, another 11,000 Palestinians are missing and presumed dead.[87] An April 2026 report in The Lancet estimated some 12,200 Palestinians from Gaza as missing.[88]

Amidst the destruction in Gaza, Palestinian dead lie hidden, fragmented throughout the landscape. Given Israel's unlawful retention of control over the territory it has pulverised, and Israel's preventing access to Palestinians or international actors, the entire area must be recognised both as a mass grave and as a crime scene.

> *"Where are the bones of our loved ones?" asked one resident, Yahya Odeh. "Where are their bodies? There are entire families beyond the yellow line who have been separated from their relatives."*[89]

We recall Eyal Weizman's observation, when reflecting on the distinction between the testimonies of human witnesses and the evidence of forensic science, that "Ruins are a form of media. They store and, with some help from their 'interpreters', also transmit information about the effects of historical processes".[90] In reducing the total environment of Gaza, including rubble, ruins, and human remains, into a diminished and transformed quality, and eliminating and smearing Palestinian testimony, Israel is working to consolidate its genocide, and to effectively disappear existing and potential evidence of that genocide, through an utter obliteration of the natural environment. As the Rapporteur has recently affirmed, "State actors and companies involved in [rubble] removal should take note that by destroying evidence of international crimes, they could incur international criminal responsibility in connection to those crimes":

> Any [rubble] removal must happen in the context of a plan designed by Palestinians and supported by actors who have the trust of Palestinians," Albanese said. "Destroying evidence of atrocity crimes is illegal. It is unacceptable that the reconstruction of Gaza is

[86] World Bank, United Nations, European Union, Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (April 2026), p47. https://palestine.un.org/sites/default/files/2026-04/Gaza%20Rapid%20Damage%20and%20Needs%20Assessment%20%28RDNA%29_0.pdf
[87] https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/en/gaza-statistics/.
[88] Spagat et al, Violent and non-violent death tolls for the Gaza conflict: new primary evidence from a population-representative field survey, 14 The Lancet 4 (2026). https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(25)00522-4/fulltext.
[89] Abeer Salman et al, Buried bodies, cleared rubble, Israel's yellow line: How war is hampering the search for Gaza's missing 12 October 2026. https://edition.cnn.com/2026/10/12/middleeast/israel-gaza-palestinian-missing-bodies-intl.
[90] Eyal Weizman, The Least of All Possible Evils: Humanitarian Violence from Arendt to Gaza (Verso, 2011) 110.

> conditioned upon the erasure of its past and the evidence required to secure justice for its victims.[91]

Such ongoing destruction is integral to the mechanisms of forcible expulsion and elimination used to displace the indigenous population and to seize their land, and is a key method by which racist Zionist settler-colonialism seeks to erase the Palestinian people's history from geography.[92] We note Al Mezan's finding that Gaza lost 71.5% of its total documented cultural heritage since 2023, and its warning that "Limited access to sites located in the area behind Israel's so-called 'yellow line' mean that the total picture is likely to be even more devastating". Al Mezan observes that Israel's "destruction targeted the roots of Palestinian presence from the Canaanite and Bronze Ages through to the modern era, with the clear aim of severing the emotional and material connection of the Palestinian people to their land and civilizational history, and in clear violation of the applicable international law".[93] On 1 October 2026 Forensic Architecture published 'Bodies under the rubble in Gaza':

> In Gaza, Israel's ongoing destruction during the so-called ceasefire is desecrating the bodies of Palestinians which remain beneath the rubble. Our analysis of videos and satellite imagery finds military practices of demolition, compaction and removal of rubble. These risk making the recovery of Palestinian remains impossible in the 65% of Gaza under Israel's control.[94]

By a Resolution of 2019 on missing persons as a result of armed conflict, the UN Security Council called upon parties to armed conflict to take all appropriate measures, to actively search for persons reported missing, to enable the return of their remains, and to account for persons reported missing without adverse distinction.[95] Israel's policies and practices of withholding the bodies of deceased Palestinians, and Israel's policies and practices aimed at erasing the bodies of deceased Palestinians under the rubble in Gaza, are designed and implemented in order to punish and further intimidate the families and communities of the deceased and constitute the war crime of collective punishment.[96]

