Human Rights Violations Against Women Survivors of the Gaza Genocide

(Displaced Gazan Women in Egypt as a Sample)

MIFTAH - Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

In Collaboration with the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW)

Dec - 2024

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MIFTAH publications, 2024

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1. Introduction

This analytical report discusses the violations against Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip during the ongoing genocide. It comes in continuation of the collaboration between the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) and the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW). At the end of 2024, MIFTAH cooperated with the GUPW in conducting exploratory research to identify the needs of displaced Gazan women in the Arab Republic of Egypt due to the genocide. While documenting the violations against Palestinian women under the genocidal war waged by the Israeli occupation on Gaza in October 2023 (which led to mass killings, forcible displacement, and the systematic destruction of main elements of life), forced migration emerged as one of the most serious humanitarian crises facing Palestinians, especially women. The deteriorating security; living; and health conditions forced many Gazan women to seek safety in Egypt, in light of escalating violations and deliberate attacks on civilians and infrastructure, including hospitals and sheltering centers.

Palestinian women forcibly displaced to Egypt are facing a range of violations stemming from the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. These violations can be classified as direct and indirect ones. This prompted MIFTAH to prepare this report based on the qualitative analysis of 60 sworn testimonies by women survivors of the Gaza genocide, who managed to eventually reach Egypt.

This analysis is based on international humanitarian law and human rights statutes, including United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The report focuses on human; economic; and social rights violations faced by Palestinian women in Egypt. It also highlights the suffering of women survivors of the war of extermination in the Gaza Strip, while aiming to provide practical recommendations to enhance the protection of these women's rights and ensure accountability on violations perpetrated against them.

2. Report Preamble

Since the launching of the full-scale Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023, thousands of Palestinian families were forcibly displaced due to the systematic targeting of residential areas and civilian infrastructure. This led to huge waves of Palestinians exodus from Gaza to Egypt via Rafah Crossing Point in November and December 2023, amidst a catastrophic humanitarian condition. The outcomes included accumulated trauma, lack of basic services, and absence of decent living conditions among women, children, and the elderly.

Palestinians in Egypt — who the Palestinian Embassy estimated at around 100,000 as of the summer of 2024 — are stuck in an existential limbo. They

are banned from employment, students are unable to attend schools, and they suffer from dire financial strain. This is due to losing a lot of money to reach Egypt, as well as leaving their assets behind amid the hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, accessing banking and health care is fraught with obstacles. The main issue stems from the impossibility of obtaining residency permits, which **foreigners** in Egypt need in order to work and move legally. Gazans are granted only a 35-day tourist visa. But since they can neither return home nor leave, they remain trapped in a legal deadlock.[1]

It is worth noting that Palestinian refugees do not receive protection from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Instead, they receive assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which **has no official mandate** in Egypt. This leaves them without international support and in a situation different from Syrian and Sudanese refugees in Egypt, who are actually able to integrate more effectively, face fewer residency restrictions, and benefit from UNHCR support. As a starting point for an extensive and comprehensive documentation process, MIFTAH obtained testimonies from Gazan women who survived Israel's aggression on the Gaza Strip and are currently present in Egypt (60 sworn testimonies), during the period from October 2024 until December 2024. This was done to examine and inquire about the violations suffered by them during their presence in the Gaza Strip and their journey to Egypt. This helps formulate and present recommendations to enhance the protection of Palestinian women's rights

[1] Pedrazzi, Carolina. *Gazan Refugees in Egypt Are in a Hellish Limbo*. Published on Jacobin Magazine Website on 21 January 2025. See the following link: https://shorturl.at/dyvuk

and hold the responsible parties accountable. It emanates from MIFTAH's deep conviction and diligent action to attain justice for victims and prevent the future recurrence of such cases.

Importance of the Report: Documenting Violations within the Framework of International Law and Relevant Humanitarian Statutes

Documentation is not only a mechanism for recording events and incidents. It is also considered a "bridge" that links between individuals' suffering and their access to justice and redress. Moreover, documentation does not only cover the context of international law and international armed conflict, but is a vital tool for generally ensuring that human rights violations are not ignored. In the context of this report, documentation plays a critical role in guaranteeing that women's rights violations are not neglected. This is because we seek to promote accountability through international legal mechanisms. Effective documentation is the first step towards a world where criminals are held accountable and the dignity of victims is restored. Therefore, the documentation of violations is a key tool for enhancing accountability and prosecuting officials responsible for international crimes. According to international law, the violations committed in Gaza can be considered war crimes and crimes against humanity, based on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These include, for example: wilful killing, large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the weaponization of hunger as a method of warfare (see Articles 7 and 8 of the Statute). Additionally, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of

the Crime of Genocide (1948) enforces international liability on any state or entity that perpetrates acts intended to destroy a population in whole or in part, which completely applies to the Israeli policy of systematically targeting civilians.

Documentation serves three orientations within this framework:

1. **Proof of Crimes**: Accurate documentation is the basis for international judicial proceedings, such as those undertaken by the International Criminal Court (ICC). This documentation is a strong pillar for proving the occurrence of violations of the Law of Armed Conflict (international humanitarian law), as well as war crimes and genocide.
2. **Deterrence and Prevention**: Documentation contributes to dismantling and breaking the cycle of impunity and sends a deterring message to actors within conflicts.
3. **Preserving the Collective Memory**: Documentation serves as a historical archive that preserves the rights of victims and evidence of violations for future generations. It also fully narrates the stories of victims and supports cases of redress, as well as seeking to ensure the non-recurrence of such events.

