**
Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine**

waterjusticeinpalestine.org

**Facts #1–139**

Fact #1 (8/2/16)

Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel uses water as a weapon against Palestinians.

95% percent of Gaza’s 2 million residents are without clean drinking water due to Israel’s destruction of Palestinian wells and water infrastructure.

In the West Bank, the 650,000 people living in Israel’s illegal settlements are allotted six times more water than the 2.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/how-israeli-settlements-stifle-palestines-economy

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/#sthash.BWiYB9dI.dpuf

Fact #2 (8/9/16)

53% of Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem are banned under Israeli law from being connected to the city's water network.

 www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

Fact #3 (8/16/16)

Due to Israel’s destruction of Palestinian wells and water infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, 95–97% of the water in Gaza is now unfit for drinking, cooking, or agricultural use.

 www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

Fact #4 (8/23/16)

Palestinians in the West Bank are allocated only 20 percent of water from the Mountain Aquifer, which is their sole source of water. The 80 per cent allocated to Israelis is only one of several water resources available to them.

Amnesty International, “Troubled waters – Palestinians denied fair access to water / Israel-occupied Palestinian Territories,” pdf, 2009

Fact #5 (8/30/16)

In 2011, Israel allotted the average settlement household in the Jordan Valley 7.5 times more water than the average Palestinian household in the same region (450 versus 60 liters per day).

Human Rights Watch, “Occupation, Inc. How Settlement Businesses Contribute to Israel’s Violations of Palestinian Rights,” pdf, 2016

Fact #6 (9/6/16)

Nearly 90% of aquifers in the West Bank are diverted to Israelis, leaving Palestinians with access to less than 10% of their own water, in violation of international law.

 www.ifamericansknew.org/cur\_sit/water.html

Fact #7 (9/13/16)

Mekorot (Israel’s state-owned water company) routinely cuts the supply of water to Palestine—by as much as 50%—during summer months to meet the consumption in Israel and its settlements.

Amnesty International, “Troubled waters–Palestinians denied fair access to water/Israel-occupied Palestinian Territories,” pdf, 2009

Fact #8 (9/20/16)

From 2011 to 2013 the Israeli army destroyed 205 Palestinian water and sanitation structures: 92 cisterns, 46 toilets/sanitary units, 33 water tanks, 22 wells, 8 pipelines, 4 springs.

EWASH demolition figures provided by UN OCHA, 2013: PASSIA, “Area C: The key to the two-state solution,” 2012

Fact #9 (9/27/16)

Israel’s 2014 war on Gaza resulted in $34m in damages to Gaza’s water infrastructure. (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2015) http://www.nrc.no/arch/img.aspx?file\_id=9206776

Fact #10 (10/4/16)

Some remote Palestinian communities consume just 10-20 liters per person/day, and are dependent on expensive, poor quality tanker water, while illegal Israeli settlements scattered throughout the West Bank consume as much as 700 litres per person/day for domestic use.

 www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

Fact #11 (10/11/16)

Ninety-five percent of Gaza’s 1.8 million residents—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water.

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/#sthash.BWiYB9dI.dpuf

Fact #12 (10/18/16)

50,000 Palestinians in 151 communities live on less than the minimum amount of water deemed necessary by the World Health Organization (WHO) for “short-term survival.” Mekorot routinely cuts the supply to Palestinians—sometimes by as much as 50%—during summer months to meet consumption needs in Israel and the settlements.

 B'tselem, Internet: 10/11/2016

Fact #13 (10/25/16) [photo]

Fact #14 (11/1/16)

Around 200,000 people in West Bank rural areas have no connection to the water network and rely on tankered water to meet their basic needs. They pay up to 400% more for every litre than those connected to the water network.

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

Fact #15 (11/8/16)

Since 1995, Israel has rejected 26 out of 30 Palestinian proposals for new, desperately needed, waste water treatment facilities. Of the 4 projects approved by Israel since 1995, only one has been built.

World Health Organization, “Report of a field assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, 22 March to 1 April 2015,” pdf

Fact #16 (11/15/16)

Due to the Occupation and unrepaired war damage, 120,000 people across Gaza remain disconnected from the water network.

 UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2015 Humanitarian Bulletin

Fact #17 (11/22/16)

Israel controls over 90% of water resources in Palestine.

www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/03/palestine-water-resources-israel-agreement-resolution-291.html

Fact #18 (11/29/16)

Palestinians receive on average 18.5 gallons of water per person per day, falling short of the World Health Organization’s minimum standard of 26.5 gallons per person per day.

(U.S. State Dept. Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Israel and OPT, 2014)

 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2014/nea/236604.htm

Fact #19 (12/6/16)

In Gaza, chloride and nitrates in water exceed 5–10 times the acceptable level.

World Health Organization, “Report of a field assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, 22 March to 1 April 2015”

Fact #20 (12/13/16)

Nearly 600,000 Israeli settlers use 6 times more water than the entire population of the West Bank—some 2.86 million people.

 https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/how-israeli-settlements-stifle-palestines-economy

Fact #21 (12/20/16)

Palestinian farmers’ limited access to water and the higher price they pay for water have crippled their farms and livelihoods. Many Palestinians must then seek employment in settlements, providing a steady source of cheap labor for settlement companies.

Human Rights Watch, “Occupation, Inc. How Settlement Businesses Contribute to Israel’s Violations of Palestinian Rights,” 2016

Fact #22 (12/27/16)



Fact #23 (1/3/17)

The Israeli army routinely carries out orders to demolish communal water cisterns and water wells (many of which are hundreds of years old) on privately owned Palestinian farmland. In 2011 alone, the army destroyed 89 WASH structures in the West Bank, including 21 wells, 34 cisterns, and many small fixed water tanks that have been given to rural households. Demolition includes razing vegetable gardens, animal barns, and storage sheds.

 http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact #24 (1/10/17)

Cutting off Palestinian communities and farmers (who depend on water for their livelihoods) from their water resources usually precedes Israel’s dispossession of Palestinian land for new Israeli projects and settlements. Israeli settlers have used threats, intimidation, and fences to ensure control of water points close to the settlements.

 http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact #25 (1/17/17)

Due to Israeli-imposed artificial water shortages and lack of wastewater treatment facilities and sewage networks, the majority of Palestinians have to privately construct water wells, cesspits, and septic tanks. In the rural areas Palestinians must depend on rainwater-gathering pools, cisterns, and water tanks, which increases the risks to public health.

It is estimated that 44% of Palestinian children in rural areas suffer from diarrhea—the biggest killer of children under 5 years old in the world—because of poor water quality and hygiene.

 http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact #26 (1/24/17)

The Israeli Apartheid wall, built to include on the Israeli side the fertile Palestinian agricultural land with large groundwater aquifers, has resulted in the loss of Palestinians’ access to more than 49 water wells and reservoirs used for drinking and agriculture.

 http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact #27 (1/31/17)

The World Health Organization’s minimum of water consumption per person is 100 litres/day.

But in the West Bank, water consumption per person (for all use) is 73 litres/day for those connected to a water grid and is as low as 20­ litres/day for those not connected to a water grid.

 Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015 ewash.org

www.btselem.org/jerusalem/20140527\_shufat\_water\_crisis

Fact #28 (2/7/17)

96 percent of the water from the aquifer in Gaza is is contaminated with nitrates and chloride. The [total number of wells](http://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/gaza_water_crisis) in Gaza that meet WHO safety criteria for both nitrates and chloride is just 14—or 6.5 percent of the wells.

www.inthesetimes.com/article/14148/gaza\_the\_worlds\_largest\_open\_air\_prison and www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip (2014)

Fact #29 (2/14/17)

40% of people in Gaza receive water for only 5 to 8 hours every three days.

Israel has obstructed efforts by aid organizations to address the water issue in Palestine. Israel’s blockade has restricted 70% of the materials needed for water and wastewater projects [example: cement, wood, solar panels], calling them “dual-use items,” considered to have military and civilian applications.

 www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

www.inthesetimes.com/article/14148/gaza\_the\_worlds\_largest\_open\_air\_prison and www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip (2014)

Fact #30 (2/21/17)

Due to the low quantities of water available to Palestinian farmers, only 6.8% of the cultivated land in the West Bank is irrigated.

Israel confiscates 82% of Palestinian groundwater in the West Bank for use inside Israel’s borders and in its settlements.

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016) https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #31 (2/28/17)

In February 2017, Israeli forces demolished a water pipeline in the Jordan Valley region of the occupied West Bank—after destroying the same pipeline earlier in the month. The 47 Palestinian families who depended on the pipeline lost their water source. The pipeline had been funded by UNICEF.

Earlier in the month, Israel seized 400-meter-long water hoses used by local farmers for irrigation.

 http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775564

Fact #32 (3/7/17)

Gaza’s 2 million inhabitants must rely on polluted coastal aquifers as their main source of freshwater—95% of this water is not safe to drink.

The few who can pay for clean water will spend up to a third of their income.

Gaza has the world's highest unemployment rate. Israel's 2014 war on Gaza, and its land, air, and sea blockade has pushed unemployment to a record high of 43%.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/gaza-becoming-uninhabitable-as-society-can-no-longer-support-itself-report

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/gaza-has-highest-unemployment-rate-world-bank-report-n364711

Fact #33 (3/14/17)

Israel controls approximately 80% of water reserves in the West Bank.

Israel’s control of water, plus Israeli settlements and the apartheid wall, have deprived the Palestinian economy of 63% of the agricultural resources of the West Bank, including the most fertile and best grazing land.

Only 35% of irrigable Palestinian land is actually irrigated, costing the Palestinian economy 110,000 jobs per year.

European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #34 (3/21/17)

Some Israeli settlements consume as much as 400 litres/day/person of water, and have enough water to run farms and orchards, swimming pools, and spas.

Palestinians in the West Bank consume 70 litres/day—and even less for those not connected to a water grid.

The World Health Organization minimum of water consumption per person is 100 litres/day.

United Nations Human Rights Council [http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/03/26/water-apartheid-in-palestine/]; EWASH.org, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015 ewash.org

Fact #35 (3/28/17)

In the West Bank, 180 Palestinian communities are not connected to the water network and 122 communities have a connection with no or irregular supply as a result of Israeli restrictions.

Israel does not allow Palestinians to build small dams to collect and store rainwater and release it throughout the year. If these structures were permitted, significant water resources could be used for irrigation—and for drinking.

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/israel-water-tool-dominate-palestinians-160619062531348.html; http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #36 (4/4/17)

After Israel’s 2014 war on Gaza, more than 50% of the water infrastructure could not be used and over a million residents were left without access to water.

Today, 95% of Gaza’s two million residents—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water and 23% of the population in Gaza is without sanitation services.

(UN, 2015), unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

Fact #37 (4/11/17)

Israel controls about 80% of water reserves in the West Bank.

The 9,500 Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley alone use one-third the total amount of water used by the West Bank’s 2.6 million Palestinians.

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

Fact #38 (4/18/17) [photo]

Fact #39 (4/25/17)

Supply and treatment of water depend on electicity. In Gaza, the electric supply at full capacity meets only 70% of demand, and Palestinians are subjected to daily power outages of 12–16 hours.

Israel's cuts in Gaza’s electricity and its blockade of construction materials necessary for the sanitation network have caused increased salination and sewage pollution of the water.

As a result, 96% of the water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption.

 (EWASH) Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015, ewash.org

Fact #40 (5/2/17)

Last month (4/17), Israeli bulldozers—escorted by Israeli military jeeps and officials from Israel’s Civil Administration—destroyed all the water pipelines providing the village of Bardala, in the West Bank, with water.

The 3,500 residents were left without access to any water.

Amnesty International estimates that up to 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

 http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=776708NABLUS

Fact #41 (5/9/17)

The World Health Organization estimates that contaminated water is responsible for 26% of all disease in Gaza and 50% of children suffer from water-related parasitic infections.

Diarrhea, acute bloody diarrhea, and viral hepatitis (all waterborne) have been the [leading causes of death from infectious disease in Gaza](http://www.moh.ps/attach/759.pdf), according to the UN Relief and Works Agency.

During its 2014 war on Gaza, Israel destroyed more than 50% of Gaza’s water infrastructure.

95% of the Gaza Strip’s two million residents rely on polluted water.

https://water.fanack.com/specials/gaza-water-crisis

http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/18/sewage-crisis-threatens-gazas-access-to-water.html

(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

Fact #42 (5/16/17)

Israel regularly cuts off water supply to many Palestinian towns and villages for s. Palestinians are then forced to buy trucked water at five times the price of network water.

Trucked water can cost 50% of a Palestinian family’s monthly expenditure.

Illegal Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley spend a mere 0.9% of their expenditure on water.

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/03/23/israeli-apartheid-and-the-case-of-water-question-and-answer/

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/israel-water-tool-dominate-palestinians-160619062531348.html

Fact #43 (5/23/17)

Israel’s 2014 assault on Gaza damaged an estimated 778 underground wells. Only 162 have been fixed because Israel denies entry for the materials needed for the repairs.

As a result, approximately 100 million cubic meters of water are lost annually.

Winter downpours could have replenished reservoirs had they been properly functioning, but instead, 60% of rainwater seeps into the sea.

https://electronicintifada.net/content/water-pollution-reaches-catastrophic-levels-gaza/16616 10 May 2016

Fact #44 (5/30/17)

Only 16 of the 180 Palestinian villages in Area C (in the West Bank) are connected to a water supply.

Even then, they are not connected to a water source, but are dependent on Israel’s water network, Mekorot.

Mekorot assigns fixed water limits to Palestinians, but Israelis in the settlements receive water based on demand and consumption.

During the summer months, Mekorot meets the increased demand for water in the settlements by reducing supply to Palestinian communities. Palestinians wait s for water, often receiving it only in the middle of the night.

 http://www.lifegate.com/people/news/israeli-palestinian-water-conflict, April 2017

http://www.btselem.org/water/201609\_israel\_cut\_back\_supply

Fact #45 (6/6/17)

When Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli army issued a series of military orders seizing control of water and land resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

https://www.amnestyusa.org/pdf/mde150272009en.pdf

Fact #46 (6/13/17)

Agriculture and fishing are critical to the Palestinian economy.

In the Gaza Strip, in addition to controlling water, Israel has restricted Palestinians’ access to over 50% of the agricultural land and 85% of the maritime space.

Israel’s Deadly Catch, Al-Haq report, http://www.alhaq.org/publications/publications-index/item/israel-s-deadly-catch

Fact #47 (6/20/17)

Israel limits fishing off the Gaza coast to 3 to 6 miles, instead of the 20 miles stipulated in the Oslo Accords. Those who sail beyond this limit risk arrest, being shot, and having their boats seized.

The limited fishing areas are contaminated with sewage because Israel destroyed sewage treatment facilities and refuses to allow their repair.

The number of Palestinians employed in the fishing industry has declined by 66% since 2000.

The lack of affordable protein has led to a decline in nutrition and led to serious health problems, especially for children.

 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

 http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #48 (6/27/17)

Every day, 100,000 cubic meters of raw sewage are [discharged](https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-196) into the sea around Gaza.

About half of Gaza’s beaches are [unfit](http://www.environment.gov.ps/ar/?Action=Details&ID=180) for swimming. Many are closed to the public. Both sand and water are contaminated.

Electricity, necessary to treat raw sewage, is currently available [fewer than 3 hours/day](http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.796822).

Israel bombed Gaza’s sole electric power plant in 2006 and further destroyed and damaged Gaza’s infrastructure during successive bombings. In addition, Israel’s imposed economic blockade restricts the repair of this necessary infrastructure.

https://electronicintifada.net/content/life-septic-tank/20826

Fact #49 (7/4/17)

Since Israel’s occupation of Palestine began, in 1967, not a single Palestinian village or individual has received permission to drill a well for irrigation. Over this period, Israeli settlements have drilled 27 new wells.

In addition, Israeli settlements and military bases remove large quantities of West Bank water from Palestinian wells and springs through pipes and tank trucks.

Today, July 4th, while the U.S. is celebrating its independence, Palestinians have been living under occupation for 50 years.

 http://www.merip.org/mer/mer116/water-israels-occupation-strategy

Fact #50 (7/11/17)

Between 1990 and 2015, Israel expanded the area of its illegal settlements in the West Bank (including occupied East Jerusalem) by 185%—from 30 to 76 square miles. The population of Israeli settlers tripled—from 240,000 in 1990 to more than 763,000 in 2016.

The average water supply for Palestinians in the West Bank is a meager 76 liters/day/person (24 liters/day/person fewer than the World Health Organization’s minimum). Israeli settlers’ use has soared to an average of 369 liters/day/person.

 http://english.pnn.ps/2017/05/22/arij-report-50-years-of-occupation/

Fact #51 (7/18/17)

In June (2017), Israel demolished the Bedouin village of al-Araqib in the Negev region of southern Israel for the 114th time since 2010, and for the sixth time this year.

Israel considers Al-Araqib an “unrecognized” village and therefore refuses to connect it to the water grid. Approximately 80,000 Negev Bedouin live in 35 “unrecognized” villages.

Al-Araqib residents have been ordered to pay more than two million shekels (approximately $541,000) for the cumulative cost of Israel’s demolitions carried out against them since 2010.

Israeli Jewish communities in the Negev continuously expand, with five new housing plans approved last year.

 http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777646

Fact #52 (7/25/19)

In one month (January 2017), Israeli bulldozers

—demolished an 11 kilometer water line serving 36 Palestinian families in two Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley.

—damaged a plastic water provider serving 36 families in two communities. (This water system was supported by donors.)

—demolished ten water wells used by Palestinian farmers, under the pretext of unlicensed construction.

