

Gaza Genocidal War, A Major Cause of Children's Death, That the World Ignores: Review Article

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ABSTARCT

Background: A large number of children are killed every day in Gaza by the Israeli forces since they began their barbarian attack against 2 million civilians in Gaza by all methods of killing, from direct bombing and sniping to the total cut-off of water, food, and all medication supplies to the whole of the Gaza Strip.

Objective: This study aimed to shed light on the current genocidal war as a major cause of death of children in Gaza for more than 18 months.

Methods: We applied a wide search in Scopus, ResearchGate, PubMed, the Human Rights website, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, television channel websites, and the Web of Science for children's deaths in the Gaza genocide war to identify relevant studies and records published all over the world. Articles were selected based on their clinical focus in both languages (English and Arabic).

Conclusion: The barbaric genocidal war in Gaza began more than 18 months ago and is still a destructive, bloody, non-moral war targeting innocent civilians—especially children—ignoring all international laws and human rights. Every day there is a large and increasing number of killed children and disabilities that are the results of this war, with a silent world watching. No doubt that in the time of our study, Israel is the first cause of children's death all over the world by all causes of pediatric morbidity and mortality.

Keywords: Children's death, Pediatric mortality, Human rights, Targeting children in wars, Gaza genocidal war.

INTRODUCTION

The horrible, genocidal, bloody war against Gaza began directly after 7th October 2023, when some Palestinian factions with personal weapons attacked some Israeli military locations as a part of their prolonged resistance (77 years ago) against the Israeli forces occupying the Palestinian lands since 1948 ^(1,2). Although resisting occupation is a right guaranteed by international laws ⁽³⁾, Israel considers this faction's resistance actions as a cause to begin a genocidal war targeting every living organism or building (Even immigrants' tents) in Gaza. The results of this global genocidal war are magnified by a more restricted siege preventing the inheritance of any requirements for life to reach any civilians for more than 2 months now after Israel break a truce (No clear water, food, and medications). Every day, a large number of children die due to many causes in this bloody war ⁽¹⁻⁶⁾.

Historical view (Figure 1): On the 15th of May every year since 1948, when they occupied Palestinian land officially, Israel has been celebrating the day of independence (i.e., occupation). But 15th May 2025 is quite different from any year before, as it celebrates this day associated with horrible, innumerable war crimes against childhood and humanity more than the repeated several recorded crimes before over 7 decades of occupation ^(1, 2, 4). The history of the occupation of Palestinian lands by the Jewish immigrants from Europe in 1948 was briefly discussed in our previously published

2 articles about this genocidal war ⁽¹⁻²⁾. The data is recorded in detail in books, maps, the media, the news, and the story is clear to anyone who wants to know it, but when you close your eyes, don't ask why I don't know about it ⁽⁴⁻⁹⁾.