Importance of Acting in line with International Efforts to Promote Accountability and Protect Women in Armed Conflict

In abstract terms, the documentation of violations is inseparable from the international efforts to protect women in armed conflict. In fact, this

documentation serves as the linkage point between field evidence and the implementation of accountability mechanisms. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security affirms the need to protect women during conflict and calls for involving them in peace and accountability processes. However, the Israeli occupation continues to ignore these obligations, thus requiring strong and effective international intervention to ensure justice and protect Palestinian women. Furthermore, international initiatives (such as the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict; United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and UNSCR 1820, which recognizes sexual violence as a threat to international security) all rely primarily on documented reports in designing women's protection policies. For example, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) relied on documented women's testimonies to indict genocide perpetrators, which helped develop legal precedents that recognize rape as a weapon of war and crime against humanity. There are also international organizations – such as Human Rights Watch – which link local data with international bodies to pressure states to enact legislations that protect women and support their participation in peace processes.

Given the difficulties in accessing many areas and the fear of those who witnessed or experienced certain incidents, local and international partnerships and their acquired information can help transform evidence into tangible justice at courts, in order to restore people's dignity and achieve sustainable redress. However, due to conflicting international parameters on accountability and failure to effectuate international law, when comparing the documented cases with UN responses to other crises, it becomes evident

that there is discrimination in **the application of preventive measures and operationalization of international legal instruments**. Therefore, documentation is a strategic tool not only for clarifying the extent of violations, but also in revealing the gaps and loopholes in international responses. This enables the exposure of double standards or inequality in applying the law, along with stimulating political and societal pressure to hold accountable the parties responsible for committing crimes against women.

Field documentation shows that women are not only affected by conflict as "victims", but also bear multiple consequences emanating from war, such as the loss of their breadwinner, forced displacement, and lack of reproductive health care. Documentation also reveals how women are targeted directly but intangibly, such as depriving them of basic resources; intentional bombardment of women's sheltering centers; and disruption of health services related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Overall Context of the Genocide in Gaza and its Effect on Women from the International Human Rights Law Perspective

Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 did not stop them from repeatedly launching military assaults. This included the use of excessive force against civilians, in flagrant violation of international law. These attacks took the form of large-scale military operations, including the wars of 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, 2021, and the ongoing aggression since 7 October 2023. This clearly reflects a systematic policy of targeting the fabric of life in Gaza, by means of widespread destruction and a blockade and

forced starvation. This contravenes the Geneva Accords and Rome Statute, making it impossible for civilians – men and women alike – to have the basic necessities of life in the Gaza Strip.

These crimes can therefore be classified as **war crimes** and **crimes against humanity**, and in certain aspects, they even amount to the **crime of Genocide** as defined by the **1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**. This is as such under the legal framework, given the deliberate and systematic targeting of civilians (including women and children) and denial of access to basic supplies (e.g., food, water, and medicines). These policies aim to destroy the necessities of life for Palestinians in Gaza. The Israeli occupation's impunity due to the malfunction of the international accountability system is what granted it the "carte blanche" to recurrently carry out aggressions on the Gaza Strip. It is also worth noting that the Israeli violations in the current war were not the first ones or unique of their kind, but merely a repetition of the previous crimes with some amplification, given the longer period of this war and higher intensity of the aggression. For example, if we look at the Goldstone Report on the 2008 War[2] and the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 War,[3] we find similarities in the types of perpetrated crimes, as well as similar demands from organizations and human rights actors regarding accountability and ensuring the non-repetition of crimes. But this was to no avail, as political interests and alliances are the determining factor in the decision to hold accountability or not.

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[2] Aljazeera website. *Highlights of Goldstone Report*. Published on 3 October 2009. See the following link: https://shorturl.at/Zwtrl [Arabic source]

[3] Website of the United Nations – United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *UN Gaza Inquiry finds credible allegations of war crimes committed in 2014 by both Israel and Palestinian armed groups*. Published on 22 June 2015. Link: https://shorturl.at/QkPEm

3. The Effect of Violations on Women

The said crimes affect women way beyond direct killing, in light of more complex dimensions and implications. For example, Palestinian women are currently subjugated to sexual violence, forced displacement, loss of breadwinners, and systematic destruction of their social and family life. In this regard, MIFTAH published several reports documenting the ramifications of genocide on women, such as a report titled: "*Impact of Loss on Women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*," issued in late 2024.[4] MIFTAH also issued a report documenting reproductive genocide in light of the war of extermination in the Gaza Strip (published in March 2025),[5] as well as a fact sheet documenting sexual violence against Palestinian women in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip throughout the war.[6]

Although international humanitarian law (IHL) and UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security impose special obligations on the international community to protect women during armed conflict and ensure the accountability of violating parties, the lack of international pollical resolve to apply these standards in the Palestinian case unfortunately promoted Israeli impunity and perpetuated Gazan women's suffering from unprecedented levels of violence and destruction. We also find a direct correlation between

[4] Arrayes, Nasser. *The Impact of Loss on Women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Comprehensive Analysis.* The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH, 2024. Check the following link: https://shorturl.at/1J4ZP

[5] Zahran, Khadeja. *Israel's Reproductive Genocide in the Gaza Strip.* The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH, 2025. Link: https://shorturl.at/IFKju

[6] The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH. *Fact Sheet: Sexual violence as a weapon of genocide. 9* October 2024. Link: https://shorturl.at/woCSx

the **crime of aggression** and **war crimes against women**, as the ongoing Israeli aggression is not only considered a conventional war, but **part of a systematic practice of genocide and ethnic cleansing**. These crimes target the Palestinian national identity and seek to destroy society from within, by targeting the most vulnerable groups, especially women.

Among the testimonies of women subjected to violations and forcibly displaced to Egypt, Mrs. "A.Sh." [pseudonym] from northern Gaza stated the following: **"I was injured in my head, chest and back, and everyone else inside my parents' home was injured. We were transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital, and sadly a week later my daughter passed away. We were displaced several times, and finally settled at a school with many displaced persons. I was preparing bread and selling it with the help of my husband and sons. However, the Occupation launched a missile at that school, killing my husband and ten of our relatives. One of my sons was injured by shrapnel in his right eye and body and consequently lost his sight, whereas my second son lost his hearing. My husband was buried without us bidding him farewell, as I was trapped in my sister's home next to that school."**

According to international reports, more than two-thirds of victims in the Gaza Strip are women and children.[7] It is also worth noting that targeting civilians is a blatant violation of the *principle of Distinction* in international humanitarian law (Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Article 48), which distinguishes between civilian objects and military objectives.

[7] Lederer, Edith M., *Women and children are the main victims of the Israel-Hamas war with 16,000 killed, UN says*. Published on the Associated Press (AP News) website on 20 January 2024. Link: https://shorturl.at/swKL4

Since the outbreak of the recent war on the Gaza Strip, the region has witnessed an unprecedented escalation of Israeli military operations, targeting civilian infrastructure and residential areas. This led to the death of thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children. The said attacks were not haphazard but **organized and systematic**, intentionally targeting population centers and shelters; which amounts to the crime of Genocide. Various international reports documented the targeting of women, both directly through aerial and artillery bombardment, and indirectly by destroying basic services (e.g., hospitals, schools, and water and electricity facilities), which aggravated the humanitarian and health conditions. Article 2 of the **1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide** stipulates that any act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, can be classified as Genocide. Therefore, the targeting of Palestinian women – whether through direct killing, destruction of livelihood, or imposition of harsh and lethal living conditions – meets the criteria of Genocide set forth in the Convention.

In addition, the intensive and indiscriminate bombing of residential areas constitutes a violation of **Article 51 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1977**, which prohibits indiscriminate attacks which "*are of a nature to strike military objectives and civilians or civilian objects without distinction*." This article also emphasizes the protection of women and children, since they are the most vulnerable groups in armed conflict. Furthermore, the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, in its General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict, affirms the responsibility of states parties to prevent

violence against women during armed conflict, and their obligation to protect women from grave violations that affect their physical and psychosocial security.

Women in the Gaza Strip were directly affected by this aggression, with more than 12,000 women killed since the eruption of the war. It is estimated that women and children constitute approximately 70% of injured persons, whose total number currently stands at 121,950.[8] Women were also affected indirectly, as they suffer throughout the Gaza Strip from the loss of their children; displacement; disabilities; and loss of breadwinners due to the war. This forces them to become the main breadwinners of their families, in light of dreadful living conditions where they suffer from the lack of food, water and healthcare and absence of legal and international protection. The patterns of indirect harm suffered by women in the Gaza Strip (including the loss of breadwinners, forced displacement, physical disabilities, and psychological trauma) indicate women's bearing of family burdens under a catastrophic situation, as well as systematic violations amounting to crimes against humanity according to Article 7 of the Rome Statute. This is because repeatedly and deliberately targeting women, within the absence of legal protection and lack of perpetrator accountability, reflects a pattern of gender-based violence that requires an independent international investigation to ensure justice and prevent impunity.

The Gaza Strip is also witnessing an unprecedented health crisis, as the targeting of hospitals and medical infrastructure ruined the health system, leading to terrible implications for pregnant women and infants. According to

[8] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) – *Aggressions of the Israeli Occupation on Palestine since 7 October 2023.* Last updated: 21 May 2025 at 21:00 [Arabic source].

the Palestinian Ministry of Health, there are **more than 60,000 pregnant women in Gaza,** with **approximately 180 expected births per day**. But most likely, 15% of these women are expected to suffer from pregnancy and childbirth complications.[9] Lack of medical care means that women are forced to give birth in unhealthy conditions, sometimes outdoors or in unsuitable sheltering centers, which substantially increases the risk of death for both mothers and newborns. Food shortages also directly affect pregnancy survival and post-natal nutrition. It is worth noting that Article 16 of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates "particular protection" for expectant mothers during armed conflict. Moreover, Article 76 of Additional Protocol I highlights the obligation to provide special protection to women from all forms of indecent assaults, including sexual violence and denial of basic health services. However, the documented violations in Gaza unequivocally reflect Israel's non-abidance by any of these principles, making it liable and accountable under international humanitarian law.

4- Patterns of Violations against Palestinian Women

Direct Violations

These are violations that clearly targeted women physically or verbally during Israeli military campaigns or in the context of displacement and raids.

[9] Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), *H.E. Dr. Ola Awad highlights the status of Palestinian Women on the Eve of International Women's Day.* Published on 7 March 2024. Link: https://shorturl.at/FpNbB

A. Physical Injuries as a Result of Indiscriminate Bombardment

Testimony of N.H.	Legal Reference	Description
Israeli airstrikes targeted the queue for bread… I was severely bleeding and fainted… The delay in treatment led to total damage in my optic nerve.	This is a violation of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibits harming civilians.	Women sustained serious injuries, often during repeated displacement attempts or inside sheltering centers.