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[91] Gaza: UN expert warns Israeli rubble-clearing could erase traces of atrocity crimes 07 September 2026 https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/09/gaza-un-expert-warns-israeli-rubble-clearing-could-erase-traces-atrocity.
[92] Muna Haddad, Mass graves as instruments of Israel's settler colonial violence: Indigenous removal from 1948 to 2023, South African Journal on Human Rights (2026).
[93] Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Cultural Genocide; Devastation of Cultural Heritage in Gaza, (2026) https://www.mezan.org/uploads/files/2026/8/1788074442FINAL%20DIG%20LOW%20%20-%20Al%20Mezan%20Center%20for%20Human%20Rights%20-%20Cultural%20Genocide%20Devastation%20of%20Cultural%20Heritage%20in%20Gaza%20(optimized).pdf
[94] Forensic Architecture, https://x.com/ForensicArchi/status/2105578255486951610.
[95] Resolution 2474 (2019), S/RES/2474 (2019), 11 June 2019, para 8.
[96] ICRC Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949. Commentary of 2025, para 2550.

The destruction of property without the justification of military necessity constitutes a war crime as per Article 8(2)(a)(iv) of the Rome Statute, which prohibits the "[e]xtensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly". The rubble of Gaza constitutes Palestinian property protected under IHL. Where that rubble, within which lies the remains of untold numbers of Palestinians, is destroyed or appropriated, without military justification, that conduct constitutes a discrete criminal offence. The initial destruction of homes and property indicates the commission of war crimes. Destruction of rubble, though intrinsically linked to the first attack in that it occurs in the same context, with the same perpetrators and victims, must be recognised as a discrete act and offence. Where the initial strike sought to kill and destroy, the subsequent conduct seeks to erase and prevent return.

Ultimately, Israel's destruction of the Palestinian environment in Gaza, including the destruction of mass graves and remains of bodies within that environment, in the context of systematic killings, massive forcible transfer and the denial of the right of return to their homes and land, constitutes the genocidal acts of severe mental damage and of deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part. Israel's destruction of the homes, environment, and mortal remains of its Palestinian victims, in contravention of the Provisional Measures Orders of the ICJ in the *South Africa v Israel* case, and in the knowledge of the severe trauma this will inflict and compound among dispossessed Palestinians, provides compelling evidence from which genocidal intent can be inferred.

In this respect we note the ICTY Trial Chamber's analysis in *Prosecutor v Blagojevic and Jokic*, namely that the denial of return to their homes, the disappearance of their loved ones, and uncertainty as to whether they had survived, are acts which, alongside forcible transfer, reached the threshold of the genocidal act of serious mental harm. The Chamber continued to find that:

> [T]he level of mental anguish suffered by the women, children and elderly people who were forcibly displaced from their homes — in such a manner as to traumatise them and prevent them from ever returning — obliged to abandon their property and their belongings as well as their traditions and more in general their relationship with the territory they were living on, does constitute serious mental harm.

The Trial Chamber stressed that it was aware:

> [T]hat many of the survivors, who lost their relatives under the horrific circumstances described above, are still searching for the bodies of their loved ones and looking for any information which would establish with certainty whether they are dead, and, if so, the exact circumstances of their death.[97]

[97] *Prosecutor v Blagojevic and Jokic*, No. IT-02-60-T, Judgement (17 January 2005) at para. 653.

The Trial Chamber was convinced that the resultant mental harm suffered by these survivors reaches the required threshold to constitute serious mental harm as a genocidal act.[98]

Regarding the widespread and systematic pattern of destruction evidenced before the ICJ in *Croatia v Serbia*, Judge Trinidade in a dissenting opinion, compellingly rejected the majority's insistence on "pursuing, too high a standard of proof for the determination of the occurrence of genocide or complicity in genocide", categorised the armed attacks in Croatia as "not exactly a war, but rather an onslaught", of which one critical manifestation was: "the mistreatment by Serb forces of the mortal remains of the deceased Croats, and other successive findings in numerous mass graves".[99]

