

Remember the Genocide

2025. Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 30"

The Palestinian genocide was conducted and orchestrated by the state of Israel. The government and media corporations of the United States aided and abetted the indicted war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu to carry out the genocide. Britain, France and Germany, among others, also aided and abetted the state of Israel to conduct the genocide. Without the billions of dollars in financial and military aid from those countries, the state of Israel would never exist.

As documented in a Human Rights Watch report of December 2024, "[f]or nearly six decades, Israeli authorities have maintained overarching control over the Gaza Strip, including over the movement of people and goods, territorial waters, airspace, the infrastructure upon which Gaza relies, as well as the registry of the population. Gaza's population, which Israel has subjected to an unlawful closure for 17 years, is almost entirely dependent on the Israeli government for access to fuel, electricity, medicine, food, potable water, and other goods and services essential to human rights. Human Rights Watch has found that the Israeli government's prolonged closure of the Gaza Strip constitutes a form of collective punishment and is part of the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution that Israeli authorities are committing against Palestinians."¹

As the poet and writer from Gaza, Nour Elassy, noted: "What is happening in Gaza is not a war between two armies. It is the wholesale destruction of an occupied people by one of the most advanced armies in the world. It is genocide aided by Western arms, protected by Western silence, and beautified by humanitarian lies."²

The Human Rights Watch report further noted, "[s]ince October 2023, Israeli authorities have deliberately obstructed Palestinians' access to the adequate amount of water required for survival in the Gaza Strip."³

And it's not just the western governments but also corporations who have profited from Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. The private sector has been involved with Israel from the beginning. As laid out in Francesca Albanese Human Rights Council report, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*: "Settler-colonialism involves extraction and profit from, and colonization of, land through the expulsion of its owners. In Palestine, historically, companies have driven and enabled the process of displacement and replacement of the Arab population, foundational to the logic of settler-colonial erasure. The Jewish National Fund, a land-purchasing corporate entity founded in 1901, helped plan and carry out the gradual removal of Arab Palestinians, which intensified with the Nakba and has continued ever since."⁴

Furthermore, top economists supported Ms. Albanese's report. In an open letter they noted: "Following a well-trodden path of genocide denial and of bullying anyone

who challenges the right of the colonial power to dispossess Indigenous peoples, the US and Israeli governments, with most European governments too timid to take a stance, demand that the international community turn a blind eye to the ongoing genocide and, in particular, to the key role that multinational and national corporations are playing in maintaining the apartheid regime and enabling the subsequent genocide.”⁵

In January 2024, “[t]he International Court of Justice ruled that Israel must cease its warmaking in Gaza — cease committing and inciting genocidal acts — and that the case charging Israel with genocide must proceed.”⁶

The court found “that there is a basis to proceed with the case against Israel for genocide and that South Africa had solid foundation to bring its case before the world’s highest court.”⁷

Further, the ICJ “ordered Israel to ‘take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the Genocide convention.’”⁸

The prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, “confirmed in November 2023 that his office has, since March 2021, been conducting an investigation into alleged atrocity crimes committed in Gaza and the West Bank since 2014, and that his office has jurisdiction.”⁹

Judges of the International Criminal Court, on November 21, 2024, “issued arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant of Israel.”¹⁰

“Israel has been a party to the Genocide Convention since 1951. Palestine became a party to the Genocide Convention in 2014.”¹¹

Human Rights Watch also stated, “Israel’s continuing blockade of Gaza, as well as its more than 17-year closure, also amounts to collective punishment of the civilian population, a war crime.”¹²

International humanitarian law “prohibits warring parties from attacking, destroying, removing, or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population (OIS). According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ‘objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population are civilian objects and may not be attacked as such.’”¹³

The Human Rights Watch report states further that, “Israeli forces attacked and destroyed water and sanitation infrastructure throughout Gaza, including at least four wastewater treatment plants, a water reservoir, and the Gaza City desalination facility.”¹⁴ Israeli authorities also cut off electricity supplies to Gaza, and restricted entry of fuel supplies into Gaza, which rendered water and sanitation infrastructure useless.

It notes that, “[t]he water and sanitation facilities that Israeli forces attacked, destroyed, and rendered useless served the civilian population of Gaza, and were essential to the survival of the population.”¹⁵

As documented in a December 2024 report by Amnesty International, “[g]enocide under international law is a crime, whether committed in times of peace or armed conflict. It is prohibited and criminalized under the Genocide Convention, which Israel ratified in 1950,”¹⁶ as well as the Rome Statute.

The report further states that there are five acts under the Genocide Convention’s Article 11 which, “constitute the underlying criminal conduct of the crime of genocide, including: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. Each of these acts must be committed with a general intent to commit the underlying act.”¹⁷

The report states, “[h]owever, to constitute the crime of genocide, these acts must also be committed ‘with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such...’” That “specific intent is what distinguishes genocide from other crimes under international law.”¹⁸

Article III of the 1948 Genocide Convention states: “The following acts shall be punishable: (a) Genocide; (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide; (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide; (d) Attempt to commit genocide; (e) *Complicity in genocide*.” (emphasis added).¹⁹

The United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and other European countries have been complicit in genocide.

Notes

1. *Extermination and Acts of Genocide: Israel Deliberately Depriving Palestinians in Gaza of Water*, Human Rights Watch, December 2024, 37.
2. *I survived the Gaza genocide only to witness firsthand Western complicity*, Nour Elassy, Aljazeera.com, September 2, 2025.
3. *Extermination and Acts of Genocide*, *ibid.*, 1.
4. *From economy of occupation to economy of genocide. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, Francesca Albanese, Human Rights Council, July 2, 2025, paragraph 22.
5. *Leading Economists Endorse UN Expert's 'Economy of Genocide' Report After Trump Attack*, by Jake Johnson, Commondreams.org, July 8, 2025.
6. *International Court of Justice Rules That Israel Must Stop Killing Palestinians*, by David Swanson, World Beyond War, Jan. 24, 2024, Scheerpost.com.
7. *ICJ Ruling on Gaza Genocide Is a Historic Victory for The Palestinians That Israel Vows to Defy*, by Jeremy Scahill, The Intercept, January 26, 2024.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Extermination and Acts of Genocide*, *ibid.*, 137.
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Ibid.*
12. *Ibid.*, 141.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.*, 141-142.
16. *ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN GAZA*, Report by Amnesty International, December 2024, 17.
17. *Ibid.*
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, adopted, December 9, 1948, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner.