



**Killing starving Palestinians  
and Targeting Aid Trucks:  
A Deliberate Israeli Policy  
to Reinforce Famine in  
The Gaza Strip**

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An aid center targeted by Israeli aircrafts in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip - Mohammed Salem  
- Reuters March 13, 2024

## Introduction

Since the first day of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip on 7 October 2023, Israel has been using starvation as a weapon of war against Palestinian civilians in the Strip. This intention was made clear by the Israeli Minister of Defense, who declared that there would be no food or water available for the people of the Strip. The Israeli army swiftly put this into effect by enforcing a stringent and all-encompassing siege, closing all crossings, and impeding the flow of aid supplies.

In the midst of intense attacks, raids, and bombardment across the air, land, and sea—during which the Israeli army used thousands of tons of explosives—the Israeli army started methodically targeting every aspect of life in the Gaza Strip. This has included bombing mills, bakeries, grocery stores, shops, and markets; destroying crops and

agricultural lands; killing livestock; targeting boats and fishing equipment, water tanks, and their extensions; completely denying access to food resources and potable water to all 2.3 million residents of the Strip, half of whom are children; and depriving inhabitants of the ability to produce food locally, an ability which was already restricted prior to 7 October.

Israel's intense targeting came amid a complete blockade of the border crossings, which were closed for weeks before being partially reopened under harsh Israeli conditions on 21 October after international pressures.

About two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of the Israeli army's ongoing illegal evacuation orders, which are implemented in the course of the Israeli army's crime of forcibly displacing Palestinians from the Strip. Many of these Palestinians were forced to flee their homes due to Israel's military actions, starvation campaign, and illegal evacuation orders. Eventually, they found themselves in Rafah and Mawasi Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, two areas that Israel declared to be safe despite continuing to attack them. There, they started living in tents and shelter centres in very difficult living conditions.

In one of the largest mass forced displacement operations against the population in modern times, Israel ordered on 13 October all the residents of the Gaza Governorate and the North Gaza Governorate to evacuate to the southern Gaza Valley. Nearly 1.1 million Palestinians were living in these areas at this time. Under non-stop bombing, threats, and starvation policies, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians living there were forced to flee their homes, while hundreds of thousands of others made the difficult decision to stay.

Following the start of the Israeli military's ground incursion into Gaza City on 27 October, the Israeli army soon established military checkpoints on Salah al-Din Road to the east and Al-Rashid Street to the west, and eventually divided entire roads from the east of the Gaza Strip to its west, thereby effectively separating the northern, eastern, and southern regions of the Strip from Gaza City and facilitating Israel's military control over the area.

Thus, Israeli forces were able to control movement from the southern to the northern part of the Gaza Valley, prevent the forcibly displaced from returning to their homes, and only permit a limited number of humanitarian aid trucks to enter the area during the week-long truce that ran from 24 November to 1 December 2023. As a result, famine started to spread throughout the northern Gaza Strip, where nearly all food supplies had run out in the markets, resulting in a rise in the number of fatalities from starvation, malnourishment, dehydration, and related illnesses, particularly among children and infants.

The people of the Gaza Strip have been forcibly displaced more than once, within the Northern areas or to both the north and the south, usually without warning, and have been forced by Israeli forces to either abandon all of their belongings—including food supplies—or lose them during bombings of homes or at Israeli military checkpoints. As a result, residents have resorted to searching for the most basic of resources to survive in the face of the severe shortage of food and relief supplies.

After the Palestinian population's main source of food was replaced by humanitarian aid due to the destruction of the necessities of life and production in the Gaza Strip, Israel began and continues to wage repeated military campaigns against humanitarian aid convoys by all possible means. As part of its ongoing crime of genocide, Israel is clearly using starvation as a weapon of war.

Israel has been extremely impeding humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip, as well as targeting aid sitting in storage, distribution facilities, and trucks. It has also targeted people awaiting aid and those in charge of distributing it. All of these actions have been taken on a regular and severe basis. This has prevented the Palestinians in the Strip from receiving aid, even just to the extent necessary to satiate their hunger or reduce their risk of dying from it.