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/01/10/iof-damage-water-line-which-provides-to-36-families-in-jordan-valley/

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/01/04/iof-demolish-10-water-wells-near-bethlehem/

Fact #53 (8/1/17)

Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

During the summer months, up to 50% of Palestinian water supplies were diverted by Mekorot (Israel’s water network) to meet the consumption needs of Israel's illegal settlements.

Israelis, including settlers, have access to 300 liters of water per day, while the West Bank average is 70 liters, below the World Health Organization's recommended minimum of 100 liters per day for basic sanitation, hygiene, and drinking.

 https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777632 June 2017

Fact #54 (8/8/17)

On July 19, 2017, Israel’s military and Civil Administration forces confiscated two water tanks in Kh Tall al-Himma in the northern Jordan Valley, along with a pump from a spring used as the community’s main source of water. (Solar panels were confiscated there on July 5.)

The forces then cut a pipe used to bring water from a natural spring to a reservoir in the community of Kh Um al-Jmal, used for livestock and irrigation.

 http://www.btselem.org/ota

Fact #55 (8/15/17)

Cancer rates in Gaza are rising steeply. In 2016, there were 90 cases per 100,000 people, compared with 65 in 2010.

The rates are worryingly high given the unusually young population, with 60% of the patients under 25.

Health workers blame the impact of three consecutive wars on Gaza, which have left poisonous elements in the water and soil, including depleted uranium. Daily use of insecticides by Israel to clear border areas is also blamed.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/22/gaza-electrcity-shortages-hamas-israel-blockade-children

Fact #56 (8/22/17)

In Gaza, more than 97% of the water table is unfit for domestic use.

The water’s high salinity and pollution are contributing to a 13–14% increase each year in the number of people admitted to the hospital with kidney problems.

As the deepest part of the water table is being tapped, the water’s chloride and nitrate levels rise, which can cause congenital cyanosis in babies and play a role in developing cancers.

Microbiological pollution, caused by fecal bacteria, comes from wastewater and agricultural runoff. Many children in Gaza have parasites and worms and suffer from diarrhea and malnutrition.

Ammunition fired by Israel during its wars on Gaza have caused toxic chemical pollution.

 https://phys.org/news/2017-03-war-scarred-gaza-pollution-health-woes.html

Fact #57 (8/29/17)

Medical Aid for Palestinians reports that Gaza’s water treatment and desalination plants can “only operate minimal services” due to the electricity crisis, and 73% of Gaza’s shoreline “is now dangerously polluted”—which has already led to the death of a five-year-old boy last month after he fell ill from the contamination after swimming.

The amount of untreated or partially treated waste-water released into the ocean increased from 90,000 cubic metres/day in 2012 to 100,000 cubic metres/day in 2016, and is now 108,000 cubic metres/day.

This equates to 43 Olympic-size swimming pools of poorly treated sewage being dumped into the Mediterranean every day.

 http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=778835 Ma’an august 25, 2017

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, PDF

Fact #58 (9/5/17)

Despite Israel’s obligation under the Oslo Accords to permit fishing up to 20 nautical miles off the Gaza coastline, Israel restricts the range to six nautical miles.

This has led to overfishing in the small area, resulting in a decreased fish population and depletion of fish breeding grounds. And now the sea is contaminated with sewage.

Since January 2017, Israel has seized at least five fishing boats, detained at least 14 Palestinian fishermen, shot and injured six, and killed one fisherman who drowned after Israeli forces sunk his boat.

http://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20170129\_killing\_the\_fishing\_sector Jan 2017

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777694 June 18, 2017

Fact #59 (9/12/17)

The sewage pouring into Gaza’s waters has affected Gaza’s already dire fishing industry.

In 2000, Gaza had about 10,000 fishermen. Today, there are roughly 4,000, whose income supports 50,000 persons. However, about half the fishermen are out of work, since their boats are out of commission and cannot be repaired due to the blockade of necessary raw materials.

95% of Gaza’s fishermen live below the poverty line. These families belong to the 80% of Gaza’s overall population who rely on humanitarian aid.

 http://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20170129\_killing\_the\_fishing\_sector Jan 2017

Fact #60 (9/19/17)

People in Gaza must buy expensive tankered water. Each cubic meter of desalinated water cost 25 to 30 shekels ($6.50 to $7.80), compared to 1 to 3 shekels from the water system.

In Gaza , 90% of the population of 2 million live under the poverty line, 85% depend on UNRWA, World Food Program, and other charities’ rations and food. The unemployment rate is 65%.

http://www.ewash.org/news/in-the-news/haaretz-think-gaza-strip-next-time-you-drink-tap-water

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/7/19/unlivable\_gaza\_on\_verge\_of\_collapse

Fact #61 (9/26/17)

In the West Bank, water availability went from 118 million cubic metres in 1995 to 87 cubic metres in 2014—while the population increased from 1.25 million to 2.7 million people.

Decaying infrastructure, regular Israeli demolitions of Palestinian water pipeline construction, and Israel’s restrictions on Palestinians’ water consumption have severely affected Palestinian access to water.

Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

 http://www.lifegate.com/people/news/israeli-palestinian-water-conflict, April 2017

 https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777632 June 14, 2017

Fact #62 (10/3/17)

More than 96% of Gaza's water is unfit for drinking. For domestic use *other than* for drinking,

—50% of residents receives water for only 8 hours every four days

—30% receives water for only 8 hours every three days

—20% receives water for only 8 hours every two days

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” UN Country Team in the OPT, July 2017, pdf https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza\_10\_years\_later\_-\_11\_july\_2017.pdf

Fact #63 (10/10/17)

Israel’s 2014 bombardment of Gaza destroyed two major water reservoirs. Today, 1/3 of the water pumped from the aquifer is lost due to the old and war-damaged pipelines.

Israel’s approval is mandatory for bringing in materials, spare parts, equipment, and experts to fix or maintain water projects, including those operated or funded by international agencies.

Hand on the Switch, January 2017 http://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/publications/infrastructure/Hand\_on\_the\_Switch-EN.pdf

Fact #64 (10/17/17)

Israel impedes the development of new Palestinian water infrastructure, destroys and confiscates existing infrastructure, and limits Palestinian access to local water sources such as fresh water springs, drilled wells and rainwater cisterns.

In previous summers, residents of the Palestinian city of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, received running water *once every five to eight days*.

This year, the water supply dropped to *once every ten to fourteen days*.

Nablus residents must live on only 65 liters/person/day. In some neighborhoods, and for people in the refugee camps, average consumption is 50 liters/person/day. (The WHO minimum is 100 liters/person/day.) (B’Tselem, Sept. 13, 2017)

http://www.btselem.org/water/20170913\_acute\_water\_shortage\_in\_nablus

Fact #65 (10/24/17)

Electricity outages in the Gaza Strip range from 18 to 20 hours a day. As a result, nearly 40% of areas planted with seasonal vegetable crops are at risk due to irregular irrigation.

The increased—already exhorbitant—prices for pumped water leave farmers with hard choices:

• paying the additional costs (taking loans, going further into debt)

• raising the cost of the produce and losing competitive advantage

• decreasing the period of irrigation thereby reducing the quality of the produce

• prioritizing crops that can survive on minimal water

• abandoning farming altogether.

 (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, Sept. 2017)

 https://www.ochaopt.org/content/energy-crisis-takes-its-toll-palestinian-farmers-gaza

Fact #66 (10/31/17)

The Separation Wall and illegal settlements already cut off Palestinians from the best water extraction points.

When completed, the Wall will cut off Palestinians from areas that would yield an additional 90 million cubic metres (23 billion gallons) annually.

 (Palestine Monitor Factbook, 2015) http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=pezte3a10667y0cifjtlt9

Fact #67 (11/7/17)

In Palestine, small-scale farmers, herders, and fishermen face a high risk of destitution due to Israel’s imposed water shortages and land degradation, and extreme weather events driven by climate change.

111,310 farmers own agricultural small-holdings in Palestine. Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry employ 7.4% and 8.8% of all employed men and women, respectively.

(United Nations Country Team, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Common Country Analysis, 2016)

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/common\_country\_analysis.pdf

Fact #68 (11/14/17)

In Gaza, 40% of the medications needed to treat patients are not available. Cancer patients are dying daily because there is no medicine for them and because they are prevented from leaving Gaza to receive care.

95% of the 2 million Gaza residents may now be at risk of waterborne diseases.

(Dr. Mona El-Farra, MECA newsletter 2017)

https://www.mecaforpeace.org/meca-newsletters-reports/

(UN Economic and Social Council, May 2017)

https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/A6BAAFBCB0A4A2098525813F005B1376

Fact #69 (11/21/17)

Of the 142 proposed water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in Gaza, Israel has allowed only 64 to be completed—less than half.

