

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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## Palestine Exits 2023 as the Deadliest Year in Recent History

Palestine bids farewell to the year 2023, having traversed what will be remembered as the deadliest year in recent history. The landscape of this year has been harmed by unparalleled devastation, marked by the loss of innocent lives, shattered families, and communities left in ruins. The toll inflicted upon the Palestinian people is etched in the stark data available.

Gaza bore witness to unfathomable tragedy since October 7, with more than 20,000 Palestinians losing their lives and more than 53,000 sustaining injuries. Among this devastating toll were not only civilians but also 82 valiant journalists, 310 medics and civil defense members who sacrificed their lives in service to their communities.

The displacement crisis hit hard, affecting 1.9 million people in Gaza, which is almost 85% of the population. Families faced the harsh reality of being uprooted, experiencing trauma, struggling to meet basic needs, and enduring uncertain and challenging living conditions. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) portrayed a distressing scene, revealing that over 90% of Gazans were grappling with acute food insecurity.

From the outset, the 2023 year unfolded with a harsh narrative, the toll continued its relentless climb, compared with the other years since OCHA began recording casualties in 2005. The weekly average of incidents increased significantly, Israeli forces had claimed the lives of more than 480 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with an additional nine killings attributed to settlers, and more than 12,769 people were injured, a toll that disproportionately affects children, with 42 young lives lost. Besides the displacement of 198 Palestinian households. Punitive demolitions, considered illegal under international law by the Human Rights Committee, further displaced 95 Palestinians, including 42 children added another layer to the humanitarian crisis.

The Israeli war on Palestinian people spared nothing, targeting families, infrastructure, hospitals, places of worship, and vital service centers. The consequences of this genocide reverberated through Palestinian local authorities, grappling with a scarcity of resources and materials needed to maintain service delivery amid the ongoing emergency.

As we look back on the year that was, we stand at a critical corner, we call for act decisively in solidarity with the resilient people of Palestine to stop the war on them, end the occupation, and ensure their right to establish their own state and their entitlement to equality, following international laws. In this introspective moment, **we question whether international laws will continue to be disregarded** before our eyes.

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities – APLA