Israel's targeting of personnel involved in overseeing and securing aid distribution, along with its refusal to cooperate with international organizations, has led to a persistent state of chaos and internal conflict. These actions, coupled with Israel's attempts to

dissolve UNRWA, the primary international organization responsible for introducing and distributing humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip, have exacerbated the situation, further deepening the famine in the Strip.

In this report, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor documents the most prominent Israeli targeting of starving people waiting for aid, distribution centres, workers distributing aid, and those in charge of its protection.

## **1. Humanitarian aid convoy victims, in numbers**

Between 11 January and 23 March 2024, Euro-Med Monitor documented the killing of 563 Palestinians and the injury of 1,523 others due to the Israeli army's targeting of people waiting for aid, distribution centres, and those responsible for organizing, protecting, and distributing aid in the Gaza Strip. Of these, 256 were killed in the Kuwait Roundabout area, southeast of Gaza City, 230 on Al-Rashid Street, southwest of the city, and 21 were killed during the targeting of aid distribution centres.

Forty-one police officers and People's Protection Committee members, who were in charge of overseeing aid distribution, were killed, along with 12 aid distribution workers, two of whom were from UNRWA.

Evidence suggests that Israel intentionally perpetrates these crimes, including direct military attacks on humanitarian aid and civilians, as part of a deliberate and overarching policy. This is evident from the systematic pattern and regular, almost daily recurrence of Israel's commission of these crimes, as well as the high number of victims affected by them.

## 2. Targeting starving civilians waiting for humanitarian aid

One of the most dangerous forms of unlawful killings and executions carried out by the Israeli army against Palestinian civilians recently is the systematic targeting of civilian gatherings around humanitarian aid trucks with direct gunfire, quadcopters, and Israeli tank shells, especially on the Kuwait and Nabulsi roundabouts in the south of Gaza City, which have been dubbed the “Flour Massacres”.

On 23 March 2024, 30 Palestinians were killed and 80 others were injured after the Israeli army opened fire at those waiting for aid trucks near the Kuwait Roundabout on Salah al-Din Road, south of Gaza City .



Palestinian casualties and injuries following the Israeli army's targeting of aid recipients near Kuwait roundabout in Gaza City - March 23, 2024

On 15 March 2024, Israeli army forces opened fire on dozens of people who had gathered on Al-Rashid Street in western Gaza City , trying to receive aid. At least three people were killed, and others were injured, in the attack.

On 14 March 2024, Israeli army forces opened heavy fire on thousands of civilians who had gathered near the Kuwait Roundabout on the Salah al-Din Road in southern Gaza City, using tanks, helicopters, and drones. The shooting left more than 80 dead and 200 injured, with a number of them left in critical condition. The next morning, Israeli army forces opened fire on residents who returned to the scene in an attempt to retrieve the bodies of the victims. Many of the bodies had been left on the ground overnight, as Israeli gunfire had made it difficult for them to be transferred.

**Twenty-three-year-old civilian Bahaa Ziad Zidan Krezm of Jabalia Camp provided the Euro-Med Monitor crew with the following details regarding his injury, sustained near the Kuwait Roundabout on 14 March:**



*“We went to the Kuwait Roundabout on Thursday evening, 14 March, after hearing that a flour truck was going to enter northern Gaza. We immediately headed [there], although we were aware of the massacres that occur there, as we had been living in famine for months, to the point where we had gone several days without eating. All I wanted was a bag of flour to feed the 24 members of my family and the displaced people living in our home. We arrived there at 7 p.m. along with hundreds of other hungry people. Ahead of the Kuwait Roundabout, we arrived at a point where we waited for the aid to arrive. Shelling and gunfire erupted from all sides as we approached. We saw people falling in front of us as a result of the intense gunfire coming from quadcopters and the nearby vehicles. Despite the gunfire, I persisted in trying to get a bag of flour, and I did. I immediately turned around, but before I could get back up, I was shot in the back and fell to the ground. I was transported to Kamal Adwan Hospital. Unfortunately, I did not receive a bag of flour, and my family is still hungry.”*



On 13 March, six Palestinians were killed, and others injured, while waiting for aid supplies to arrive at the Kuwait Roundabout, on the outskirts of Gaza City .



CT scans for individuals wounded by Israeli army gunfire while awaiting aid at Kuwait roundabout in Gaza City (Euro-Med Monitor)

**A man living in Gaza City’s Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, Abdul Rahim Faraj Al-Ayoubi, provided Euro-Med Monitor with the following information regarding injuries to his feet and arms:**



*“The Israeli army besieged us in Gaza City; we were displaced many times after our home was bombed and had nowhere left to stay. We were starving, so I decided to go get some food assistance. Food aid arrived at the Kuwait Roundabout and the sea road, so I went to receive some aid on Wednesday 13 March at 9 p.m., along with my brother and my sister’s husband. Rather than receiving a bag of flour, I was shot nine times. I was hit by a bullet in my leg first, and then the quadcopter started hovering over me amid heavy fire. I was unaware of what had happened as I quickly lost consciousness and started bleeding from my wound. There were a lot of martyrs and injuries. My bleeding continued after I was brought to Al-Shifa Hospital. Since there was no available treatment at Al-Shifa Hospital, I evacuated to the south.”*

On 11 March 2024, nine Palestinians were killed, and others were injured after Israeli army forces opened fire at those waiting for aid trucks at the Kuwait Roundabout, southeast of Gaza City .

On 9 March 2024, at least two Palestinians were killed and 18 others were injured when Israeli army forces targeted crowds of people waiting for aid at the Kuwait and Nabulsi roundabouts in Gaza City .

**On 4 March 2024, Israeli army forces opened fire on crowds of civilians waiting for aid supplies at the Nabulsi Roundabout, southwest of Gaza City . Twenty-nine-year-old civilian Iyad Muhammad Abu Saada of the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip spoke about his 4 March injury at the Nabulsi Roundabout:**



*“I was not planning on going to get aid, especially flour, but the intense hunger forced me to go without thinking, as there is no more money to buy food. I lost my brother Abdul Rahman and two of my cousins in February when they were targeted by Israeli artillery while looking for food northwest of Gaza City. As I moved closer to the Nabulsi Roundabout, and even before I reached the truck entry area, an Israeli vehicle hit me with a bullet in the knee—forcing me to use a wheelchair. Immediately following the injury, I began to crawl until someone was able to take me to Al-Shifa Hospital. A sniper in the vicinity is suspected of carrying out the shooting, as he wounded multiple citizens during the incident. With my injury, my family—which consists of eight members—remain without a wage earner amid the worsening hunger crisis. Later, I experienced poor medical care and a shortage of medications. I was discharged from the hospital before I had fully recovered, because of the overcrowding. I am currently being treated by a doctor who lives near our house, and I am still suffering from severe pain in my right foot. Getting the necessary medical care and making a living for my family is what I am looking forward to.”*

On 3 March 2024, several people were killed and injured after being shot while waiting for aid supplies at the Kuwait Roundabout in Gaza City .

On 2 March 2024, one Palestinian was killed and more than 20 others were injured after being targeted while waiting for aid supplies at Al-Rashid Street in Gaza City.

On 29 February 2024 , 118 people were killed, and 760 others were injured on Al-Rashid Street , south of Gaza City while waiting for aid supplies. The Euro-Med Monitor field team documented the brutal Israeli massacre of Palestinians, confirming that Israeli tanks opened fire and shells at around 4:30 a.m. directly into a crowd of thousands of hungry civilians. The civilians had been waiting hours for aid trucks to arrive near the Nabulsi Roundabout on Al-Rashid Street.

After the aid trucks arrived, Palestinian civilians were targeted by Israeli shelling and shooting. Numerous people fell from the trucks while attempting to take a bag of flour, and many others were targeted while carrying a carton of canned goods or a bag of flour to feed their starving family members.

Al-Shifa Hospital's Euro-Med Monitor researcher reported that hundreds of injured and dead people had arrived at the facility, which is only partially operational. She emphasized that the facility was overcrowded, experiencing a shortage of medical personnel, and that civilians were left to handle the injured and attempt to administer first aid themselves amidst an agonizing situation. Carts full of the dead and injured arrived at the hospital, some of them with bags of flour drenched in blood. **Saeed Thabet Salem Al-Rifi told the Euro-Med Monitor team:**



*“We went to get aid and flour near the sea, but they opened fire on us at around 4:30 in the morning today.” As soon as the trucks pulled up and people began to approach them, Al-Rifi said, “Gunfire broke out from all directions...turning the situation into a slaughterhouse. I got a bag of flour to feed my 11-member family, but my companion was killed.”*

Concerning the 29 February massacre, Anas Sobhi Abdel-Al told Euro-Med Monitor:



*“We reached the Nabulsi Roundabout and as soon as the trucks arrived, the tanks started shooting and shelling from all directions. Only one out of 10 individuals managed to get any aid. Many people were killed or seriously hurt while transporting canned food or flour bags. The shooting was focused on the trucks and the surrounding area. The trucks were filled with the dead and wounded.”*

On 25 February 2024, 10 Palestinians were killed, and 20 others were injured after being targeted by Israeli army forces while waiting for aid trucks near the Nabulsi Roundabout on Al-Rashid Street, in the southwest of Gaza City . **A 40-year-old woman who wished to remain anonymous for safety reasons told Euro-Med Monitor:**



*“I went to Al-Rashid Street to flee to the south of the Strip due to the severe hunger.” The woman was accompanied by her three sons, ages two, seven, and eight, and her 30-year-old brother. “All of a sudden, there were shootings and bombings taking place. The road was littered with hundreds of bodies, both wounded and dead. When I got back to Al-Shifa Hospital, there were so many dead and injured that it was impossible for us to move. We are dying of hunger, and we are dying of bombing.”*

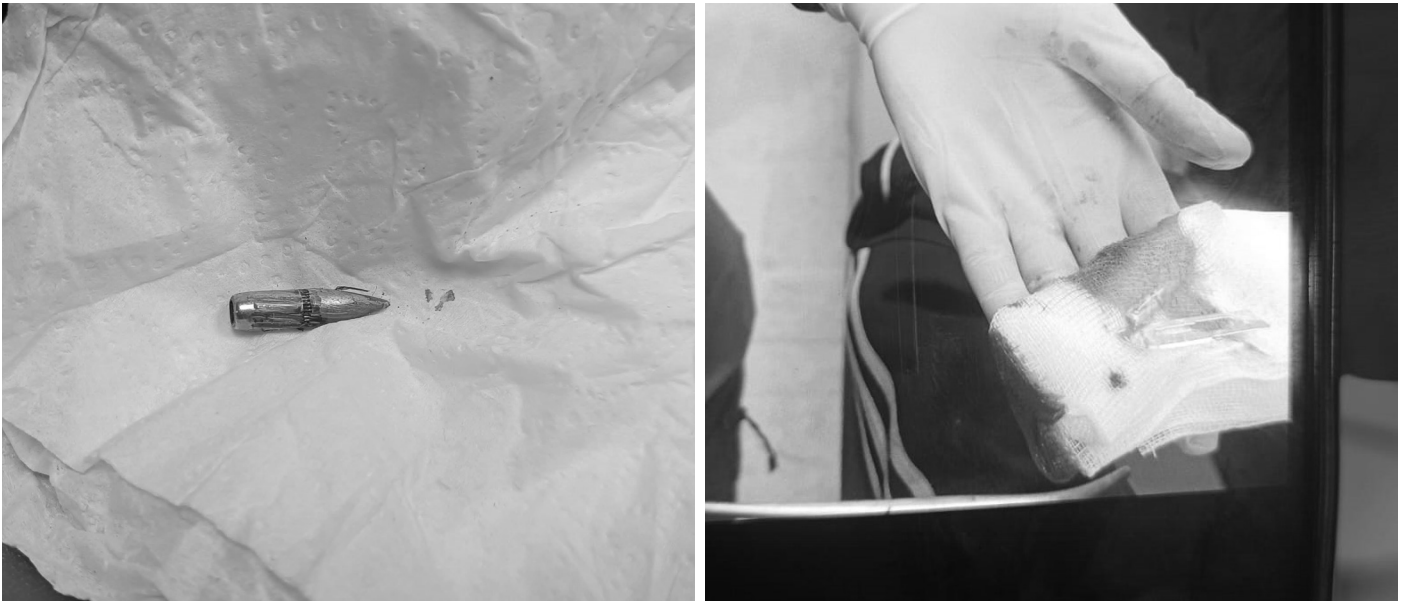
Regarding 25 February , Bilal Ahmed Abdel Karim said:



*“I went to Al-Rashid Street to wait for the aid trucks. Instead of aid, we discovered shooting and shells coming our way. Dozens of others who were exposed to the shells were also escaping south. Out of nowhere, the tanks moved closer*

*and started firing shells and live bullets, killing and wounding dozens. I was one of the injured.”*

On 7 February 2024, five citizens were killed and several others were injured when the Israeli army targeted a group of people who were waiting for humanitarian aid trucks at the Kuwait Roundabout, in west of Gaza City.