Of the 5,373 “dual use” items submitted for water, health, and sanitation projects, an alarming 2,950 are still awaiting Israel’s approval. And only 856 items have been imported—less than 16% of the total needed. (OXFAM Briefing Paper, May 2017)

https://www.oxfam.org/en/file/bp-treading-water-gaza-reconstruction-mechanism-220317-enpdf-0

Fact #70 (11/28/17)

Residents of al-Walaja, a village in the occupied West Bank near Bethlehem, are forbidden to access a large portion of their land because Israel has relocated a checkpoint.

Inside the land is the second-largest spring in the occupied West Bank, one of the main water sources for the residents’ livestock to bathe in and drink from. Residents have tended to the spring, fields, and farming terraces for generations. It was also a recreational spring for the people of the surrounding areas, who flocked there to picnic and swim.

Israel has surrounded the spring with a fence, built a visitors center and a restaurant, and turned it into one of the entrances to Jerusalem’s metropolitan park, off-limits to residents of al-Walaja and Bethlehem. (Ma’an 11/20/17)

 http://maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779487

Fact #71 (12/5/17)

Palestinians’ limited access to water not only contributes to the erosion of their health, income, and livelihoods, but also increases their exposure to intimidation and violence while they are fetching water from distant sources.

These factors combined with Israel’s destruction of Palestinian homes and livelihood-related structures (50,000 in the last 50 years) create a coercive environment that increases the risk of forcible transfer. (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, July 2016, Amnesty International, June 2017)

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/water-tankering-projects-target-most-vulnerable-communities-area-c

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/06/israel-occupation-50-years-of-dispossession/

Fact #72 (12/12/17)

30% of The Dead Sea’s shore is in Palestinian territory, but Israel forbids Palestinians from developing and accessing their shore.

The Dead Sea is rich in natural resources. Israel earns $3 billion each year from extracted products (and generates $291 million from 15 shoreline hotels).

The estimated value of a Palestinian Dead Sea mineral extraction industry would be $918 million.

Israel also diverts Dead Sea water to its settlements. That and its over-use of water for extracting minerals cause the sea level to drop about 3 feet per year. (Al-Haq, August 2015)

 https://medium.com/@alhaq/facts-on-the-ground-542fb4d17d08

Fact #73 (12/19/17)

The occupied West Bank is home to more than 160 factories in illegal Israeli settlements and Israeli industrial zones.

The factories produce chemicals, aluminium, leather, batteries, plastics, cement, canned foods, fibreglass, rubber, alcoholic beverages, ceramics, marble, detergents, cooking gas, and pesticides.

They pollute Palestinians’ water and air, deplete their natural resources, threaten their health, and degrade their agricultural land.

This has dire economic repercussions. The water released by many of these factories are a major source of pollution affecting Palestinian agricultural land and plants. The high mineral content of the pollutants has made it impossible to cultivate citrus crops and other fruit.

(World Health Organization, May 2016) http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact #74 (12/26/17)

No Israeli settlement, except those built within the municipality of Jerusalem, has a sewerage system. Settlements release their wastewater into Palestinian watercourses and land, further exacerbating pollution and degrading Palestinian agricultural water supplies.

(World Health Organization, May 2016) http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact #75 (1/2/18)

At least 34 Israeli dumping sites located throughout the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem have destroyed thousands of dunams of agricultural land (1000 dunhams = 247 acres), negatively affected tens of thousands more, and severely polluted groundwater, surface water supplies, valley watercourses, and springs. (World Health Organization, May 2016)

 http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact #76 (1/9/18)

In East Jerusalem, only 53% of the population has legal access to the water grid. Tens of thousands of residents are forced to install pirate connections, purchase water tanks, and operate pumps.

A third of the population lacks sewage connections. In entire neighborhoods, where the houses are not connected to the sewage network, the residents have to use cesspits in their yard.

(Association for Civil Rights in Israel, May 2015)

https://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/EJ-Facts-and-Figures-2015.pdf

 http://www.btselem.org/jerusalem#barrier

(United Nations Economic and Social Council, May 2017)

https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/A6BAAFBCB0A4A2098525813F005B1376

Fact #77 (1/16/18)

From the beginning of Zionist strategy, Palestine’s water resources played a crucial role.

In 1919, the World Zionist Organization presented a map at the Paris Peace Conference that anticipated the level of water needed for the projected Jewish state to develop an industrial and agricultural economic base and to provide a Western style of life for Jewish immigrants.

The World Zionist Organization stated: “The economic life of Palestine...depends on the available water supply. It is, therefore, of vital importance not only to secure all water resources already feeding the country, but also to be able to conserve and control them at their sources.”

E. Hagopian, The Primacy of Water in the Zionist Project, *Arab Studies Qly*, Fall 2016

Fact #78 (1/23/18)

Sixteen-year-old Ahed Tamimi, who has spent the last month in an Israeli military prison, has been denied bail. She was arrested in her West Bank village of Nabi Saleh for slapping a soldier who had first slapped her, and—like many of the 300 Palestinian children currently in Israel’s prisons—could face long years in jail.

Israel’s military has killed and injured many Nabi Saleh residents since 2009, when they began holding weekly demonstrations against the theft of their land and natural water spring, Ein Al-Qaws , to build the illegal Halamish settlement.

The village’s 600 residents receive only 12 hours of running water a from Israel, while the settlers in Halamish have running water 24 hours a day and enjoy a large swimming pool.

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/07/nabi-saleh-silent-ethnic-cleansing-170702123734851.html, Sept 2017

https://www.btselem.org/statistics/minors\_in\_custody, Jan. 2018

Fact #79 (1/30/18)

In 1967, after Israel completed its conquest of all of Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights, it took further control over Palestinian water resources through Military Orders 92 and 291. These permitted Israel to 1) monopolize access to Palestinian water and 2) routinely deny Palestinians the right to drill wells or repair existing ones.

E. Hagopian, The Primacy of Water in the Zionist Project, *Arab Studies Qly*, Fall 2016

Fact #80 (2/6/18)

Winter flooding in the Gaza Strip threatens over 560,000 Palestinians with displacement and property loss due to the precarious state of infrastructure and housing.

The recurrent flooding carries severe threats to health by contaminating water sources, overflowing the sewage systems, and increasing the risk of waterborne disease.

More than 50% of Gaza’s water infrastructure was destroyed by Israel during its 2014 war on Gaza. Since then, Israel has allowed only 64 of the 142 proposed water, sanitation, and hygiene projects to be completed—less than half.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Dec., 2017, in http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=Tyydxqa95643562476aTyydxq

UN OCHA, 2018 https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/occupied-palestinian-territory/document/2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-occupied

(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068

Fact #81 (2/13/18)

The Palestinian village Wadi Fukin is suffering from floods due to expansion of a nearby illegal Israeli settlement.

Natural areas that absorb rainwater and slow its flow have been turned into asphalt and concrete, which funnel the water quickly down the mountain towards the village.

Because the water is no longer absorbed into the ground, the past two years have seen a 50% decline in the water supply to the village’s 11 springs and rainwater pools. The amount of water in the main spring has declined by two thirds in the last three years.

Sewage from another illegal Israeli settlement has contaminated the village’s fields.

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/liberal-jerusalem-suburb-s-expansion-is-hurting-a-palestinian-village-1.5769531

Fact #82 (2/20/18)

In the occupied West Bank, 649,000 Palestinians (22% of the population of 2.95 million) are forced to suffer lack of access to water and poor water quality. This includes 156,000 people who are either unconnected to a water network or receiving water only once a or less.

97% of Gaza’s 2 million residents (including 991,400 children)—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water.

The violence of Israel’s military occupation fills Palestinian hospital beds with patients injured by Israeli soldiers, attacks by illegal settlers, and Israel’s air assaults. The restricted access to clean water adds even more pressure on already overstressed Palestinian public health institutions.

(UN OCHA Humanitarian Response Information)

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/occupied-palestinian-territory/document/2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-occupied

https://electronicintifada.net/content/west-bank-villagers-suffer-sewer-politics/17811

Fact #83 (2/28/18)

In the Jordan Valley, 40% of Palestinians live in basic forms of shelter.

Israel’s systematic demolitions of their homes, denial of building permits (including toilets and structures for privacy)—and destruction of water pipelines and water tanks—make it impossible to maintain a sanitary environment, particularly for the personal hygiene needs of women and girls. (Al-Haq)

Unpacking Gender in Coercive Environments: the Case of the Jordan Valley, pdf

www.alhaq.org/publications/publications-index/item/unpacking-gender-in-coercive-environments-the-case-of-the-jordan-valleycategoryid10categoryid10

Fact #84 (3/6/18)

Heavy rains and stormy weather, such as affected Gaza in January, cause floods that could disperse landmines.

