

Urgent calls for WATER in Gaza



Deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on water and sanitation – and power supplies required for them to function – can be a violation of international humanitarian law. So, too, is the intentional denial of services.

Vital humanitarian aid is piling up at the shuttered Gaza border, despite diplomatic efforts to open a corridor with Egypt, as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that water is running out for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians in the bombed territory.

Gaza has been under siege by Israel for more than a week, in response to the deadly incursion by Hamas, the Islamist militant group that controls the coastal enclave, home to 2.2 million people.

Some residents in Gaza are gathering at the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza hoping to leave, as critical supplies like fuel, food and water run short, leaving hospitals on the brink of collapse and families facing dehydration and starvation.

Urgent calls for help

Urgent calls for help are growing on both sides of the border. On the Egyptian side, United Nations teams are waiting at the Rafah crossing, hoping they will be given the green light to enter Gaza and open a humanitarian corridor.

In a social media post Monday, WHO warned that Gaza faces an "imminent" public health crisis, with water running out and the lives of more than 3,500 patients in 35 hospitals at immediate risk.



Hydropolitics Academy

Residents of Gaza Strip drink dirty water: United Nations



2023-10-16

Amid the ongoing clashes between Israel and Hamas, lasting for ten days, Palestinians in Gaza are facing a severe water crisis due to Israel's cutoff of fuel and water supplies. United Nations (UN) on water shortage for Gazans drinking contaminated water

The clashes between Israel and Hamas, which started on October 7, entered the 10th day. After Israel cut off fuel and water in Palestine at the start of the clashes, Gazans, who are experiencing a great water shortage, have to buy water from wells and form long queues to fill their bottles and kitchen utensils with water.

Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, said in a statement that more than 2 million people living in the Gaza Strip face the risk of water shortage due to the water cut-off. Lazzarini stated that fuel should be delivered to Gaza immediately to provide water to 2 million people.

"This situation has turned into a matter of life and death," Lazzarini noted.

Stating that no humanitarian aid supplies are allowed to enter Gaza.

"With the stoppage of water facilities and public water networks in Gaza, clean water has run out and people are forced to consume dirty water. This increases the risk of water-borne diseases," Lazzarini emphasized.

Lazzarini also stated that there has been a power outage in Gaza since October 11 and this situation has affected the water supply.

"We now need to transport fuel to Gaza. The only way for people to have safe drinking water is fuel. Otherwise, many people, including children, women and the elderly, will start dying of thirst. Water is the last remaining lifeline. I call for the immediate lifting of the siege on humanitarian aid," Lazzarini noted.



WHAT HAPPENED

Hamas's military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, announced that they launched a comprehensive attack against Israel called "Al-Aqsa Flood" on the morning of October 7. While thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza towards Israel, armed groups entered the settlements in the region. The Israeli army also launched an attack on the Gaza Strip with dozens of warplanes. The Palestinian Ministry of Health announced that 2 thousand 329 people were killed and 9 thousand 42 people were injured in Gaza in the Israeli attacks. In the occupied West Bank, it was reported that 1000 Israelis were killed in the attacks organized from Gaza and 5 thousand people were wounded, 106 of them seriously. The Israeli army hit Damascus and Aleppo airports. As the Middle East is once again turning into a bloodbath, a deadline has been set for nearly 2 and a half million Palestinians to leave the blockaded Gaza.



Source: Newsroom

War on Water Prolongs

Misery in Gaza

by Mark Zeitoun
October 17, 2023

The consequences of the Israeli announcement on Oct. 9 of a “complete siege” on Gaza are severe, and will endure. The decision to deny the entry of electricity and fuel has since been accompanied by physical damage to water infrastructure so extensive that misery is guaranteed, and opportunities to address the issues that lie behind the conflict are dashed. If the territorial conflict is ever to be resolved, the rules of international law that guide armed conflict to protect civilians must be followed.

The history of abuse of water in war is long, and the consequences are entirely predictable. In Gaza, the risks are immediate and long-term; those who are injured and survive their wounds face the second threat of disease.



The causal chain is simple. Water systems are damaged, raw sewage mixes in, people ingest and transmit whatever strains of disease exist. A review of the evidence shows spikes of acute diarrhea mapped directly with the attacks on Gaza in 2014, and the cholera outbreak in Yemen that killed over three thousand people in 2018 was similarly predicted.

So too were the hundreds of thousands of cases of both cholera and diarrhea linked to the quality of drinking water in Basrah, Iraq, by 2017 – and the deadly protests that followed. The same pattern is apparent in [Ukraine](#) and [Syria](#), as well. As [argued](#) in Just Security earlier this year, the base of evidence for – and foreseeability of – these links between damaged water systems and the spread of disease increases with time, as when one party to a conflict controls the territory of another.

The risk in Gaza is particularly high because of the strain already placed on the limited water resources people can access. From Alexander the Great to the British in World War I, armies passing through the Sinai desert once coveted the precious water under the sands of Gaza. But the resource has dwindled as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee to the strip of land during the “[Nakba](#)” in 1948. Decades of sanctions and violence since then have ensured that the sewage plants are failing, and water pipes remain consistently under-pressurized.



On top of all that, the water quality in Gaza is so poor that it requires treatment. If there is no electricity or fuel to run the water treatment



plants, and no bottled water is allowed in, the only water people can drink is so salty that residents can scarcely shower with it. Denying water to people or attacking drinking water systems is prohibited under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which specifically protects objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. The United Nations Security Council, which has authority to maintain international peace and security, further reaffirmed these rules unanimously in Resolution 2573. The rules have also progressed through the growing base of legal frameworks addressing the protection of the environment and of freshwater resources and related installations, not to mention the Human Right to water and sanitation.

Taken together, and like calls to avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the instruments are meant to provide greater protection to critical civilian infrastructure, and unimpeded access for repair crews. The standards exist precisely because the reverberating effects of attacks are known to persist long after the bombing has stopped. The norms are crystal clear, as the International Committee of the Red Cross recently stated: “critical infrastructure that people depend on to live – including electricity and water networks – must not be targeted.”

There is a pragmatic side to keeping water out of harm’s way, too. Following the laws of war is crucial to retaining compassion amid the fog of war, and to ending the cycle of violence. A modicum of humanity is required at these moments to see other civilians as equals. The fewer fellow human beings that are subject to such misery, the greater the chance to negotiate a ceasefire. The greater the amount of clean water that is available, the greater the ability to reach a lasting and just resolution of the conflict.

The end of this violence will not come through bombs, but when its underlying issues – ideologies about land, universal human values, blood spilt – are addressed. Implementing Security Council Resolution 2573 and keeping water out of harm’s way will reduce the suffering in the meantime and may hold the door open to those discussions.



Mark Zeitoun

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Source : <https://www.justsecurity.org/89536/war-on-water-prolongs-misery-in-gaza/>

Water Shortage in the West Bank



An example of the relationship of conflict and water is on the West Bank. Tens of thousands of Palestinians in tiny villages on the West Bank rely on springs for drinking water. Water experts estimate as many as 120 villages – or about one-fifth of the population – are not connected to a water network. Though Israel handed over parts of West Bank territory to Palestinians in December 1995, it kept control over the sources of underground water. Today, if Palestinians want to drill new wells, they must first get permission from Israel. Palestinians say this is an unfair arrangement that leaves them with less water than the minimum daily amount needed for basic use. By contrast, none of the 144 Israeli settlements that dot the West Bank have water shortages. Most homes have gardens and some have swimming pools. Where a Palestinian villager typically uses 50 litres of water per day, settlers use 250.

When water negotiators meet, Palestinians focus almost exclusively on water rights. They blame their own water shortage on the excess consumed by settlers. The Israelis claim that having one control authority for the shared aquifers is the only way to preserve fragile water sources. They accuse Palestinians of damaging the sources by tapping in without permission as soon as Israeli troops vacated the territory. They claim the water shortages of the Palestinians are not due to settlements or sovereignty, but simple economics and under-development -- just plain poverty and lack of water resource management.

Source: Using water as a weapon <http://encyclopedia.uia.org/en/strategy/205622>

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CLIMATE CHANGE Environmental Crisis
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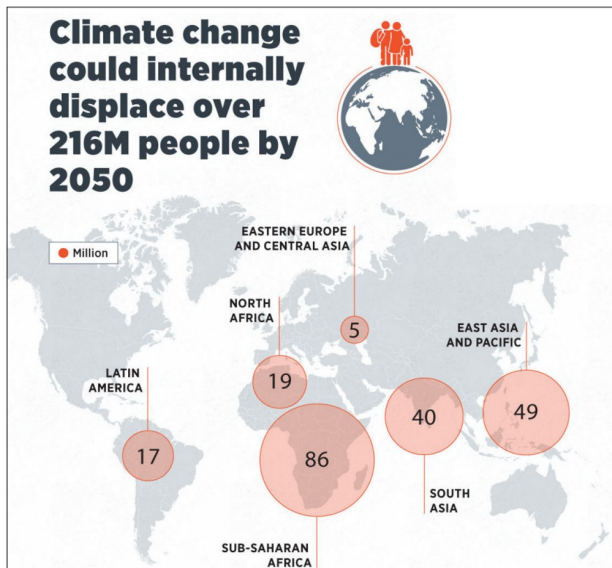
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Antalya International Science Forum (ANISF) on "Climate Change, Environmental Crisis and Migration" which is organised in partnership with Antalya Metropolitan Municipality, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Turkey Representation (Istanbul), Centre for Turkish Studies (Germany-Essen) and Hydropolitics Association, as we consider your work and contributions to science valuable.

The Science Forum aims to discuss interdisciplinary approaches and solutions such as "climate resilient agriculture", "circular economy", "right to food", "climate justice", and "environmental law" in the context of global, regional and national impacts of climate change, migration and environmental crisis.

ANISF will bring together experts from different regions of the world and various institutions and organisations, providing a platform for them to share their knowledge and expertise on the impacts of climate change on migration and vulnerable communities, as well as strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

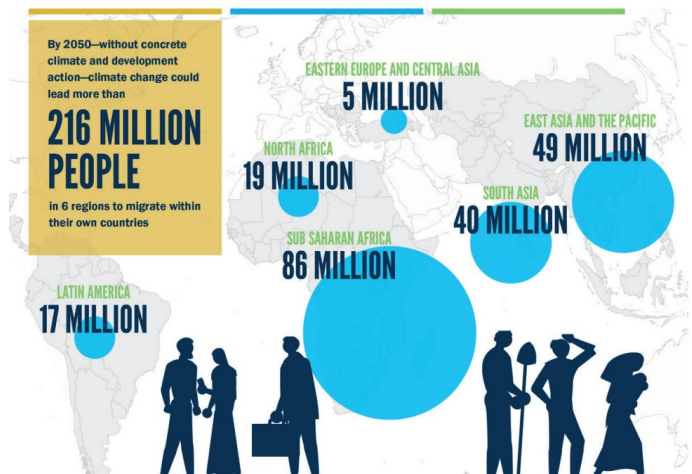
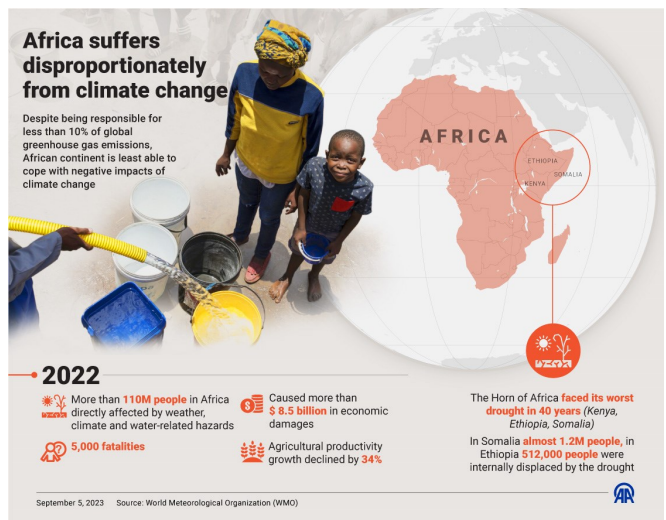


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