A gunshot from an M-16 rifle fired from an Israeli Quadcopter drone at a Palestinian while they were waiting for relief aid at Kuwait roundabout, south of Gaza.

On 4 February 2024, the Israeli army opened fire on a group of people waiting for humanitarian aid trucks near the Kuwait Roundabout .

On 30 January 2024, Palestinian civilians were reportedly shot and injured at the Kuwait Roundabout in Gaza City while trying to receive humanitarian aid.

On 25 January 2024, 20 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces, and about 150 others were injured, with many of them left in critical condition. The victims were transferred to Al-Shifa Hospital and Al-Ahli Hospital after the Israeli army opened fire on a group of Palestinians waiting for aid trucks at the Kuwait Roundabout in Gaza City.

On 22 January 2024, the Israeli army fired artillery shells at hundreds of hungry civilians who had gathered on Salah al-Din Road, in southeast of Gaza City , waiting for UN aid trucks, killing six people and wounding several others.

On 11 January 2024, the Israeli army killed approximately 50 Palestinians and wounded dozens of others when quadcopter aircraft opened fire on Palestinian crowds who had gathered to receive quantities of flour loaded by UN trucks on Al-Rashid Street, in west of Gaza City .

It is evident from all the incidents that Euro-Med Monitor documented that the Israeli army intentionally uses starvation as a weapon of war against civilians in Gaza City and its northern areas . This not only includes the blocking of aid entry into these areas but also the killing and injuring of civilians as they attempted to receive aid supplies, indicating a clear attempt to force residents to evacuate towards the central and southern regions of the Gaza Strip, as part of Israel's ongoing genocide against the people of the Strip.

### **3. Targeting humanitarian aid distribution centres**

On 18 March 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed an aid storage and distribution centre east of Jabalia Camp in North Gaza Governorate, killing two people working in aid distribution.

On 14 March 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed an aid distribution centre run by the Ministry of Social Development, in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, killing eight people and wounding several others.

On 13 March 2024, Israeli aircraft bombed the UNRWA-run humanitarian aid distribution headquarters in the administrative district of Rafah while employees were distributing flour to residents . The bombing killed six civilians, including a child and an UNRWA employee named Hosni Yousef Abu Jazar, 42, and injured several others, including 22 UNRWA employees.

On 7 February 2024, 13 Palestinians were killed, and several others injured when a water distribution truck was bombed on Al-Thalatheni Street in Gaza City as people gathered to fill their water barrels.

## 4. Targeting humanitarian aid convoys

On 3 March 2024, two Israeli missiles bombed an aid truck in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, killing nine civilians and wounding others, including civilians gathered around it.

On 5 February 2024, Israeli forces bombed an UNRWA aid convoy heading towards northern Gaza in Deir al-Balah, in the middle of the Strip, despite pre-coordination with parties to the conflict.

On 5 February 2024, an aid convoy came under heavy Israeli fire while heading to northern Gaza. No casualties were reported, according to the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator.

On 7 November 2023, the Israeli army opened fire on an International Committee of the Red Cross humanitarian convoy in Gaza City, damaging two trucks and slightly wounding one of the drivers.

## 5. Targeting workers distributing humanitarian aid

On 19 March 2024, the Israeli army killed the director of the Emergency Committee in western Gaza, Amjad Hatham, at the Kuwait Roundabout in Gaza City while he was supervising aid entry and distribution.

On 18 March 2024, two aid distribution workers, Adel Al-Ashkar and Ashraf Hamid, were killed when Israeli aircraft targeted an aid storage centre east of Jabalia Camp in North Gaza Governorate.

On 13 March 2024, an Israeli drone bombed a civilian car in the Khirbat Al-Adas neighbourhood in Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip. The bombing killed Nidal Musa Sheikh Al-Eid, 47, and Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Hassoun, 31, who were working on securing humanitarian aid. Several other civilians were injured during the attack.