According to the United Nations Mine Action Service, since Israel’s 2014 bombardment of Gaza, approximately 6,000 items of unexploded ordnance could still be in the ground in the Gaza Strip, where 16 people have been killed and 97 injured, including 48 children, due to contact with explosive remnants of war.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/heavy-rains-floods-and-even-hail-batter-israels-north-in-worst-storm-of-season/

(International Committee of the Red Cross)

http://blogs.icrc.org/ilot/2017/04/04/gaza-fun-lessons-that-could-save-a-life/ April 2017

Fact #85 (3/13/18)

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinians are exposed to more than 15 Israeli waste treatment facilities that process waste produced in Israel. Six facilities handle dangerous hazardous waste.

Palestinians are denied information about what goes on in these plants, whether accidents have occurred—and the risks to water sources, air quality, and local residents’ health.

Israel makes it more profitable to build waste treatment facilities in the West Bank than inside Israel by allowing few regulations and lax supervision, and by offering financial incentives such as tax breaks and government subsidies.

 http://www.btselem.org/publications/summaries/201712\_made\_in\_israel

Fact #86 (3/20/18)

Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel uses water as a weapon against Palestinians.

97% percent of Gaza’s 2 million residents are without clean drinking water due to Israel’s destruction of Palestinian wells and water infrastructure.

In the West Bank, the 650,000 people living in Israel’s illegal settlements are allotted six times more water than the 2.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/how-israeli-settlements-stifle-palestines-economy

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/#sthash.BWiYB9dI.dpuf

Fact #87 (3/27/18)

The Gaza Strip’s 2 million residents depend on the coastal aquifer for water. Only 60 million cubic meters of water can be pumped annually without compromising the aquifer’s ability to renew itself.

Israel’s destruction of Gaza's water infrastructure and its obstructions to repairs; population growth; and low rainfall have led to overpumping—about *four times* as much water every year.

Overpumping causes seawater to penetrate, which salinates the water table. The concentration of chloride (salts) in Gaza’s wells is now between 400 and 2,000 mg/litre, while the standard is 250 mg/litre.

90% of the drinking water in Gaza exceeds the maximum salinity standard of the World Health Organization.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/22/gaza-electrcity-shortages-hamas-israel-blockade-children

https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-expert-warns-97-of-gaza-drinking-water-contaminated-by-sewage-salt-1.5747876

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180321-97-of-water-in-gaza-is-polluted/

Fact #88 (4/3/18)

An estimated 80,000 Bedouin Palestinians who carry Israeli citizenship live in communities unrecognized by Israel, and are thus denied access to water, as well as other basic state services and infrastructure.

This month (April 2018), Israel plans to demolish the entire Bedouin village of Umm al-Hiran and force the 350 Palestinian residents to be homeless. In its place, Israel will build a Jewish settlement.

Umm al-Hiran has undergone persistent harassment and lived under constant threat of demolitions. During a 2017 raid to demolish homes in Umm al-Hiran, Israeli police shot and killed a 50-year-old Palestinian math teacher.

Israel’s demolitions of Bedouin structures doubled in 2017, with 2,220 structures demolished compared to 1,158 in 2016. Residents face heavy fines unless they demolish their homes themselves. Approximately 70% of the demolitions were undertaken by the owners.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/israel-razes-palestinian-bedouin-village-113th-time-170517075143632.html

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/tamara-nassar/israel-evacuate-destroy-entire-palestinian-village-umm-al-hiran

Fact #89 (4/10/18)

In the Gaza Strip, since the nonviolent Great March of Return protest began on March 30, Israel has killed more than 31 peaceful demonstrators and wounded more than 2,500 (dozens in critical condition), including children and youth.

In the Gaza Strip (called a large open-air prison), two million people are forced to live inside 139 square miles. More than 40% are under fifteen years old.

Israel controls all the water in the Gaza Strip, using water in its arsenal of weapons—

• Poor access to water and poor water quality contribute to 26% of all reported disease.

• The prevalence of chronic malnutrition is driven by the lack of safe drinking water.

• 140,000 of the 274,000 children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and stunting.

• 40,000 children suffer from micronutrient deficiencies.

• Untreated chronic malnutrition can lead to debilitating, impaired physical growth and cognitive development.

Middle East Children’s Alliace, April 7, 2018, https://www.mecaforpeace.org

UN 2018 humanitarian needs overview of the Gaza Strip

https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hno\_20\_12\_2017\_final.pdf

http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=Tyydxqa95643562476aTyydxq

Tel Aviv Institute for National Security Studies, 2017

www.inss.org.il/publication/gazas-water-sanitation-crisis-implications-public-health

Fact #90 (4/17/18)

Two million people In the Gaza Strip are forced to live inside 139 square miles. More than 40% are under fifteen years old.

Because Israel destroyed, and has refusal to repair, most of the Gaza Strip’s sanitation infrastructure, water contamination is responsible for 26% of all disease.

At least 25% of all childhood disease in Gaza is water-associated, and 60% of kindergarten-age children suffer from at least one parasitic infection.

Contaminated water has increased waterborne diseases, including acute diarrhea, parasite infections, liver and kidney diseases, and “blue baby syndrome.”

For months at a time the Gaza Strip has had only four to six hours of electricity a day. The chronic electricity shortage has meant pumps don’t work, causing large sewage lakes to form. One lake overflowed, drowning five people in a nearby village.

The equivalent of 43 Olympic-size swimming pools of poorly treated sewage is dumped into the Mediterranean every day.

 http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=778835

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, PDF

Fact #91 (4/24/18)

Two million people In the Gaza are forced by Israel to live inside 139 square miles.

In 2014, during its assault on Gaza, Israel destroyed more than 50% of Gaza’s water infrastructure.

As a result, people must buy prohibitively expensive tankered water.

90% of the population on Gaza live under the poverty line. 85% depend on UNRWA, the World Food Program, and other charities’ rations and food.

www.ewash.org/news/in-the-news/haaretz-think-gaza-strip-next-time-you-drink-tap-water

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/7/19/unlivable\_gaza\_on\_verge\_of\_collapse

Fact #92 (5/1/18)

Palestinians are restricted from 91% of the fertile Jordan Valley due to illegal Israeli settlements and closures by the Israeli military.

Israel forbids Palestinians from digging new wells, repairing their old ones—or even setting up cisterns to collect rainwater.

Trucked-in water is prohibitively expensive, therefore farmers are driven by necessity to build cisterns. But since Israeli permits are impossible to obtain, Israel demolishes the them.

As reported in *Haaretz* in 2017, soon after the 1967 war when Israel occupied the West Bank, Israeli leaders discussed how to expel the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians newly under military occupation. Israel wanted the land but not the people who lived on it. Levi Eshkol, then Israel’s prime minister, proposed: “Perhaps if we don’t give them enough water they won’t have a choice, because the orchards will yellow and wither.”

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/jimmy-johnson/video-forced-drought-hits-jordan-valley-farmers-israel-steals-their-water

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/zionisms-calm-destruction-palestine

Fact #93 (5/8/18)

Israel cut down dozens of olive trees, damaged dozens more, and destroyed acres of private Palestinian farmland in the West Bank town Bruqin, so that its water company, Mekorot, could build new water and sewage pipelines for illegal Israeli settlements.

Settlers and the Israeli army regularly harass the residents of Bruqin. The farmers face verbal and physical attacks while working on their remaining fields and are often denied access to their own land by the Israeli army.

Israel’s control of more than 80% of the water in the West Bank, its illegal settlements, and its Separation Wall, have deprived the Palestinian economy of at least 63% of the most fertile and best grazing land.

At most, 35% of irrigable Palestinian land is allowed to be irrigated, costing the Palestinian economy more than 100,000 jobs per year.

International Solidarity Movement, Ramallah team | Bruqin, occupied Palestine

European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #94 (5/15/18)

As of May 14, 2018, since the nonviolent Great March of Return protest began on March 30, Israel has killed at least 107 people and wounded about 12,000 people.

U.S. taxpayers supply Israel with $3.8 billion in weapons every year.

Israel uses these weapons to commit human rights abuses against Palestinians living under its military occupation—including the deprivation of water.

In Gaza, Israel’s destruction of wells and water infrastructure has forced 97% of Gaza's two million residents (991,400 are children) to live without clean drinking water. More than 96% of the water is unfit for drinking.

Today marks 70 years since the Nakba (the catastrophe), when half the Arab population of Palestine—more than 750,000 people—were forced to flee or were expelled by the establishment of the state of Israel. Israel forbids Palestinian refugees to return to their land and homes.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/04/gaza-protest-latest-updates-

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/14/world/middleeast/israel-benjamin-netanyahu-military-aid.html

www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, pdf

https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza\_10\_years\_later\_-\_11\_july\_2017.pdf

Fact #95 (5/22/18)

Many consider Israel to be a world leader in water treatment. BUT—

—Since 2016, Israel has demolished more than 50 Palestinian water and sanitation structures in the West Bank, and prevents Palestinians from building new sewage infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants. Untreated wastewater is overflowing its containment pipes, contaminating the groundwater.