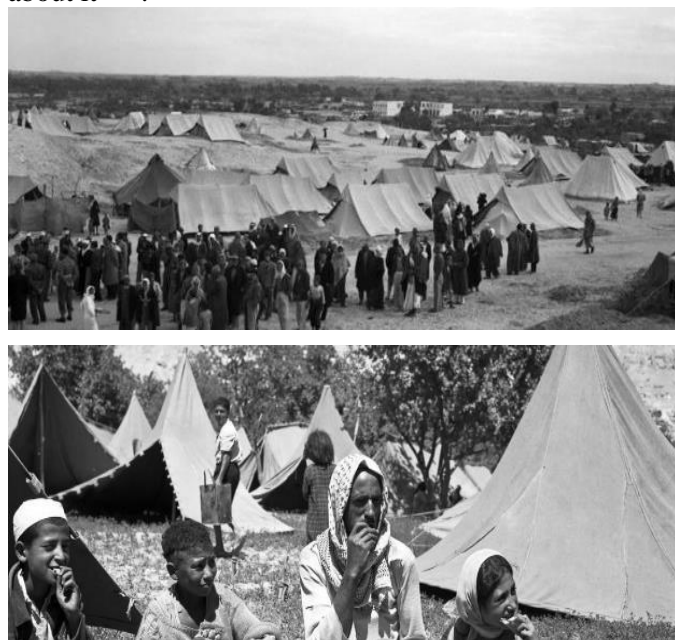


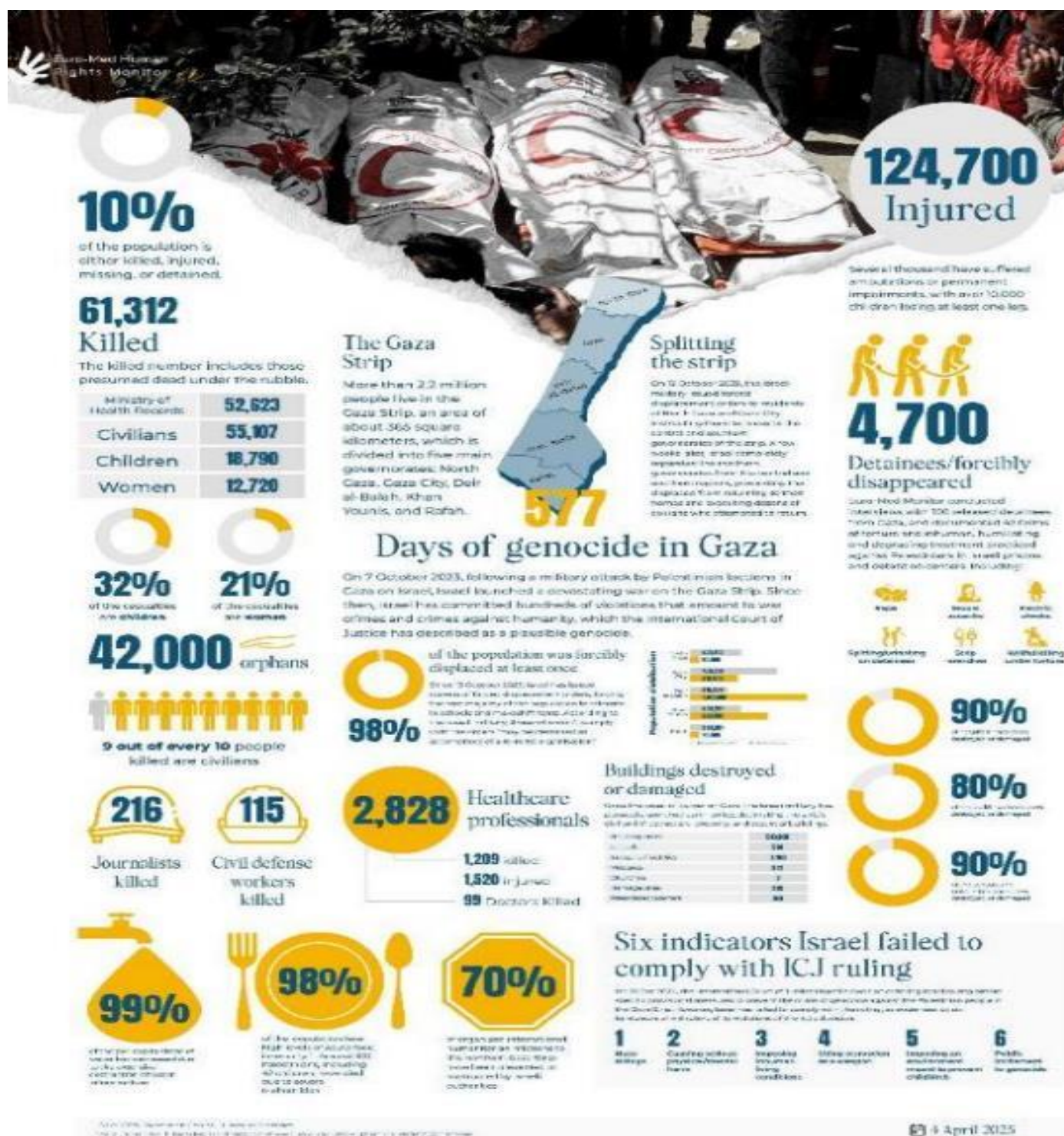
Figure (1): UN (United Nations) photos report the beginning of Palestinian children suffering from their displacement and occupation of their lands in 1948 ⁽⁹⁾.