On 20 February 2024, an Israeli drone bombed a civilian car west of the Shaboura refugee

camp in Rafah, killing activist Anwar Asaad Al-Ghouti, 34, and driver Jihad Abdul Rahman Al-Ajez, 34. Several passers-by were also injured in the attack.

On 21 January 2024, an Israeli warplane bombed a car carrying government employees responsible for coordinating aid entry, killing three people, including Imad Jamal Abu Mansour, Head of the Emergency Committee of the Ministry of Social Development.

## **6. Targeting those responsible for securing and protecting humanitarian aid**

Israel intentionally creates a state of chaos by targeting those who are in charge of securing, distributing, and protecting humanitarian supplies in the Gaza Strip. This is part of Israel's policy of clearing the way for the looting of humanitarian aid and exacerbating the famine that has initially resulted from its military attack and illegal siege of the Strip. Meanwhile, the Israeli army and its representatives use this chaos at international forums as justification to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching the area.

On 19 March 2024, the director of the Nuseirat Police Station, Mahmoud Al-Bayoumi, was killed in an Israeli bombing that targeted a car in front of the UNRWA headquarters in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip. Three civilians were killed in the attack, including two young sisters, Maram and Sherine Raed Abu Youssef.

On the evening of the same day (19 March), the Israeli army killed 30 members of the police and civilian committees charged with protecting aid trucks in an Israeli bombing near the Kuwait Roundabout in southern Gaza City.

On 18 March 2024, the Israeli army killed Fayegeq Al-Mabhouh, Director of Central Police Operations, who was supervising coordination with civilian committees and UNRWA to bring and secure humanitarian aid into northern Gaza, to which 15 trucks had been brought in over two days. He was killed while at Al-Shifa Medical Complex.

The Israeli army also killed Lieutenant Colonel Raed Al-Banna, along with his wife and



children, after bombing his house on 18 March . Al-Banna was responsible for securing the entry of aid trucks into northern Gaza.

On 6 February 2024, six Palestinian police officers were killed when a police vehicle guarding an aid truck was bombed in the Khirbat Al-Adas area, east of Rafah City.

On 9 January 2024, the Israeli army opened heavy gunfire at a group of police officers as they attempted to secure the entry of humanitarian supplies into Gaza City. Many of them were killed and injured during the incident.

## **7. Israel's attempts to evade responsibility for the massacres**

The Israeli authorities tried to evade responsibility for the “Flour Massacre” committed against those waiting for aid on 29 February at the Nabulsi Roundabout, in the southwest of Gaza City . Israel's army yet again attempted to evade responsibility for the massacre at the Kuwait Roundabout, in the southeast of the city , on 14 March 2024.

- **Refuting Israel's claims regarding the Nabulsi Roundabout massacre**

Evidence that surfaced during Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor's initial investigations into the “Flour Massacre” at the Nabulsi Roundabout, in the southwest of Gaza City on 29 February confirmed full Israeli involvement in the crime.

Many victims of the massacre suffered injuries from 5.56x45mm NATO bullets; this is a type of bullet fired from Israeli army weapons. A sample of 200 dead and injured victims revealed that they were indeed hit by this type of bullet, which was discovered and examined at the massacre site along with shrapnel found in the bodies of the wounded and dead.

Upon carrying out the requisite inquiry into this particular bullet type, Euro-Med Monitor discovered that it is discharged from assault rifles like the M4 and Tavor, along with machine guns (the light machine gun, or LMG) such as the IWI Negev. Additional analysis of this specific kind of ammunition revealed that 5.56x45mm ammunition is a basic FMJ bullet used by the Israeli army. It has a boxer primer, WC-844 powder (26.1 grams), green steel tip and copper coating (62 grams (4.02 grams)), average speed of 948 m/s (3,110 ft/s), and an energy release of 1,797 J (1,325 ft/lbs).

This type of bullet is imported to Israel from the United Kingdom on occasion, produced in 2020/2022/, and licensed for use by the Israeli Ministry of Defense. This bullet is also manufactured in Israel by IMI SYSTEMS (formerly known as the Israeli Military Industries Company), a manufacturer of weapons, ammunition, and military technology, and is regularly supplied by IMI to the Israeli security forces, including the Israeli army.