—Israel has built at least 15 unregulated waste treatment plants in the occupied West Bank to process the dangerous substances produced by Israel and the illegal settlements—sewage sludge, hazardous waste, infectious medical waste, used oils and solvents, metals, batteries, and electronic industry byproducts. Palestinians have no access to information about what risks the facilities pose to their water sources, air quality, and health.

Free-flowing sewage in the West Bank and in Gaza damages crops and poisons animals, severely reduces Palestinians’ income, and greatly impacts the health of residents. The West Bank village of Bruqin, for example, has a disproportionately high rate of hospitalization. 44% of Palestinian children in rural areas suffer from diarrhea—the biggest killer of children under 5 years old in the world—because of sewage and poor water quality.

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/30/world/middleeast/water-revolution-in-israel-overcomes-any-threat-of-drought.html

http://imemc.org/article/made-in-israel-exploiting-palestinian-land-for-treatment-of-israeli-waste/ Dec. 2017

https://electronicintifada.net/content/west-bank-villagers-suffer-sewer-politics/17811

ISM December 2017 https://palsolidarity.org/2017/12/settlement-pollutes-palestinian-olive-groves-with-sewage-water/

http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact #96 (5/29/18)

The lack of clean water is just one of the excruciating hardships facing medical personnel in Gaza's massively overcrowded hospitals.

Since March 30, when the Great March of Return began, 323 emergency medical workers have been hit by live fire and gas bombs, and one worker was killed. 37 ambulances were damaged.

In those same s in Gaza, the Israeli army killed 112 Palestinian nonviolent protesters (including 13 children) and injured 13,190 (including 2,096 children). 7,618 injuries are related to live ammunition or rubber bullets; 785 people were shot in the head, neck, chest, and/or back; and 27 needed leg amputations. 5,572 injuries were from tear-gas suffocation.

MECA for Peace, 5/24/2018, http://madisonrafah.org/

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=780149

Fact #97 (6/5/18)

In April 2017, 40 Israeli soldiers raided the Palestinian West Bank village Bardala, bulldozed its water outlets, destroyed pipelines to farms, and confiscated 168 metres of pipes that belonged to farmers and the village.

A month later, Israeli forces opened fire at the village's peaceful Right to Water march of 500 people, injuring five youth and detaining one youth for 48 hours.

Bardala depends on agriculture. In 1964, its wells provided 200 cubic metres (52,834 gallons) of spring water/hour. The village built an 67-metre-deep well that provided 300 cubic metres (79,251 gallons) of spring water/hour.

After Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, Israel and its water company, Mekorot, built several 300-metre-deep wells on Bardala's lands, 200 metres from the village's original well.

In 1974 Israel and Mekorot closed the Palestinian wells and demanded Bardala residents pay to receive 240 cubic metres of water from their own springs.

In 2006, Mekorot further reduced the supply to 60 cubic metres of water. This has had a disastrous effect on crops, livestock, and residents, whose population since 1964 has increased from 500 to 5000 people.

https://www.stopthewall.org/2017/05/08/bardala-marches-right-water

https://stopthewall.org/2017/04/29/join-our-march-right-water

Fact #98 (6/12/18)

Every day, 108,000 cubic meters (28,530,581 gallons) of raw sewage are [discharged](https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-196) into the sea around Gaza.

Israel’s blockade of Gaza restricts more than 70% of the materials critically needed to repair Gaza’s sewage-treatment facilities, so waste flows through neighborhoods and also into the sea. The sea is 73% polluted.

In 2000, Gaza had 10,000 fishermen. Today, there are 4,000, half of whom are out of work because the blockade prevents them from repairing their boats.

Despite Israel’s obligation under the Oslo Accords to permit fishing up to 20 nautical miles off the Gaza coastline, the most it ever allowed was 12 nautical miles and currently the limit is 3–4 nautical miles. Often Israel prohibits fishing altogether.

The Israeli navy attacks Palestinian fishermen even when their boats are within the limit. Most recently, one fisherman was killed, five wounded, and 25 were arrested. Three boats were confiscated; others were sabotaged along with dozens of fishing nets.

Soldiers have forced fishermen at gunpoint to take off their clothes and swim to the navy vessels.

A number of times, Israeli soldiers fired at the fishermen, then propelled wastewater at the boats.

http://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20170129\_killing\_the\_fishing\_sector

www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/jul/31/children-swim-sewage-floods-gaza-beach

http://www.mezan.org/en/post/22718

https://electronicintifada.net/content/life-septic-tank/20826

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/04/palestine-gaza-fishermen-death-israel-fishing-zone-war-fire.html#ixzz5HTOlc1Y9

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/04/palestine-gaza-fishermen-death-israel-fishing-zone-war-fire.html#ixzz5HTOdbpC9

Fact #99 (6/19/18)

In summer 2017, the 180,000 residents of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, suffered an acute water shortage in addition to the year-round lack of sufficient water. Israel controls the water in Palestine, prevents Palestinians from digging new wells and repairing old ones, and refuses to sell them additional, necessary, water.

Residents get their water from out-of-date water drills. A fifth of that water is lost to leaks in the old pipes and other technical problems.

Nablus residents must survive on an average of 65 liters/person/day. (100 litres/person/day is the WHO minimum.) In 2017, well output dropped by 30%. Supply went down to once every ten to fourteen days.

20% of Nablus residents, who live in the refugee camps and in about 10 neighborhoods where the water pressure is lower, have an average consumption of 50 liters/person/day.

In 1996, Israel sold the municipality a small amount of water per hour, but in the decade that followed, it delivered the water intermittently, and stopped delivery altogether in 2006.

 https://www.btselem.org/water/20170913\_acute\_water\_shortage\_in\_nablus

Fact #100 (6/26/18)

In 2017, Israel built more than 10,000 housing units in illegal settlements on Palestinian land—more than double the total of 2016.

Today, between 600,000 and 750,000 Israelis live in the settlements, roughly 11% of the total Jewish Israeli population.

Israeli settlers use six times more water than do the 3.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

In one month, May 2018, over 60% of the Palestinian structures that Israel destroyed to make room for its illegal settlements were demolished or seized in one day. These included three water systems, six homes, eight livelihood structures, and four solar-power systems. Eleven of the structures had been funded by the EU.

The affected twelve West Bank communities (1,300 people) are in an area designated by Israel as a “firing zone” for military training, and are thus at heightened risk of forcible transfer. In late 2017 and early 2018, the residents’ access to services and livelihoods was impeded by additional movement restrictions and repeated military exercises.

www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2017\_hrp\_draft5\_20\_12\_2017\_v2.pdf

https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2017/50-years-illegal-settlements/index.html www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-demolitions-and-displacement-may-2018

Fact #101 (7/3/18)

Israel’s destruction and disrepair of wells and water infrastructure has forced 97% of Gaza’s two million residents (991,400 are children) to live without clean drinking water.

At least 25% of all childhood disease in Gaza is water-associated. 60% of kindergarten-age children suffer from at least one parasitic infection.

The prevalence of chronic malnutrition is driven by the lack of safe drinking water. 140,000 of the 274,000 children under five in Gaza suffer from chronic malnutrition and stunting. 40,000 children suffer from micronutrient deficiencies.

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, PDF

 Middle East Children’s Alliance, www.mecaforpeace.org

Fact #102 (7/10/18)

While Israel is considering buiding 1,000 new illegal settlement housing units east of Jerusalem—sewage from a new illegal settlement in the West Bank flooded and drowned Palestinian lands worked by residents of the village of Turmus Ayya. Farmland, animals, agriculture, health, and livelihoods are affected.

The ongoing sewage flood began when the private Palestinian property was confiscated by the Israeli army for settlements. There is no sewage treatment facility for the new settlement, nor for others nearby.

44% of Palestinian children in rural areas suffer from diarrhea because of sewage and poor water quality. Diarrhea is the biggest killer of children under 5 years old in the world.

700,000 Israeli settlers live illegally in the occupied West Bank.

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180703-israel-seeks-1000-new-settlement-units-in-east-jerusalem/

http://www.btselem.org/jerusalem#barrier

United Nations Economic and Social Council, May 2017

https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/A6BAAFBCB0A4A2098525813F005B1376

http://english.pnn.ps/2018/07/02/settlement-pumping-sewage-water-towards-land-of-village-near-ramallah/

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/new-west-bank-settlement-s-sewage-overflowing-into-palestinian-fields-1.6225848?utm\_campaign=newsletter-daily&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=smartfocus&utm\_content=https%3A%2F%2F

www.haaretz.com%2Fisrael-news%2Fnew-west-bank-settlement-s-sewage-overflowing-into-palestinian-fields-1.6225848

Fact #103 (7/17/18)

In Gaza, the devastating water crisis and electricity shortage have forced hospitals to reduce the cleaning and sterilizing of medical facilities.

The hospitals are overwhelmed with patients. Since the Great March of Return demonstrations began on March 30, 2018, more than 15,500 Palestinians have been injured by Israeli forces.

Of the 8,221 Palestinians requiring hospitalization, 63% were limb injuries, and nearly half (4,023) were the result of gunshot wounds.

61 Palestinians received amputations, 11 of them children.

10 Palestinians have been left paralyzed. More than 1,400 Palestinians are at risk of longer-term physical disability.

Of the 138 people killed by the Israeli army so far this year, 26 were children. 21 of those children were targeted in Gaza with live bullets (11 of those children shot in the head and neck).

https://www.usnews.com/opinion/world-report/articles/2018-03-05/cutting-unrwa-funding-could-put-gaza-on-the-brink-and-backfire-at-israel

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180713-un-over-1400-palestinian-protesters-in-gaza-may-suffer-long-term-disability/

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180702-israel-killed-25-palestinian-children-this-year/

Fact #104 (7/25/18)

Israel forbids Palestinians from building in Area C (a zone comprising 60% of the West Bank). As a result, residents cannot dig wells. Israel also forbids residents access to the water line that goes up to the Israeli military outposts on their land. Residents must pay for expensive water trucked in from the nearest town.

When Israel decides to use land around a Bedouin compound for its military exercises, families are forced to leave and sleep outside for days. They return to demolished dwellings and animal shelters, trampled crops and pastures, and turned-up earth where tanks passed through.

Since 2014, at least three Palestinians have been killed and five injured by unexploded ordnance left behind during military exercises in the Jordan Valley.

 https://electronicintifada.net/content/between-israels-bullets-and-bulldozers/24996

Fact #105 (7/31/18)

Due to the low quantities of water available to Palestinian farmers, only 6.8% of the cultivated land in the West Bank is irrigated.

Israel confiscates 82% of Palestinian groundwater in the West Bank for use inside Israel’s borders and in its settlements.

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016) https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact #106 (8/7/18)

Palestinian teenager Ahed Tamimi and her mother Nariman have returned home to Nabi Saleh after serving their eight-month sentences in an Israeli military prison.

Ahed Tamimi was incarcerated after she slapped one of the soldiers who invaded her family’s yard. She had just learned that Israeli soldiers shot her 15-year-old cousin in the head at close range.

Israel’s military has killed and injured many Nabi Saleh residents since 2009, when they began holding weekly demonstrations against the theft of their land and natural water spring, Ein Al-Qaws , to build the illegal Halamish settlement.

The village’s 600 residents receive only 12 hours of running water a from Israel, while the settlers in Halamish have running water 24 hours a day and enjoy a large swimming pool.

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/07/nabi-saleh-silent-ethnic-cleansing-170702123734851.html, Sept 2017

Fact #107 (8/14/18)

In the occupied West Bank, Israel forces 649,000 Palestinians (22% of the population of 2.95 million) to suffer lack of access to water and poor water quality. This includes 156,000 people who are unconnected to a water network or receiving water only once a week or less.

97% of Gaza’s 2 million residents (including 991,400 children)—whose water access is also controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water.

The violence of Israel’s military occupation fills Palestinian hospital beds with patients injured by Israeli soldiers, attacks by illegal settlers, and Israel’s air assaults. The restricted access to clean water adds even more pressure on already overstressed Palestinian public health institutions.

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/occupied-palestinian-territory/document/2018-humanitarian-needs-overview-occupied

Fact #108 (8/21/18)

In July 2018, Israel further tightened the blockade of Gaza, banning the entry of construction materials, water pumps, spare parts, generators, clothing, blankets, mattresses, and other vital items.

Israel also banned the entry of fuel and cooking gas, including emergency fuel supplied by the UN. Gaza’s severe and chronic lack of electricity makes fuel necessary to power generators in homes, businesses, and critical civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and water and sewage facilities.

Other high-priority items prevented from entering are mobile pumps to dewater flooded areas, water-testing and disinfection material, essential electromechanical equipment, sulfite-resistant cement, and epoxy paints for insulation.

https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620527/mb-gaza-israel-blockade-civilians-270818-en.pdf

Fact #109 (8/28/18)

In July 2018, Israel further tightened the blockade of Gaza. These latest restrictions are stopping critical water projects, including

—A major desalination plant in Gaza city that would provide water to 200,000 people

—Two water tanks and a water-booster system that would provide water to over 190,000 people

—Facilities that would treat wastewater for hundreds of thousands of households and reduce the contamination load discharged to the sea.

Israel’s imposed restrictions are also stopping water-related projects funded by international donors, amounting to tens of millions of US dollars.

https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620527/mb-gaza-israel-blockade-civilians-270818-en.pdf

Fact #110 (9/4/18)

Israel controls the extent to which Palestinians can provide for themselves, as well as the ability of donors to deliver urgent assistance to allow electricity, health, and water systems to recover from Israel’s bombardments and neglect.

In Gaza, at least 97% of the water is undrinkable. People are forced to buy expensive drinking water from private vendors with little or no quality control.

53% of the population in Gaza lives below the poverty line. Approximately 34% (656,000 people) lives in “deep poverty” on less than $3.60 per day.

One million Palestinians in Gaza don’t have enough food to eat, despite receiving food assistance or other forms of support. More than 49% of people in Gaza of working age are unemployed—71% of women and 60% of youth including 21,508 students graduating from higher education institutions in 2017—11,601 men and 9,907 women.

https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620527/mb-gaza-israel-blockade-civilians-270818-en.pdf

http://mezan.org/en/post/22365/Al+Mezan+Publishes+“University+Graduates+in+the+Gaza+Strip%3A+Unemployment+and+its+Impact+on+Human+Rights”+

Fact #111 (9/11/18)

Two weeks ago, Israel cut off all water supplies to the only school in the Palestinian West Bank village of Faroush Beit Dajan.

In the same village a few months earlier, the Israeli army shut off water supplies in an attempt to force the 1,200 residents to leave.

Israel denies Palestinians permits to build schools, then demolishes schools built without permits, making it more difficult or impossible for thousands of children to get an education. At least 44 Palestinian schools in the West Bank are at risk of full or partial demolition.

Over a third of Palestinian communities in Area C (the 60% of the West Bank where the Israeli military has exclusive control over building) do not have primary schools. The UN estimates that 10,000 children attend school in tents, shacks, or other structures without heating or air-conditioning. About 1,700 children walk five or more kilometers to school due to road closures, lack of passable roads or transportation, or other problems.

The long distances and fear of harassment by settlers or the military lead many parents to take their children out of school, with a disproportionate impact on girls.

https://english.palinfo.com/news/2018/9/5/israeli-occupation-cuts-off-water-to-school-for-palestinian-children

https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/25/israel-army-demolishing-west-bank-schools

Fact #112 (9/25/18)

In August 2018, the Israeli navy again opened fire at Palestinian fishermen sailing off the Gaza coast. The warships seized one boat, detained the two fishermen and confiscated the fishing boat and equipment. The boat was one mile from the coast, well within the Israeli-enforced restricted fishing zone, when it was seized.

From the start of 2018, Israel has carried out 233 attacks on fishermen—killing one fisherman, injuring 15, detaining 41, and confiscating 13 fishing boats.

http://mezan.org/en/post/23190/Israeli+Naval+Forces+Open+Fire+at+Fishermen%2C+Detaining+Two+and+Seizing+Their+Boats+

Fact #113 (9/25/18)

Israel controls all Palestinian water resources in the West Bank. In 1995, 80% of the water was allotted for Israeli use and 20% for Palestinian use.

Today, the Palestinian population of the West Bank, which has nearly doubled since 1995, receives only three-quarters of that stipulated allotment, while Israelis enjoy an unlimited water supply.

https://www.btselem.org/water

Fact #114 (10/2/18)

Over the past two months, the Israeli military razed water pipelines more than four times in two adjacent Palestinian villages—under the pretext that they were looking for open holes that they claimed were "illegal."

Residents of the villages, Kardala and Bardala, live off agriculture and thus rely on water for irrigation as well as personal and household consumption.

After its 1967 occupation of Palestine, Israel allotted the residents only 240 cubic meters of water an hour. Israel has lowered this rate and now confines it to 140 cubic meters.

In the summer, when temperature is usually high, residents need double the quantity of water they would use during winter. Residents say Israel deliberately chooses the summer to destroy the water pipelines.

The average consumption of an Israeli settler illegally living in the northern Jordan Valley is 8 times more than that of a Palestinian citizen.

In the last few years, Israel has destroyed water pipelines almost daily.

http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=q9xk81a98628259884aq9xk81

Fact #115 (10/9/18)

To meet their needs, Palestinians in the West Bank must purchase water from Israel’s national water company, Mekorot. The water reaches the Palestinian communities through hookups to Mekorot reservoirs located within illegal settlements.

