POLICY FOCUS | POLITICS

Two Years Since October 7: Gaza Genocide and Geopolitics

By: Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network · October, 2025

Introduction

For two years, Israel has inflicted mass starvation, staggering death tolls, and relentless destruction on Gaza and its inhabitants. International efforts to recognize Israeli war crimes and halt the eradication of the Palestinian people continue to lag and fall short. On September 16, 2025, the UN Commission of Inquiry confirmed what Palestinians have identified since the outset: Israel is committing genocide. On September 29, US President Donald Trump unveiled a proposal that promises a ceasefire but subordinates Palestinians in Gaza to external governance, denies them self-determination, and entrenches Israeli control over the land. Framed as a peace initiative, the plan is in fact an attempt by the US to shield the Israeli regime from accountability, exemplifying Western complicity in the colonization of Palestine and the extermination of its people. In this context, Hamas's agreement to release all Israeli captives signals its commitment to ending the ongoing violence, while simultaneously shifting the onus onto the Israeli regime and the Trump administration to clarify and operationalize their commitments to the ceasefire process.

This Focus On gathers Al-Shabaka's analyses from the past year, offering urgent context to understand the genocide and its regional impact. It traces the Israeli regime's expansionist campaign across Gaza, the West Bank, and the wider

region, exposing Western complicity not only in enabling its crimes but also in protecting it from justice. At the same time, it highlights initiatives that resist Israeli impunity while advancing accountability and genuine liberation.

Gaza Under Genocide

Our publications provide evidence of the genocidal character of Israel's assault on Gaza since October 7, 2023, exposing the devastation and war crimes inflicted on Palestinians. They show that the destruction of infrastructure, the dismantling of Palestinian social and cultural life, and mass displacement are not incidental byproducts of war but central features of a settler-colonial project that has unfolded over decades. They underscore the futility of short-lived ceasefires that entrench occupation, and reveal how the Israeli regime has weaponized humanitarian aid by turning it into an instrument of death rather than relief. At the same time, our analysts emphasize the urgent need to dismantle narratives that normalize forced displacement and ethnic cleansing.

- **Gaza's Infrastructure: Israel's Assault and Paths to Rebuild**
  with Yara Asi and Layth Hanbali. *This video is available in English only.*
- **Gaza's Telecommunications: Occupied and Destroyed**
  by Ali Abdel-Wahab
- **Gaza Ceasefire Deal: Respite but No End to Colonial Occupation**
  by Basil Farraj, Diana Buttu, Shatha Abdulsamad, and Talal Ahmad Abu Rokbeh
- **Gaza: Restoring Life Beyond the Physical**

Structures
by Dena Qaddumi and Jehad Abusalim

- **Outsourcing Occupation: US Private Contractors in Gaza**
  by Safa Joudeh
- **The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation: Aid as a Weapon**
  with Yara Asi and Alex Feagans. *This video is available in English only.*
- **Gaza Uninhabitable: Challenging Colonial Frames of Erasure**
  by Abdalrahman Kittana

Erasure Across and Beyond Palestine

The Israeli regime's genocidal policies against Palestinians extend beyond Gaza, encompassing all of Palestine and extending across its borders. The following analyses expose how the settler-colonial project rests on a logic of erasure, operating through the replacement of the Palestinian workforce and the dismantling of Indigenous social, economic, and political structures. They also demonstrate how the colonial regime targets Palestinian refugee camps as enduring sites of resistance, seeking to suppress organizing and undermine the right of return across all geographies.

- **Israel's Exploitation of Palestinian Labor: A Strategy of Erasure**
  by Ihab Maharmeh
- **Palestinian Clearance Revenues: Israel's Tool**

to Collapse the PA
by Ismat Quzmar

- **Palestinian Camps in Lebanon: Disarmament in a Time of Regional Transformations**
with Jaber Suleiman and Wessam Saba'nah. *The video is available in Arabic only.*
- **The War on Palestinian Refugee Camps**
with Shatha Abdulsamad and Jamal Juma'. *This video is available in Arabic only.*

Israeli Impunity and Regional Expansion

Our analysts show how Israeli impunity—upheld by the West and normalized by Arab regimes—fuels its project of Palestinian annihilation and regional aggression. In the following contributions, they demonstrate how, under the guise of regional security, the Israeli regime launched assaults in Syria and Iran to deflect attention from its genocidal campaign in Gaza while consolidating dominance across the Middle East. They show how Western powers shield Israel from accountability, fail to take real action to stop its war crimes, and provide media cover that recasts Israeli aggression as self-defense, enabling it to carry out genocide with impunity.

- **Normalizing Israeli Impunity and Dominance: The Arab Role**
by Tariq Dana
- **Timed for Impunity: Israel's War on Iran**
by Yara Hawari
- **The Assault on Iran: Reshaping of the Middle**

East
with Belal Shobaki and Zaid Shuaibi. *This video is available in Arabic only.*

- **Statehood Without Liberation: Europe's Response to Genocide**
  by Diana Buttu, Inès Abdel Razek, and Yara Hawari.
- **Israel's War on Palestinian Journalists**
  with Mariam Barghouti and Sharif Abdel Kouddos. *This video is available in English only.*

Fighting Back and Global Realignments

The following analyses situate Israel's genocidal campaign within a shifting global order. They highlight how resistance to Israeli crimes has unfolded on multiple fronts, from grassroots mobilization to the pursuit of international legal action by the Hague Group.

- **Palestine and an Expanding BRICS: Swaying the Global Order**
  by Ahmed Alqarout
- **China and the Gaza Genocide: A Strategic Distance**
  by Razan Shawamreh
- **The Hague Group: Mobilizing International Law for Palestine**
  by Munir Nuseihah
- **The Palestinian Struggle: From Genocide to**

Global Realignment

by Tareq Baconi

Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, is an independent, non-profit organization. Al-Shabaka convenes a multidisciplinary, global network of Palestinian analysts to produce critical policy analysis and collectively imagine a new policymaking paradigm for Palestine and Palestinians worldwide.

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