Women were directly injured due to indiscriminate airstrikes on residential areas and shelters. In some cases, they were injured multiple times during repeated displacements and attacks on sheltering centers in various locations. Also, cases of sexual violence as a weapon of war against women were documented in international human rights reports,[10] in **flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols:**

[10] United Nations website. *Report of the Commission of Inquiry: Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since 7 October 2023*. Published on 13 March 2025. See the following link: https://www.un.org/unispal/document/report-of-the-commission-of-inquiry-israel-gender-based-violence-13march2025/

- **Testimony of N.H.**: *"The Occupation bombarded a residential block near my home in the middle of Al-Shati Refugee Camp, leading to our house partially collapsing on us. After receiving treatment, we were evacuated to Asmaa Girls' Elementary School. While I was in a queue to receive bread, Israeli airstrikes targeted the queue. My eyes were hit with dust and stones, and I started screaming... I was severely bleeding and fainted... They transferred me to Al-Shifa Hospital, where I remained under siege until we were asked to leave the hospital, despite the severity of my injury and the need to undergo several operations, including an ocular surgery (eye operation). I left Al-Shifa Hospital on foot, and we were asked to head southwards. A few days later, I arrived to Gaza European Hospital. After several surgeries, they transferred me to Egypt for treatment. But unfortunately, this delay led to total damage in my optic nerve."*

- **Testimony of 'A.Q.**: *"Without prior warning, the Occupation army started bombing – by means of explosive barrels - an entire residential block in Nuseirat Refugee Camp, including our home… Those who could be saved were rushed to Shuhada al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah at the center of Gaza Strip. While we were there, I discovered that my daughter and husband had been killed, together with 21 other persons from my family and my husband's family… Moreover, I suffered a fracture in my left hand; burns to my left hand, back and abdomen; and two shrapnel wounds to my head. Meanwhile, my daughter Wafa suffered a broken neck bone, shrapnel wound to the head, and burns to the back. As for my daughter Munatallah, she*

suffered a shrapnel wound to her left shoulder and another near her lung, whereas Asmaa suffered a shrapnel wound to her head."

This violates **Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions**, which prohibits the infliction of physical suffering on civilians.

B. Sexual and Verbal Violence as a Weapon of War:

Testimony of N.H.	Legal Reference	Description
"We were verbally harassed by the soldiers."	This amounts to a war crime under Article 8(2) of the Rome Statute, and a violation of UNSCR 1820.	It was reported that sexual violence and verbal intimidation were used during searches and raids.

- **Testimony of K.'A.**: "*While we were fleeing, I saw before me the corpse of a local woman in an indecent position. I was afraid to stop there and cover it, but we survived miraculously.*"

- **Testimony of N.Sh.**: *"The soldiers broke into the apartment and started searching everyone inside while shouting and hurling curses. They were verbally harassing the women with obscene and foul language."* Sexual violence is categorized as a crime under **United**

Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820 (2008), and a war crime according to **Article 8(2) of the Rome Statute**.

C. Detention and Forced Separation:

Testimony of N.H.	Legal Reference	Description
"They asked me to proceed forward, and they detained my husband… I did not find any family member later."	A violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.	The Occupation detained the men of families during displacement, leading to women's loss of their breadwinner.

Indirect Violations

These are violations that did not directly target women but deeply affected them because of destroying the infrastructure, or due to displacement and absence of livelihoods.

A. Reproductive Genocide and Absence of Healthcare

Testimony of N.H.	Briefed Cases	Description
"The Turkish Palestinian Friendship Hospital was completely destroyed… I ran out of medications after ten days of war."	9 cases of cancer, 8 pregnancy cases, and 4 deaths of infants or fetuses were recorded.	The destruction of hospitals and scarcity of medicines led to the death of infants and fetuses and disrupted women's medical treatments.

- **Testimony of T.N.**: *"What terrified me most was giving birth inside of tents, especially because I used to hear women scream their lungs off at night during labor. No one could help them until several hours later, when an ambulance would finally be allowed to reach them… When my due date approached, my fears started intensifying, especially due to the weak capabilities of hospitals (no anesthesia, no medical care, and many other things missing). I was also frightened of a Caesarean delivery because they would dress your wounds <u>without</u> anesthesia, as mentioned by women who earlier gave birth in such unhealthy conditions due to limitations. Even clothes for newborns were unavailable… A few weeks before my due date, my health deteriorated significantly, and doctors confirmed that it is dangerous for me to give birth at that hospital if my blood remains weak while suffering from*

hypertension (high blood pressure). At that point, my husband decided to arrange for me and my children to travel abroad… so I gave birth to my youngest daughter in Egypt while feeling lonely."

- **Testimony of R.M.:** *"My pregnancy circumstances were truly abnormal. I was under constant follow-up at pregnancy clinics due to previous problems related to childbirth. We used to live in Tel al-Hawa, and our area was subjected to indescribable "belts of fire"… I would hug my children tightly and we would cry together in total collapse… The fetus was shrinking strangely inside my body; I could actually feel its fear… We later moved to the center of Gaza City, where all means of livelihood were cut off: no potable water, no cooking gas, no vegetables, milk, or flour… Honestly, I used to cry from hunger all night, because I was giving my children my portion of food, and I suffered from acute Gastroenteritis (infectious diarrhea) due to drinking polluted water. Afterwards, we moved to Rafah, where I underwent the delivery process with spinal anesthesia under heavy siege and bombardment. I was in dire need of a bed to be able to get up, because the mattress was on the ground. And since it was a Caesarean section, it meant aching and screaming with every movement, with no availability of painkillers. The essentials for women in labor were all missing; there was no healthy food and nothing nutritious… and my child was constantly screaming because of the cold and colic (stomachache). I felt his need for warmth, but I had no other choice. After a while, I managed to provide him with a single piece of clothing. I used to shiver from the cold, as the blanket was not enough and my clothes were unsuitable. During that month, I got infected with severe flu twice. All*

these circumstances made me an easy victim of postpartum depression. At one point and without realizing it, I almost hanged myself, but my sister was able to catch me at the last moment… She had been watching me closely as she knew my situation."

- **Testimony of A.F., who suffers from Multiple Sclerosis**: *"Throughout the war, I was always afraid because I was on a wheelchair, being looked after by my sister. I always kept thinking about where we will be displaced to, and whether it will be suitable for my situation, because I need a hospital bed and a bathroom with certain specifications. We were displaced to Hamad residential city, and the apartment was on the fifth floor. All I thought about was: What would happen if we were suddenly asked to evacuate?! I stayed there for two months without seeing sunlight, and there was no bed to sleep on. I used to sleep on the floor and was taking anti-spasm medication, which completely ran out of supply during that period. Consequently, I started suffering from numerous spasms, not to mention the cold weather and lack of blankets,… I would wake my sister up, or her daughter, so that one of them would stretch my cramping leg… These were really difficult days."*

B. Forced Displacement and Family Disintegration

Forced displacement led to the fragmentation of families and aggravated women's psychological and social burdens.