Gaza genocidal war in numbers: 2.2 million is the total number of people in Gaza; none of them are excluded from being targeted by the Israeli forces, even children or infants. At the beginning of April 2024, 98% of the population had been forcibly displaced at least once, and 80% of the buildings had been destroyed or damaged. 10% of the population is either killed, injured, missing, or detained. More than 61,000 are killed (90% are civilians), and 32% of them are children and 21% are women, while 124,700 are injured. At least 4700 are detained or forcibly disappeared. Israeli forces are intended to deprive the civilians of any medical services by directly targeting all medical facilities. 90% of hospitals have been destroyed

or damaged. 2829 healthcare professionals were targeted: 1209, including 99 doctors, were killed, and 1620 were injured. Trials of masking all this data are done by any method, especially direct targeting of journalists; 216 of them are killed. 115 civil defense workers are killed. 70% of organized international humanitarian missions to the northern Gaza Strip have been prevented or obstructed by Israeli authorities. 99% of the per capita share of water has decreased due to the extensive destruction of water infrastructures. According to official Palestinian records, every 24 hours, 90 martyrs are recorded at the few available hospitals, 22 women are killed, and 4 families are totally exterminated (Figures 2 & 3) ^(1, 2, 4-11).



Figure (2): Recorded data by Euro-Mediterranean Rights Monitor about killing women and mothers and destroying education in Gaza ^(4, 5, 11)



Children targeting in Gaza (Figures 4-12):

Killing of mothers is the first step in the indirect killing of their children, either psychological killing or real physical killing. Between 7 Oct 2023 and 11 May 2025, Israel killed 12,400 Palestinian women in Gaza (including 7,920 mothers), i.e., an average of 21 women are killed per day; 1 woman is killed every 67 minutes (Figure 2). Israel had a long list of targets children all over its short history, from when it was established in the occupied Palestinian lands in 1948 until the current genocidal war in Gaza.

At least 19,000 children were killed, and more than 10,000 children lose at least one limb. 42,000 orphans missed one or both parents. 90% of schools (560) and universities have been destroyed. The schools are directly targeted even when they contain displaced civilians, most of whom are children and women. 98% of the population—especially children—face high levels of acute food insufficiency.

Every 24 hours in Gaza, at least 32 children are killed. 13,000 students and 750 teachers and educational staff have been killed, 92.9% of schools sustained damage, and 84.6% needed to be fully reconstructed or required major rehabilitation to be functional again. Additionally, all schools in Gaza have been closed for 625,000 students, depriving 39,000 students who missed their final year of school of taking their final secondary exams.

Also, at least 45,000 six-year-old children in the Gaza Strip are deprived of their first year at school (**Figure 2 & 3**). The international laws and human rights all over the world are completely preventing any hurt of children in any war or conflict, but none of these laws or rules apply by the occupying Israeli forces in Palestine.

Children are always the first and the most innocent victims of conflicts and wars, especially in Gaza, with a higher rate of pediatric mortality than any war in the last

decade. The photos are sent daily on the media by the living journalists “as Israeli forces are also directly targeting journalists to prevent recording their crimes against humanity.”

A father or a mother carrying their alive children (**Figures 9**) or a child carrying other (**Figures 10**) running from the bombing of any place or carrying a killed children (As one-piece body) by starvation, bullets, or in a bag (Collecting them in pieces), or bodies on a manually pushed car due to bombing and preventing or targeting ambulances, all these became a daily scene in Gaza that the world has been watching every day for more than 1.5 years now with no real efforts to stop this genocidal war. UNICEF has observed that Israeli forces never respect any human or international laws in dealing with children in Palestine, and excessive force against them is committed. The United Nations has recorded that the number of children killed in Gaza is higher than from four years of world conflict.

“This war is a war on children. It is a war on their childhood and their future,” said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini. UNRWA staff members in Gaza are killed and injured. More than 7000 children aged 12 to 18 years old are detained against international laws. In the Gaza Strip, children are targeted before they are born.

The ongoing genocidal war has led to a significant rise in preterm births. Stress and trauma experienced by pregnant women, associated with limited access to healthcare and essential supplies, have contributed to this increase. Many women are reportedly self-inducing labor due to fear of bombing and displacement, further endangering themselves and their newborns.

Even the destruction of IVF (in vitro fertilization) medical centers was committed, and a lot of samples or fetuses in the center were killed ^(3-24, 30-37).



Figure (4): The massive destruction of Gaza, examples and data about the families that are totally exterminated during the genocidal war there or only survival kid in between totally killed family ^(4, 6, 9, 10).



Figure (5): Many families are subjected to massacres in Gaza either totally exterminated, or with only one child survived of it. An example is the young child (Ali Farag, 6-year-old), the only survivor of his family after bombing their home; the explosion through him on the roof of neighbor's house while his father and brothers are killed ^(4,5).