The testimony of Muhammad Yasser Washah, a 17-year-old resident of Gaza City's Al-Sabra neighbourhood who was present at the Nabulsi Roundabout during the massacre, was documented by Euro-Med Monitor. Washah stated that a bullet hit the bag of flour he was carrying, but that luckily, although it went through the bag, it became lodged in his jacket.

After examining the bullet in question, Euro-Med Monitor discovered that its form and dimensions were identical to those of the bullet described above. Unlike other bullets with diameters of 5.56 mm, this one has an especially high ability to penetrate three mm of steel, despite not being considered armour-piercing.

According to testimonies documented by Euro-Med Monitor of other individuals present at the Nabulsi massacre, Israeli forces started directly shooting at civilians who were waiting for aid at 4:10 a.m. on Thursday 29 February. At 5:30 a.m., the Israeli army raided the entire gathering, where many people were lying injured, had already been killed, or were attempting to flee. Many people at the site were taken into Israeli custody, while others were forced to evacuate to the south of the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces directly executed other individuals and left their bodies on a nearby beach.

**An eyewitness who requested anonymity due to safety concerns told the Euro-Med Monitor team:**



*“We were shocked when Israeli soldiers showed up and took a group of young men from Gaza City. While the majority of them were fleeing to the beach, some were at the Nabulsi Roundabout, others were evacuated to the south, and still others were killed and left on the beach. The Israeli soldiers arrested a doctor, Muhammad Awad, and then released him. After he moved several steps away, they opened fire on him and wounded him in the shoulder...We were under siege until 6:30 a.m., and the injured were pleading with us not to leave them...The food and flour were covered in blood when I left.”*

**A second eyewitness present on 19 February, who also wished to remain anonymous due to safety fears, said:**



*“I am a volunteer paramedic. In the hopes of receiving assistance, I went to the Nabulsi Roundabout. As a precaution, I brought a first aid bag with me because I knew that similar incidents had resulted in shootings. Shortly before 4:30 a.m., the trucks passed the checkpoint and the Israeli army started firing, throwing stun grenades and smoke bombs. The tank then advanced, and the massacre occurred. I treated several injured people with first aid. I discovered that some had suffered injuries to their chests, while others had suffered injuries to their limbs. While I was trying to pull out one of the injured people, a tank came forward, and I was forced to flee the scene. There was a large number of dead and injured people.”*

Four additional indications documented by Euro-Med Monitor confirm the involvement of the Israeli army in the killing and injuring of starving civilians. These include signs of

injuries on the bodies of the dead and injured, video clips published by eyewitnesses of the incident, the clear sound of gunfire emanating from Israeli tanks positioned towards the sea, and the state of panic and terror that affected all those present, including those far from the aid trucks, meaning that the trucks were not the source of danger. This forced them to flee in all directions in search of a place of refuge.

- **Refuting Israel’s claims about the Kuwait Roundabout massacre:**

Following the Kuwait Roundabout massacre, in the southeast of Gaza City , Euro-Med examined a video clip released by the Israeli army featuring an armed individual, in an attempt to claim that Palestinian gunmen were responsible for the deaths of the recent massacre victims.

The video clip in question does not validate the Israeli army’s assertion, however. In contrast, four pieces of evidence surfaced during Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor’s initial investigations into the crime and clip, with the evidence confirming that the dead and wounded victims of this massacre were not shot by the gunfire that appears in this clip.

Judging by the Israeli army’s video, the shooting incident appears to have taken place somewhere other than the massacre site. Specifically, the gunman was firing close to the Dawla Roundabout, in the southeast of Gaza City , which is roughly two kilometres from the Kuwait Roundabout, where the massacre took place.

Secondly, an analysis of several victims of the most recent flour massacre indicates that they were shot with 5.56 x 45mm NATO bullets, which are discharged from Israeli army-issued weaponry. Some of the bullets found in bodies of the wounded and dead are the same type of bullet that was found at the scene of the 29 February “Flour Massacre”, which resulted in hundreds of injuries and deaths.