- **Testimony of F.L.***: "Upon reaching the checkpoint with my husband and family members, they asked me to proceed forward and detained my husband. I tried to wait for him but was threatened and asked to continue walking. I did not find any family member and didn't know what happened to my husband."*

- **Testimony of N.Gh.***: "After the shelling of our home and [also] Al-Shifa Hospital, I learned that seven members of my family had been martyred: my two sons and their wives, and three of my grandchildren. As for me and the remaining eight grandchildren, we sustained injuries ranging from severe to moderate."*

- **Testimony of S.N.***: "When the soldiers raided our home, I heard the neighbors' voices and loud screams, and my neighbor was pleading that they would not displace us..."*

Forced displacement breaches **Article (49) of the Fourth Geneva Convention**, which prohibits the forcible displacement of civilians.

- **Testimony of 'A.Q.** *"This was the first time in which my daughters and I go somewhere we do not know without my husband, who was the backbone of our life. Suddenly, I became singlehandedly responsible for five young girls who fully relied upon me despite my weakness. Our journey of displacement began, and I felt all alone. I could not move for*

three months! I had to visit the medical point to treat my wounds and those of my daughters, and simultaneously tried to arrange for water, food, and basic supplies and necessities. I stayed in that situation for approximately four months with a gypsum plaster on my hand. The gypsum was supposed to be there only for one month, but due to the dire situation and constant threats facing Shuhada al-Aqsa Hospital and lack of doctors therein (along with the difficulty of bone healing because it was cast without platinum), the gypsum stayed there all that time... One day, I was informed that my name was included in the list of patients to be treated abroad, hence my daughters (Asmaa and Munatallah) and I were transported by ambulances. I am constantly worried and afraid for my three daughters who remained in the Gaza Strip with their uncle. They were not allowed to accompany me although one of them has a medical referral. Unfortunately, they closed the crossing, and she was unable to travel abroad for medical treatment. My daughters in the Gaza Strip are living in difficult economic and psychological conditions. There is no one to support them after their father's death and my departure. As a mother, I feel completely helpless, unable to support my family after having lost my husband. I am also suffering from a broken hand (due to the attacks), incapable of meeting my family's requirements. Therefore, I became dependent upon aid and assistance to cover some of our needs."

- **Testimony of A.'A** *"My health condition exacerbated due to the lack of milk and the spread of pollution and diseases. Therefore, I was forced to coordinate through a private company, by paying them 5,000*

USD for myself and 2,500 USD for my daughter, in order to leave Gaza. But I was unable to coordinate for the departure of my husband and our second daughter (who is 7 years old), because we had no money left to pay such exorbitant fees. I traveled from Deir al-Balah to Rafah Border Crossing with my two daughters. But when I arrived there, I felt completely upset when the Egyptian side refused to allow my 7-year-old daughter to enter, due to the lack of coordination. They showed zero compassion for my case and disregarded the condition of my daughter, who was begging them to allow her to travel in any possible way. Hence, they returned her to my husband, and she is staying with him in Deir al-Balah until now. I still have mixed feelings between joy (due to my health improvement after undergoing another corneal transplant operation and following up with a specialized doctor to treat the severe burns on my leg) and sadness and melancholy (due to my young daughter's need for ongoing care and attention).

C. Long-term Psychological Effects

The loss of family members and the destruction of homes aggravated women's psychological traumas, leading to more cases of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression. In their testimonies, several women reported constant crying and a loss of desire in living. Also, the forced displacement of more than **1.9 million Palestinians** exacerbated the suffering of women as primary breadwinners for their families in the absence of security and protection, not to mention the **fragmentation of families and the psychological effects suffered by household members**.

- **Testimony of N.Gh.:** *"I couldn't move for a whole month, as I neither received medical treatment nor painkillers. The children keep crying from the pain and loss, and most of them suffer from involuntary urination at night from the intense grief. This increased the burden for me… When we were displaced to the south, my grandchildren often collapsed, and my granddaughter Rima used to say: "Grandma, don't leave us, even if they take you away, we will come with you!" All of them would cry a lot. After a while, we crossed the gate safely, but the children remained in a bad condition."*

  According to a report by UN Women (2023), 87% of Gaza's women are suffering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **Testimony of N.A.:** *"I feel sorry and sad for not succeeding to take my daughter with me (she was 6 months old when I traveled). She is now 1 year and 1 month old. It is upsetting and scary to not be able to see her grow up before me and not experiencing the details of her life. She doesn't even know me! I am constantly worried about her and my husband in light of the continuing war."*

- **Testimony of N.M:** *"I was in an awful psychological state, full of anxiety and fear because I wasn't allowed to have my 19-year-old daughter accompany me. They only allowed my younger daughter to pass with me. My heart is truly aching, and I constantly get hit with*

anxiety and panic attacks, especially because my children are all alone at home and the Camp sometimes witnesses ground invasions, with no safe areas to resort to."

D. Destruction of Livelihoods and Women-owned Enterprises

The Occupation **completely destroyed more than 70,000 buildings, affecting different types of establishments**. This led to the displacement of many women and children, leaving them with neither a shelter nor a source of income. The report documented more than 5 cases of completely destroying women's businesses. The war also made it difficult for women to access health services, such as reproductive health care, and exacerbated the suffering of women with chronic diseases, who need ongoing medical interventions. **This aggravated the economic effects on women, especially in reproductive health care**, which requires continuous and costly care provision. Consequently, it increased the suffering of women with chronic diseases and pregnant women, who require medical interventions on a regular basis. Furthermore, the closure of educational institutions seriously affected girls' education, thus weakening their future economic prospects and reducing their livelihoods.

I. The Loss of Homes and Livelihoods:

- **Testimony of J.K.:** *"I had recently returned from Egypt, fully equipped for the second branch of my beauty parlor (beauty salon), which was set for the grand opening in the same month. But the Occupation destroyed everything, and I lost both branches."*

- **Testimony of R.S.:** *"I never imagined for a moment that everything would be lost! All the dreams and hard work for many years, and life savings… nothing remained but the memories…"*

The destruction of civilian properties contravenes **Article 53 of Additional Protocol I**, which prohibits the destruction of objects indispensable to the survival of the population.

II. Difficulty of Accessing Basic Services:

- **Testimony of W.'A.:** *"My health condition started deteriorating rapidly. My treatment relied on the Turkish Palestinian Friendship Hospital, located in the center of Gaza Strip. This hospital is the only one for cancer patients. However, it was completely decimated on 1 November 2023, and I lost hope of continuing my treatment. I ran out of my daily medications after only ten days from the war's eruption."*

- **Testimony of H.'A.:** *"I was unable to undergo kidney dialysis sessions at Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City. The hospital had informed dialysis patients that dialysis services had been suspended."*

According to the World Health Organization (2023), 50% of health centers in Gaza were either destroyed or closed down.

Direct Violations			
Legal Reference/Sources	**Documented Testimonies**	**Descriptions**	**Type of Violation**
Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions	Testimony of N.H.: "I was severely bleeding and fainted… The delay in treatment led to total damage in my optic nerve."	Women sustained serious injuries during bombardment and displacement, leading to the deterioration of their health condition and lasting effects, such as the loss of sensory functions.	Physical injuries due to bombardment
Article 8(2) of the Rome Statute, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820	Testimony of N.Sh.: "They were verbally harassing the women with obscene and foul language."	The use of sexual violence and verbal harassment during raids and searches, reflecting the use of violence as a weapon of war against women.	Sexual and verbal violence as a weapon of war
Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention	Testimony of F.L.: "They asked me to proceed forward, and they detained my husband… I did not find any family member later."	The detention of family members during displacement, leading to women's loss of their main breadwinner, thus increasing the burdens of	Arbitrary detention and separation

		subsistence and breaking down family ties.	
Indirect Violations			
Legal Reference/Sources	**Documented Testimonies**	**Descriptions**	**Type of Violation**
International health parties, as well as field documentations	Testimony of W.'A.: "The Turkish Palestinian Friendship Hospital was completely destroyed… I ran out of medications after ten days from the war's eruption." (Figures: 9 cases of cancer, 8 pregnancy cases, and 4 deaths of infants or fetuses.)	The destruction of health establishments and scarcity of medicines resulted in the interruption of medical treatment, leading to the death of infants and fetuses and obstructing health care for women with chronic diseases.	Reproductive genocide and absence of health care services
Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (on the consequences of displacement)	Testimony of N.Gh.: "My two sons and their wives, and three of my grandchildren had been martyred… I remained alone, suffering with my other grandchildren from injuries."	Forced displacement led to the disintegration of families and fragmentation of the social fabric, thus intensifying the psychological pressure and economic challenges faced by women who became the primary breadwinners.	Forced Displacement and Family Disintegration

International reports, such as the UN Women report of 2023	Testimony of N.Gh.: "The children keep crying and most of them suffer from involuntary urination." (UN Women report of 2023: 87% of Gaza's women are suffering from PTSD symptoms)	The ongoing trauma led to psychological disturbances, such as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and depression, with clear effects on children and women due to the loss of security and living under inhumane conditions.	Long-term psychological effects
Article 53 of Additional Protocol I to Prevent the Destruction of Civilian Property	Testimony of J.K.: "My two beauty parlors were destroyed… I lost the businesses on which I relied to achieve economic independence."	The destruction of women's enterprises and personal properties left women without sources of income, making it difficult to rebuild economic and social life after the aggression.	Destruction of livelihoods and women's enterprises

5. Analysis of the Legal Framework

It is worth noting that several international crimes described in the Rome Statute have in fact been committed; not only the crime of Genocide. This means that pathways of accountability are paved before us to proceed not only in prosecuting the crime of Genocide before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), but also the crime of aggression and crimes against humanity. This extends the scope of accountability to include holding **individuals** (not

just States) accountable for war crimes before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and national courts based on **universal jurisdiction**. Moreover, the United Nations Security Council can establish special tribunals for accountability purposes, as seen vis-à-vis former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Violation	Details	Classification according to the Rome Statute
Wilful killing and bombing civilians	Israeli occupation forces in Gaza committed grave violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including wilful killing, which is considered a war crime.	War crime (Article 8)
Torture or inhuman treatment	There are documented cases of torture and inhuman treatment by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, which constitutes a serious breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.	War crime (Article 8)
Wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health	Israeli forces intentionally inflicted great suffering and serious physical harm to Palestinian civilians, in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention.	War crime (Article 8)
Forced displacement of the population	This is being [publicly] declared and conducted by Occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem.	War crime (Article 8)

Preventing civilian access to humanitarian aid	This is done to deliberately pressure the local population by using starvation as a weapon of war, in order to push civilians to emigrate.	War crime (Article 8)
Extensive destruction of property without military necessity	Israeli forces extensively destroyed properties in Gaza without justification of military necessity, thus violating the Fourth Geneva Convention.	War crime (Article 8)
Use of human shields	Israeli forces have been using human shields. This is a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)	War crime (Article 8)
Persecution	This is seen through actions that deprive Gaza's Palestinians of their livelihoods, jobs, homes, and water, and restricting their different rights. It could lead to the conclusion that the crime of Persecution has been committed.	Crime Against Humanity (Article 7)
Continued military occupation	Israel's continued control of Palestinian territories by force and their refusal to withdraw, despite international condemnation, is considered a **perpetuation of aggression**.	Crime of aggression (Article 8)