Deprivation of medications, another method of killing:

On 20 January 2024, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza estimated that 350,000 patients with chronic diseases (52,000 patients with diabetes, 45,000 asthmatics, 45,000 with cardiovascular diseases, and 225,000 hypertensive patients) were not receiving medications as a result of the Israel–Gaza war ^(23, 24). On 21 June 2024, Guillemette Thomas, MSF (Medicines Sans Frontiers) medical coordinator in Palestine, mentioned that their teams in Nasser and Al-Aqsa Hospitals had to reduce the frequency of dressing changes for patients with severe burns due to the lack of sterile compress gauzes, which could lead to infected wounds. Even painkillers were not enough ⁽²⁵⁾. On 3 December 2024, UNRWA warned that at least 60 medications, including antimicrobials and antiparasitic medicines, anti-inflammatory and gastrointestinal drugs, would be depleted at its health facilities by the end of the year ⁽²⁶⁾. On 1 April 2025, running out of surgical supplies such as anesthetics, pediatric antibiotics, and medicines for chronic conditions like epilepsy, hypertension, and

diabetes. They have only been able to give patients medication to cover their needs for 7 to 10 days. On 10 April 2025, the Gaza Health Ministry said 37% of essential drugs and 59% of medical supplies were completely out of stock, along with 54% of cancer and blood disease medications. Emergency, surgery, and intensive care units were operating with severely depleted life-saving treatments ⁽²⁷⁾. An exploratory study of the impact of war on management of type 1 diabetes mellitus among children in Gaza based on a questionnaire applied to 29 patients showed that 58.6% of those patients could not carry out at-home blood glucose tests, while 27.6% tested blood glucose once a day, 6.9% tested twice a day, 3.4% tested once every 2 days, and 3.4% tested only when there was an emergency. Among the participants, 58.6% said no test strips were available, 27.6% said the test strips were expensive, and 3.4% mentioned both reasons. Twenty-eight (96.6%) children suffered from diabetes-related complications during the war, including hyperglycemia (34.5%), hypoglycemia (3.4%), and 62.1% suffered from both ⁽²⁸⁾.



Israeli soldier **Beni Aharon**
publicly identified for
killing **Hind Rajab**



Figure (8): examples of the psychological trauma and fear of Palestinian children due to repeated detaining or direct targeting of them by Israeli forces. The direct targeting of Palestinian children is frequently and clearly recorded (4, 6, 13, 16, 18).



Figure (9): Few examples of daily scenes of a relative, parents, carrying other children either injured or killed by the genocidal war in Gaza ⁽⁹⁻²⁶⁾