The Israeli army’s video makes it abundantly evident that only one person was involved in the depicted incident, as he is seen shooting into the air, presumably in an effort to

deter civilians from approaching an area where Israeli military vehicles are stationed. The clip also shows that, despite the shooting, no one nearby fell, as no bodies or injured people are visible in the footage. This is clear in the 21st second of the video when the man starts shooting in what appears to be the direction of another man standing right in front of him. Undoubtedly unharmed, this other man continues to march through the crowds, showing no signs of fear or confusion.

Lastly, the footage that the media and eyewitnesses released following the Kuwait massacre demonstrates the huge damage and destruction that was left at the site. This degree of damage and destruction cannot possibly be caused by the gunshots fired by the person shown in the Israeli army's video.

This evidence complements the testimonies recorded by Euro-Med Monitor of injured people and witnesses who were in the vicinity of the Kuwait Roundabout during the 29 February massacre. Those interviewed all confirmed that they were subjected to artillery shells and machine gun fire from Israeli helicopters, quadcopter drones, and tanks.

## Conclusions

- Israel uses starvation as a tool of war—a war crime unto itself—and as a means of carrying out its genocide against the people of the Gaza Strip, ongoing for almost six months.
- Despite the spread of famine in the Gaza Strip, especially in Gaza City and the north of the Strip, and the increasing number of deaths due to hunger, malnutrition, and dehydration, particularly among children and infants—meaning more than a million Palestinians are living under the IPC Phase 5, i.e. with catastrophic hunger—Israel continues to obstruct and restrict the arrival of basic humanitarian aid to the population. This confirms the Israeli government's decision to starve Palestinian civilians by preventing sufficient aid from reaching them and as a punishment for

not meeting Israel's illegal evacuation orders which push them to leave their homes in the north for the south.

- The use of starvation as a weapon has been an official political decision from the first day of the war, as declared by the Israeli Minister of Defense, and has been implemented in integrated stages, which include:
  1. Tightening the siege on the Gaza Strip and closing the border crossings.
  2. Preventing the entry of commercial goods into the Strip.
  3. Destroying all components of local production and food sources, increasing the reliance of the Strip's population on humanitarian aid by turning it into their main source of food.
  4. Preventing the entry of all humanitarian aid, including food and drink, throughout the first two weeks of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.
  5. After permitting aid to enter, placing restrictions on the amount of aid, kind of aid, and locations of entry.
  6. Targeting starving civilians waiting for humanitarian aid.
  7. Targeting those working to distribute, secure, and protect humanitarian aid.
  8. Undermining UNRWA's operations in the Gaza Strip by attempting to revoke its legal status, relinquishing the protection afforded it by international law as an international civil relief organisation, and prompting its allies to withhold funding for the UN agency, which is the primary entity that provides humanitarian aid to the majority of the Gaza Strip.
- Israel uses starvation, aid restrictions, and the killing of hungry individuals as part of its forced displacement crime against Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip.
- Israeli sniping operations, killings, and executions primarily target unarmed civilians who pose no threat or danger to anyone, as these civilians are not participants in any hostilities. This constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as these are grave violations of the rules of international humanitarian law.

## Recommendations

- Given the aforementioned, and in light of Israel's continued targeting of starving people waiting for aid, aid convoys, and aid distribution centres, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor:
- Urges the international community to fulfill its legal and moral obligations to the people residing in the Gaza Strip, ensuring that international law, as well as the rulings of the International Court of Justice, are respected and implemented, and to halt the genocide that the Court declared likely to have occurred in Gaza in January, which has been ongoing for nearly six months.
- Calls on all nations to fulfill their international obligations and halt all military, financial, and political support for Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. In particular, all arms transfers to Israel, including export permits and military assistance, must end immediately.
- Highlights the significance of facilitating the entry of necessary humanitarian aid without delay in order to stop the famine from spreading in the Strip, stressing that Israel, as the occupying power, bears the primary responsibility for supplying food, medical supplies, and other necessities to the Gaza Strip's residents in accordance with international law.
- Calls for resuming funding for UNRWA immediately, as it is the main humanitarian agency in the Gaza Strip—on which more than two million people depend for their survival—putting an end to collective punishment against the Palestinian people and supporting UNRWA and all other humanitarian institutions operating in the Strip.
- Demands the opening of an independent investigation into the killing of starving people, especially the horrifying massacres which Israel has tried to evade responsibility for.



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