

# Seven indisputable facts about Gaza

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**Hunger:** On Friday, the US president said that "a lot of people were starving" in Gaza. Israel rejects claims of a food shortage.

Is the world turning a blind eye? The fighting continues. More and more people are dying. But many worry that world leaders are no longer watching.

## What's happening?

Israel's war on Gaza has now been going on for more than one and a half years. A ceasefire between the two sides has ended. Talks are still ongoing on a new deal.

## Find out more

Here are seven certain facts:

1. **Aid blockade.** For the last ten weeks Israel has prevented all food, water and shelter materials from entering Gaza.<sup>2</sup> Last night, Israel said it would allow a "basic amount" of food into Gaza.
2. **Rising prices.** In Gaza City, eggs are 1400% more expensive than before the fighting started.<sup>3</sup>
3. **Media blackout.** Most journalists are forbidden from entering Gaza, but doctors have shared messages showing the damage, including strikes on hospitals.<sup>4</sup>
4. **Urban destruction.** By January of this year, academics **estimated** that 59.8% of the buildings in the Gaza Strip had been damaged or destroyed. The UN calculated that the figure was closer to 69%.<sup>5</sup>

5. **Hostage situation.** The conflict began when **Hamas** killed at least 1,200 Israelis and took 251 hostages. To this day, 58 hostages remain in Gaza, and Israel believes that 23 are still alive.<sup>6</sup>
6. **Displaced population.** Before the ceasefire, 1.9 million people in Gaza had been displaced — from a population of 2.2 million.<sup>7</sup>
7. **Disputed death toll.** According to the Hamas-run health ministry, at least 51,266 people have been killed in the war. Israel argues that these figures cannot be trusted.<sup>8</sup>

## Is the world turning a blind eye?

### Some say

Yes! The people of Gaza are in crisis. Children are starving. But major Western leaders have failed to speak out or act to stop the war.

### Others think

No! Politicians from around the world are working hard to set up a deal for a new ceasefire. World leaders cannot help unless Israel and Hamas want peace too.

1. Reported by [BBC](#).  
2. Reported by [Guardian](#).  
3. Reported by [World Food Programme](#).  
4. Reported by [BBC](#).  
5. Reported by [BBC](#).  
6. Reported by [PBS](#).  
7. Reported by [BBC](#).

8. Reported by [United Nations](#).  
9. Quoted by [Financial Times](#) (paywall).

### Some people say

*"No matter what's happening in the Middle East – the Arab Spring, et cetera, the economic challenges, high rates of unemployment – the emotional, critical issue is always the Israeli-Palestinian one."*

**Abdullah II (1962 – ), Jordanian monarch**

*What do you think?*

### Six steps to discovery

#### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Do you watch the news reports coming from Gaza? How do they make you feel?

#### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: Why did the war start? What could a future for Gaza look like after war?

#### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

#### 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - Do you think that schools should be made to teach children about the conflict in Gaza?

#### 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - Is there anything the leader of your country can do to stop the war? Discuss as a class.

#### 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - Write a letter to world leaders, asking them to work for peace.

### Glossary

**Israel** - A country in the Middle East, and the only Jewish nation in the modern period. It is seen by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the Holy Land.

**Gaza** - The smaller of two Palestinian territories, home to two million people. It is located on the Mediterranean coast, bordered by Israel and Egypt.

**Ceasefire** - An end to fighting — often temporary.

**UN** - United Nations. An intergovernmental organisation based in New York that aims to maintain international peace and security.

**Hamas** - A militant Palestinian organisation, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007. It is listed as a terrorist organisation in the UK.