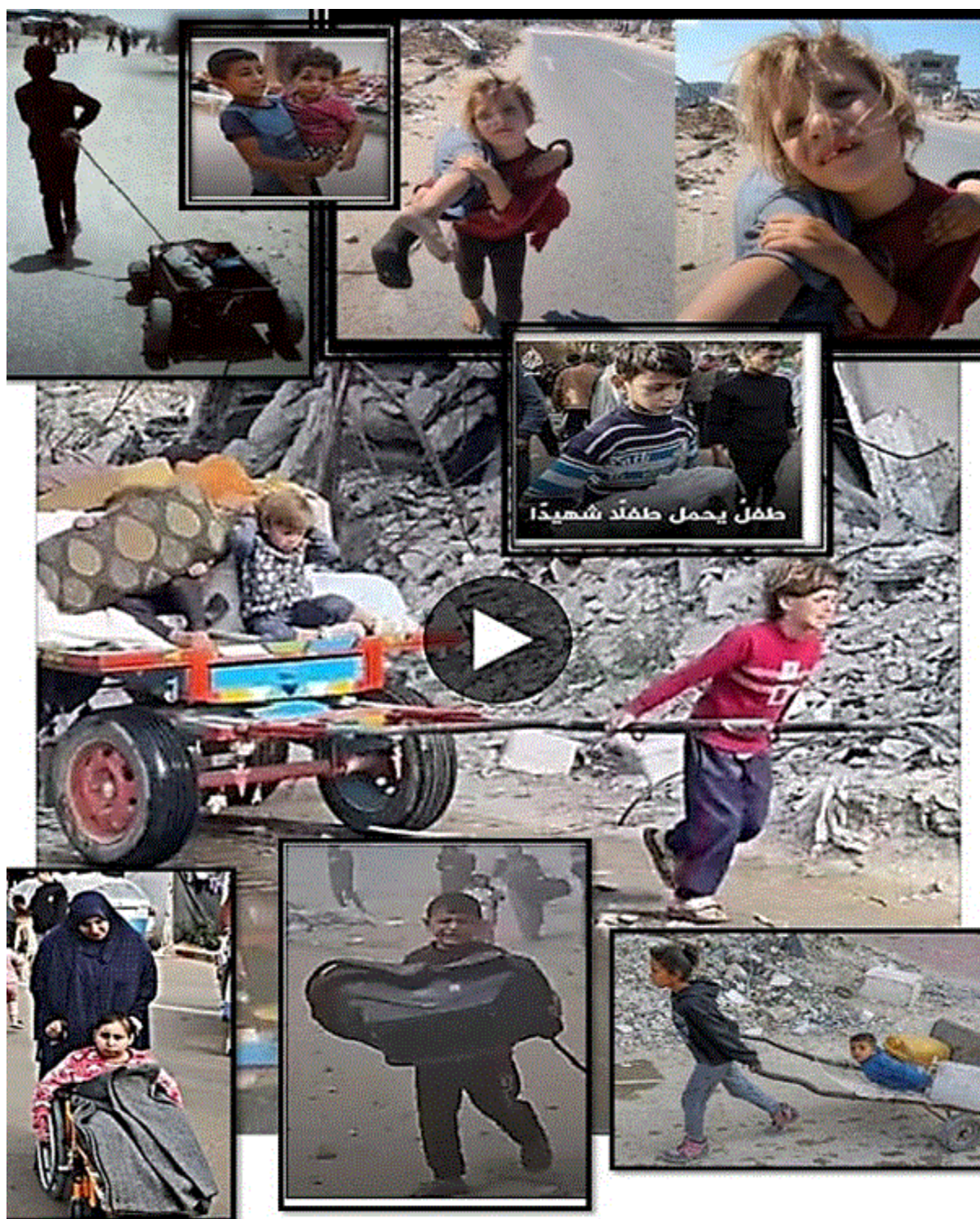


Figure (10): The intolerable psychological traumas of many young children in Gaza are not only missed their parents and relatives, but also become the sole breadwinner of the residual of the family ^(8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17)



Figure (11): The amputated limbs, or bodies without heads or a part of the bodies of children became found daily in the streets, destroyed houses or on top of houses beside bombed neighbors' house ⁽⁸⁻²⁶⁾.

What is mentioned in this article of data and photos are a few of several. Although of the daily recorded hundreds of crimes in Gaza against innocent civilians, especially children and women, that need several pages or books to collect, and what is hidden is more, some people, even in Arabian countries, are still denying the clear evidence that

several war crimes are daily committed in Gaza every hour and a bloody war targeting genocidal elimination of people of Gaza. They are still asking: Are the children targeted in an intended manner there? The clear answer for this question is recorded by the Euro-Med Human Rights Center from the beginning of this war by the Israelis themselves, as explained in figure (12) ⁽³⁸⁾.