Extensive military attacks	Israel's aggression on Gaza and the West Bank, by means of extensive bombardment and ground incursions, may constitute an unjustified use of armed force against an entity protected by international law.	Crime of aggression (Article 8)
The blockade on Gaza	Imposing a stifling blockade on Gaza for more than 17 years and preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid are considered **using force to subjugate a civilian population.**	Crime of aggression and crime against humanity

The Genocide Prevention Convention of 1948 ("Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide")

1. **Definition of Genocide**: According to **Article 2 of this convention**, Genocide means "*acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group*." In the Palestinian context, there is substantial evidence indicating the obliteration of homes; starvation due to blockades; denial of access to medications and medical treatment; destruction of hospitals and vital facilities; targeting of ambulances and doctors; and deliberately killing whole families. These may constitute a *partial destruction* of the Palestinian people.

2. **Applicability of international standards regarding Israeli violations**: International organizations (such as the United Nations Commission of Inquiry in 2021) **documented the use of excessive force against civilians**, which may prove the “intent” element in genocide.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

Theme of Prevention

UNSCR 1325 calls for the prevention of conflict by means of promoting gender equality and combating the root causes of gender-based violence (such as structural discrimination). Therefore, States must mainstream the gender perspective in conflict prevention efforts. The current situation in Gaza demonstrates a lack of prevention, as Israel perpetuates policies of forced displacement, settlement expansion, and a tightened blockade since 2007, triggering a conflict-ridden environment which hinders all preventative endeavours.

Theme of Protection

This theme or axis focuses on protecting women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence at times of conflict, including the provision of safe reporting mechanisms and making sure to hold offenders accountable. The reality witnessed in Gaza clearly indicates the lack of protection for women from violations. For example, a previous report conducted by MIFTAH (2022)

indicates that 12% of female respondents were subjected to sexual violence during Israeli military searches.

Theme of Participation

This axis demands the inclusion of women in all decision-making stages related to peace and security. Up until now, no Palestinian woman from Gaza has been included in international ceasefire negotiations or political agreements.

Theme of Early Recovery:

This theme focuses on integrating women's needs in reconstruction efforts, including the provision of mental health care, employment opportunities, and education. But the fact of the matter is that all political talks and discussions on rebuilding, reconstruction, and securing people's lives remain distant from women and the population at large. This shortcoming led to unrealistic suggestions in the past, such as the "Riviera" project and other investment proposals, instead of compensating people for actual damages and addressing their needs.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

International humanitarian law requires the protection of civilians during armed conflict, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. This led to the

enshrinement of pivotal rules that enhance and clarify this protection. However, the Israeli occupation constantly violates the principles of humanitarian law, including:

- **The Principle of Distinction**: which emphasizes the need to differentiate between military objectives and civilians; protect public assets; and ensure their continued operation in a manner that promotes civilian rights. However, in Gaza, hospitals, schools, and residential buildings were deliberately attacked, as seen in the bombing of the **Baptist Hospital** and **Al-Shifa Hospital**. In total, more than 14 hospitals and health centers have been destroyed thus far in the Gaza Strip.

- **Principle of Proportionality**: stipulates that an attack must not cause excessive harm to civilians compared to the anticipated military benefits, meaning that targeting a single combatant does not require the destruction of entire residential blocks. But in the Gaza Strip, thousands of tons of bombs were thrown on densely populated areas (as seen in the Zeitoun Massacre).

- **Principle of Military Necessity**: According to this principle, it is only allowed to launch attacks that are necessary to achieve military gains, but it is forbidden to destroy civilian infrastructure (such as water and electricity networks) because this does not serve a direct military objective. An example of this is Israel's bombing of the only power station in Gaza.

The following table illustrates Israeli violations of relevant international conventions, including: the Geneva Conventions; Additional Protocols; principles of Distinction, Proportionality, and Military Necessity; Genocide Prevention Convention of 1948; and UNSCR 1325:

Violation	UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security	Genocide Prevention Convention (1948)	Principles of Distinction, Proportionality, and Military Necessity	Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
Indiscriminate Attacks on Civilians	Attacking women and children undermines their security and well-being and is inconsistent with this resolution.	This could amount to the crime of Genocide if the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, is proven.	It violates the principle of Distinction between combatants and civilians.	Violation of Common Article 3 and Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as breaching Article 51 of Additional Protocol I.
Imposing a blockade and starving the population	This hinders women's access to essential services and increases their suffering in armed conflict.	It could constitute an act of Genocide by wilfully inflicting conditions of life intended to bring about their partial or total destruction.	Violates the principle of Military Necessity, by failing to justify the collective harm done to civilians.	Violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 54 of Additional Protocol I.
Extensive destruction of	Increases women's	If the destruction	It violates the principle of	Violation of Article 53 of

homes and infrastructure	suffering through forced displacement and loss of shelter.	results in preventing the mere existence of a certain group, it may be classified as Genocide.	Proportionality when destroying civilian structures under the pretext of “military objectives”.	the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 147 (unjustified destruction).
Use of excessive force indiscriminately	It subjects women and girls to particular vulnerabilities during conflict.	If the aim is to annihilate a certain people or group, it may be considered Genocide.	Violation of the principles of Proportionality and Distinction by using prohibited or excessive weapons.	Violation of Additional Protocol I – Article 51(4) on indiscriminate attacks.
Arbitrary detention and torture	UNSCR 1325 encompasses protection from sexual violence during conflict, and arbitrary detention could lead to sexual violations against women.	It may constitute the crime of Genocide if torture is intended to exterminate a certain people or group.	Violation of the principle of Military Necessity when unjustifiable violence is perpetrated.	Violation of Articles 32 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
Attacks on medical facilities and humanitarian aid	These directly affect pregnant women and those in need of health care.	These practices may lead to Genocide indirectly, by depriving civilians of basic health care.	Violation of the principle of Distinction by targeting facilities that should be legally protected. .	Violation of Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 12 of Additional Protocol I.

Forced Displacement	Increases the vulnerability of women and girls, especially female refugees and displaced persons.	If displacement is part of a policy of annihilating a certain people or group, it may constitute Genocide.	Violation of the principle of Proportionality when forced displacement leads to a large-scale demographic change.	Violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.
Rape and sexual violence during conflict	These are among the violations set forth in UNSCR 1325, which stresses the need to hold offenders accountable and ensure women's protection.	If this is part of a systematic policy against a certain people or group, it may constitute Genocide.	Violation of the principle of Distinction due to targeting an overall group of people.	Violation of Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 76 of Additional Protocol I.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

This analytical report presents findings based on facts and testimonies documented by MIFTAH's team during the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people. It places special emphasis on **the grave violations against Palestinian women**, particularly those who were **forcibly displaced to the Arab Republic of Egypt** under the current circumstances. Field observations and personal testimonies revealed multiple levels of violence and other violations, both during the war and the journey of displacement, along with subsequent challenges at the humanitarian and human rights levels.

Given the continuation of this harsh reality, there is an urgent need to present **clear and practical recommendations** to active and stakeholder parties, in order to mobilize efforts towards **effective responses, provision of protection, accountability, and guaranteeing of rights**. Hence, the recommendations at the end of the report were divided into three main categories: The **Arab Republic of Egypt** (as the host country and primary humanitarian corridor for displaced women); **international organizations and United Nations institutions** (as the main actors responsible for protecting human rights and refugees according to international law); and the **Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations** (as the local actors best able to document violations and conduct community and international follow-up). These recommendations are an indispensable step towards promoting a just and fair response to the plight of Palestinian women. They are also a call to end the injustices committed against these victims, and affirm the centrality of gender and human rights justice in all

international pathways concerned about Palestine and the ongoing aggression therein.

Recommendations to the International Community and United Nations Organizations

1. Introduce programs to compensate Gazan women survivors for the suffered economic losses, and establish grants and training programs to rehabilitate them to re-enter the labor market.
2. The need for actions to ensure women's access to healthcare and educational services - especially in the most affected areas – and enhance international support to improve the infrastructure in Gaza.
3. Urge the State of Egypt to provide comprehensive legal and humanitarian protection for displaced Palestinians, and provide technical and financial support to ensure an effective response.
4. Develop alternatives to UNRWA arrangements and support compensatory initiatives to guarantee the right to education, health care, and basic services for Palestinians in Egypt.
5. Support the work of documenting violations on Palestinian women under the current aggression and displacement, and submit the relevant documents to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to promote international accountability, particularly in cases of Genocide and sexual violence.
6. Fund the establishment of psychological and social rehabilitation centres for women and programs to compensate for economic losses,

along with providing training opportunities and grants to reintegrate women into the labor market.

7. Recognize the legal and humanitarian rights of Palestinian refugees in Egypt and be aware of their bizarre legal status, along with pressing for the implementation of international humanitarian principles (Distinction, Proportionality, and Military Necessity) in the Gaza Strip.
8. Push towards the operationalization and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and principles of international humanitarian law, to ensure women's protection in armed conflict and documentation of Israeli violations against Palestinian women. It is also necessary to establish special international investigation committees to support global accountability on war criminals.

Recommendations to Palestinian Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations

1. **Documentation for the purpose of accountability**: Encourage local and international human rights organizations to document violations related to Genocide and violence against women, as well as submitting relevant documents to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to enhance international accountability.
2. Proceed with collecting and documenting the testimonies of displaced women from Gaza by using methods that take privacy and the local context into consideration, while emphasizing direct and indirect violence against women during aggressions and displacement.

3. Use these testimonies in media and human rights campaigns to promote accountability and ensure non-impunity, along with linking women's suffering with global action to hold the Occupation accountable.
4. Enhance cooperation with Egyptian feminist and civil society organizations to provide legal, psychological and social support, with special focus on the most vulnerable groups (e.g., widows, injured women, and survivors of violence).
5. Develop analytical materials and policies based on documented testimonies, in a way that takes gender justice into account and contributes to formulating effective, rights-based responses.
6. Guarantee the representation of women in decision-making processes related to relief and protection, emphasizing that their voices are crucial to understand reality, along with devising policies based on women's experiences.
7. Amplify the voices of displaced Palestinian women as an instrumental step towards acknowledging their suffering, as well as encouraging redress and reparations and adoption of responsible measures by States and organizations.
8. International campaigns to raise awareness on violations of Gazan women's rights, and linking that to global efforts against Occupation. It is also imperative to urge the international community to exert political pressure to halt the ongoing transgressions against women.

Recommendations to the Arab Republic of Egypt

1. Simplify legal and administrative procedures to grant temporary or humanitarian residency permits to Palestinians from Gaza, allowing them to move and work legally, thus reducing their legal and living hardships.
2. Allow safe and easy access to vital services, especially education for Gazan children and students and comprehensive health care, including mental and reproductive health care and psychosocial support for displaced women.
3. Similar to other refugees (such as Syrians and Sudanese), Palestinian refugees should be treated fairly and humanely under a special framework (for example, "*temporary asylum*"), in the absence of an official UNRWA mandate in Egypt.
4. Establish official and secure channels of communication with Palestinian institutions and civil society, to ensure the effective delivery of aid to the most marginalized segments, especially women.