

State of Palestine

Association of Palestinian
Local Authorities



الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
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دولة فلسطين

الاتحاد الفلسطيني
للهيئات المحلية

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Israeli Aggression's Toll on Palestinian Local Authorities

The Israeli war on Gaza spare nothing, targeting people, buildings, hospitals, churches, mosques, and vital service centers. The Israeli attacks are profoundly affecting Palestinian local authorities, and the consequences of their aggression are taking a significant toll on communities. This week, we mourned the loss of Mr. Marwan Hamad, the mayor of Al-Zahra municipality, and his family, as their house was tragically struck by an Israeli airstrike. Moreover, municipal officials, employees, and service workers continue to face the relentless threat of airstrikes.

Since the war's outset, the Israeli occupation has launched a massive campaign against the people in the West Bank, which includes mayors and local authority staff. Tragically, many have lost their lives or been arrested without any formal charges.

The municipalities in Gaza, which are accountable for waste management and the provision of water and electricity services to the citizens, are under dire threat. Most of their facilities have been directly bombed, including the buildings, vehicles, and maintenance workshops which are now out of service. As a result, there have been severe reductions in the municipal services, with only a few services continuing, primarily for hospitals and emergency centers, if possible.

The airstrikes on Gaza are targeting critical services centers and facilities such as water tanks, solar panels, landfills, and waste water treatment plants. The interruption of these facilities is causing an environmental and health catastrophe, with pollution of air, soil, and water, the spread of viruses, and the emergence of new diseases due to the inability to recover bodies from under the rubble. This is a result of targeting the ambulance crews, medical crews, civil defense and municipal workers. Not to mention the exhaustion of fuel supplies and electricity cutoffs necessary to operate rescue equipment; a complete breakdown of essential services.

The local authorities in the West Bank are also enduring significant challenges. Israeli forces and settlers continue their attacks, causing extensive damage to infrastructure within refugee camps. These attacks have intensified during arrest and assassination campaigns, further disrupting the delivery of services. Furthermore, main roads connecting governorates in the West Bank have been blocked due to Israeli restrictions and settler aggression, impeding waste transfer services.

In light with this aggression, local authorities in Palestine face a scarcity of resources and materials needed to maintain service delivery and respond to the ongoing emergency situation.

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA