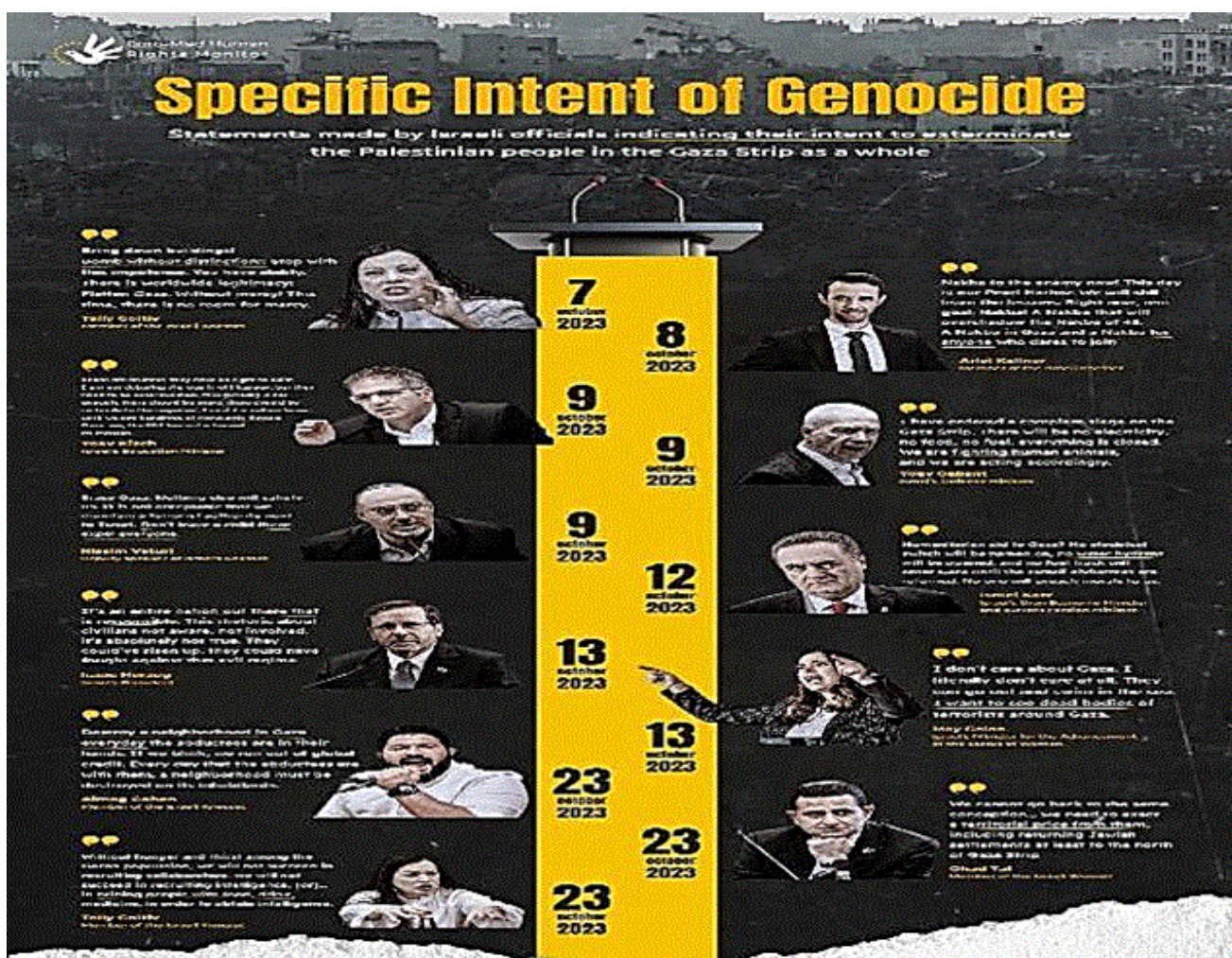


Figure (12): Is it a genocidal war from the beginning? The Israeli officials themselves approved that clearly from the first day of their genocidal war.

<https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6512/Specific-Intent-of-Genocide:-Statements-made-by-Israeli-officials-indicating-their-clear-intent-to-exterminate-Palestinians-in-the-Gaza-Strip>

CONCLUSION

Targeting children by any way in any conflict or war at any place all over the world is a war crime forbidden by all international laws and human rights even if indirect or a sequence of a military actions, but in Gaza, the Israeli forces are directly targeting children by all types of crimes and starvation, with an increasing rate of children Morbidity (By non-treated diseases, infections, and starvation by the associated siege, destroyed infrastructure, and deprived medical services) and mortality due to all methods of killing (direct and indirect) that make Israel directly responsible for a horrible number of war crimes against childhood specifically and against humanity in general under the vision of a silent world. Gaza is now named as “capital of amputated limbs.” The Palestinian children,

especially in Gaza before and during the current genocidal war, are generally targeted by the occupying Israeli forces since they are a fetus or a newborn baby. The rates of pediatric morbidity and mortality in Gaza are already high and increasing due to the continuous genocidal war and inhumane siege around the strip. All the Israeli forces, Israeli officials, and anyone supporting this genocidal war by any methods are war criminals and deserve judicial punishment, especially for crimes against children, while the whole world is a silent witness to these crimes, part of which have been recorded in thousands of catastrophic scenes and photos. If a certain large and increasing number of Palestinian children were injured or killed, no doubt that all Palestinian children included in this genocidal war are deeply psychologically traumatized by all these Israeli crimes, but the question is, will the world keep silent for

all these Israeli crimes until all children in Gaza are killed?

Conflict of interest: None.

Funding: None.

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