Judge Trinidade's views, endorsed by a significant number of states in interventions to the ICJ in the *Gambia v Myanmar,* and *South Africa v Israel* proceedings, also indicate that the pattern of genocidal destruction "approached as a whole, also comprised the destruction of cultural and religious heritage (monuments, churches, chapels, city walls, among others). It would be artificial to attempt to dissociate physical/biological destruction from the cultural one".[100]

In light of such analyses, and in the facts so far as they are available, it is clear that in targeting the totality of the Palestinian environment in Gaza, in destroying the physical remains of the Palestinians of Gaza, and in the context of continuing widespread and systematic attacks, considered and reviewed comprehensively and holistically, the inference must be made that Israel is undertaking such targeting and destruction with the special intent to commit genocide.

VI. Concluding considerations: options for accountability and reparative justice

In response to the systematic genocidal pillaging and destruction of Palestinian land, water, marine areas and other resources and escalating, systemic violence against Palestinian who rely directly on the land and the sea for their livelihoods as outlined above, Al-Haq has outlined relevant recommendations to third states in a number of statements and position papers issued following – and prior to — October 2023,[101] including to:

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[98] *Prosecutor v Blagojevic and Jokic,* No. IT-02-60-T, Judgement (17 January 2005) at para. 653. Also, Prosecutor v Tolimir, No. IT-05-88/2-A, Judgement (8 April 2015) at para. 201-11; *Prosecutor v Karadzic*, No. IT-95-5/18-T, Judgement (24 March 2016) at para. 543.

[99] Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (*Croatia v. Serbia*), Judgment of 3 February 2015, Dissenting Opinion of Judge Cançado Trindade, at pp. 360-361, paras. 467, 538, https://icj-web.leman.un-icc.cloud/sites/default/files/case-related/118/118-20150203-JUD-01-05-EN.pdf

[100] *Ibid,* para. 539.

[101] See the Al-Haq Trump Trilogy Part III, accessed at: https://www.alhaq.org/publications/27079.html. Also, "Sanctions on Israelis Fall Far Short of What is Urgently Demanded and Legally Required" (June 2026): https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/27666.html; "Al-Haq calls for immediate and overdue measures from Third States to prevent Israel's illegal annexation of the Palestinian territory through settlement expansion" (May 2026):

- impose diplomatic, military and economic sanctions on Israel starting with a three-way arms embargo and energy embargo, and more broadly, terminate economic ties with Israel;
- enact legislation prohibiting the trade of all goods and services with Israeli settlements, sanction companies within their jurisdiction that have failed to divest from or cease to cooperate with Israel's settlement enterprise and unlawful occupation and apartheid on both sides of the Green Line;
- investigate and prosecute individuals under national and international jurisdiction involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide;
- support the development of an International, Impartial and Independent Accountability Mechanism for Palestine informed by the expertise of Palestinian human rights organizations and advocates across historic Palestine and the diaspora as well as allied civil society groups, UN Special Procedures and the UN Commission of Inquiry on the OPT among others;
- demand the entry of reconstruction materials, heavy machinery, engineering equipment, spare parts and other essential items needed to clear rubble safely, repair infrastructure, restore vital infrastructure as a humanitarian imperative;
- ensure that recovery is rights-based and Palestinian-centred. Support a reconstruction process that safeguards Palestinian self-determination, facilitates the Palestinian right of return, restores essential services and livelihoods, and protects civilians against forced displacement, dispossession and discriminatory restrictions[102];
- address the root causes of the genocide, by implementing the recommendations of the ICJ *Palestine* Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 to end Israel's illegal presence in the OPT, and dismantling Israel's discriminatory settler colonial apartheid regime on both sides of the Green Line;
- demand reparations from complicit actors as a form of reparative justice, including through the pooled Fund for Climate Loss and Damage.

https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/27620.html, and Al-Haq's recent publication on settler kidnappings (Sept 2026): https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2026/09/25/settler-kidnappings-1790329969.pdf/.

[102] See for example, the Phoenix Gaza framework and roadmap (2025): https://phoenix-gaza.org/roadmap/.