Due to Israel’s neglect and refusal to repair pipelines and water grids, one-third of all water supplied to Palestinian cities and villages is lost to leakage.

https://www.btselem.org/water

Fact #116 (10/16/18)

In Gaza, as the deterioration of the sanitation system, the prevalence of contaminated water and sewage, and the lack of clean drinking water has led to

• a 41.5% rate of diarrhea among young children

• undernutrition, which contributes to diseases and impedes growth (7.1% of children are being stunted in height)

• anemia in 59.7% of schoolchildren

as Israel has killed at least 199 Palestinians in Gaza since March 2018, including 31 youth, and over 35% of children show symptoms of PTSD—

The U.S. is helping Israel put Palestinians’ health further at risk by planning to cut $300 million in funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees. The U.S. also plans to cancel $200 million in funds for relief programs in the West Bank and Gaza, and cancel $25 million for the East Jerusalem Hospital Network.

UNRWA’s health services are the only source of care for approximately 5 million Palestinian refugees. 70% of the 2 million Palestinians who live in the Gaza Strip are refugees.

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/31/world/middleeast/trump-administration-aid-palestinian-refugees-.html

https://mondoweiss.net/2018/10/refugee-palestinians-largest/

http://www.phr.org.il/en/safeguarding-gazan-social-determinants-health-april-2016/?pr=24

Fact #117 (10/23/18)

Throughout the West Bank and Gaza, Israel uses sewage as a weapon against Palestinians.

For the second time this month, members of the illegal Israeli settlement Kfar Adummim flooded the village Khan Al-Ahmar with wastewater, as Israeli army bulldozers stormed the village in a drive to force villagers to leave.

The demolition and flooding of sewage are part of Israel’s plan to expand the settlement and create a region of contiguous Israeli control from Jerusalem almost to the Dead Sea, which would make a contiguous Palestinian state impossible.

Khan Al-Ahmar is home to about 181 Bedouin (half of them children), who are refugees from the Negev desert, having been displaced by the Israeli army in 1967.

In Gaza, the immense lack of electricity and inadequate sanitation infrastructure—due to Israel’s bombardments, blockade, and refusal to allow repairs—result in the discharge of 100–108 million litres of sewage into the sea every day. Current pollution levels are nearly four times higher than the international environmental health standard. Swimming in the sea is one of the few recreational activities available to people in Gaza.

Water-related diseases account for over one quarter of illnesses and are the primary cause of child morbidity in Gaza.

The debilitated wastewater treatment plants also present a constant threat of sewage flooding in areas adjacent to reservoirs and pumping stations. In May 2016, when a retention wall of a sewage lagoon in Gaza City’s treatment plant collapsed following a prolonged power cut, 15,000 cubic meters of raw sewage was released into a nearby farming area.

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181015-khan-al-ahmar-flooded-with-waste-water-again/

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=781466

UN Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin https://www.ochaopt.org/content/seawater-pollution-raises-concerns-waterborne-diseases-and-environmental-hazards-gaza-strip

Fact #118 (10/30/18)

In the occupied West Bank, Israel

• forbids the development of new Palestinian water infrastructure;

• destroys and confiscates existing infrastructure;

• limits Palestinians’ access to local water sources such as fresh water springs, drilled wells and rainwater cisterns;

• and deliberately contaminates Palestinian towns and land with sewage from the Illegal Israeli settlements.

About 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank, 43% under the age of 18.

Nearly a quarter of West Bank Palestinians suffer from this lack of access to water and poor water quality. In Area C alone, 140,301 people live with no connection to a water network or must survive on an irregular water supply.

Residents of the Palestinian city of Nablus, for example, receive running water as infrequently as *once every ten to fourteen days*.

Nablus residents are forced to live on only 65 liters/person/day. In some neighborhoods, and for people in the refugee camps, the average consumption is 50 liters/person/day. (The WHO minimum is 100 liters/person/day.)

‎ www.emro.who.int/images/stories/WHO\_Right\_to\_health\_Book\_for\_web.pdf?ua=1

http://www.btselem.org/water/20170913\_acute\_water\_shortage\_in\_nablus

Fact #119 (11/13/18)

Last month, several Palestinian students, along with teachers and officials, were wounded as the Israeli army attacked their school south of Nablus with the intention of closing it down. Attacks and demolitions of schools in the West Bank are frequent. The students of al-Sawiya al-Lubban Mixed School were protesting the Israeli military occupation and the encroaching illegal Israeli settlements that have confiscated thousands of dunums of their Palestinian land and water resources.

Every day, at least 2,500 Palestinian students from 35 West Bank communities must cross through Israeli military checkpoints to reach their schools. Half of these students have reported army harassment and violence for merely attempting to get to their classes or back home. In addition, Jewish settlers set up their own checkpoints and engage in regular violence by throwing stones at children, or pushing them around.

In Area C, where this school is located, 140,300 Palestinians, including 50,000 children, live with no connection to a water network or must survive on an irregular water supply, often as infrequently as once a week.

Despite the Israeli occupation and its restrictions on Palestinians’ freedom, the Palestinian population remains one of the most educated in the Middle East. The literacy rate in Palestine (96.3%) is one of the highest in the Middle East and the illiteracy rate (3.7%) is one of the lowest in the world.

The Gaza Strip has an even higher literacy rate than the West Bank.

 https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=781571

Fact #120 (11/27/18)

According to a new Rand Corporation study, bad water is a leading cause of child mortality in Gaza, and Gaza's children are facing a deadly health epidemic of unprecedented proportions.

Babies in Gaza are suffering from dehydration, vomiting, life-threatening diarrhea, and fever. In recent months doctors report sharp rises in gastroenteritis, kidney disease, anemia, pediatric cancer, marasmus (a disease of severe malnutrition), and "blue baby syndrome." Medical journals document increased infant mortality and an "alarming magnitude" of stunting, which can affect brain development.

Palestinian Ministry of Health figures show a "doubling" of diarrheal disease of epidemic levels, as well as spikes in salmonella and even typhoid fever caused by fecal contamination (110 million litres of raw and poorly treated sewage flows into the Mediterranean every day).

Medical experts blame Gaza's scarce and contaminated drinking water, due to Israel’s repeated bombing of water and sewage infrastructure, and Israel's economic siege of Gaza. 97% of Gaza's drinking-water wellsare far below minimal standards for human consumption.

For example, in Gaza's densely-packed Shati refugee camp, 87,000 refugees and their families—expelled from their towns and villages by Israel in 1948—live in half a square kilometre of cement-block structures along the Mediterranean. The aquifer water is undrinkable, so families spend up to half their income on the desalinated water trucked from Gaza's unregulated wells. Up to 70% of the desalinated water is prone to fecal contamination.

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/gaza-drinking-water-spurs-blue-baby-syndrome-illnesses-181029110434881.html

Fact #121 (12/11/18)

Last month (November 2018),

• Thousands of Palestinian households in the north of the West Bank were without running water for two weeks because Israeli refused to fix a water pumping station that provides drinking water to four villages. The 20,000 residents were forced to buy expensive water from water tanks, which itself lacks health standards.

• Also in the north of the West Bank, Israel made plans to build a 7-km-long water pipeline between, and to exclusively serve, two illegal settlements. The pipeline and its construction will damage the existing Palestinian agricultural land and will severely harm the livelihoods and lives of the Palestinian farmers and their families.

• Israel demolished or seized 33 Palestinian-owned structures in East Jerusalem and Area C in the West Bank. Two of the structures were donor-funded water tanks provided as humanitarian assistance in response to a previous demolition by Israel.

Since 2016, the number of Israeli settler attacks in the West Bank against Palestinians and their property, including wells and water sources, increased by 175%.

As of December 2018, Israel has killed at at least 39 Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli forces killed 38 children, and Israeli settlers killed one child. Of the 31 Palestinian minors killed in Gaza during the Return Protests, 21 were under the age of 16, and three were 11 years old.

So far this year, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel has detained 908 Palestinian children under 18 years old. 270 of those children are still in detention in Israeli prisons. In detention, they are denied education, and some are denied family visits and medical attention. Children are usually removed in the middle of the night from their family homes, often severely beaten, and threatened in order to get them to sign false confession papers.

http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=JK8Z4xa107687044938aJK8Z4x

https://www2.gulf-times.com/story/615618/Water-pipeline-for-illegal-settlements-in-West-Bank-will-harm-Palestinian-farmers

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/monthly-humanitarian-bulletin-october-2018

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180911-39-children-killed-by-israel-in-2018/

https://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20181128\_minors\_killed\_in\_gaza\_protests

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=781852

Fact #122 (12/25/18)

(Note: The World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 100 liters/person/day for basic sanitation, hygiene, and drinking. Israelis in the West Bank, including illegal settlers, have access to 300 liters/person/day. Because Israel controls their water, Palestinians in the West Bank must live on around 70 liters.)

**In Bethlehem**, residents were forced by Israel to go 40 days without running water in 2016. Many West Bank villages were allowed no running water for more than two weeks. Some had water for one hour twice a week. Bathing, drinking, cooking, and agriculture were affected. Factories had to shut down, gardens and plant nurseries were ruined, and animals died of thirst or were sold to farmers outside the affected areas.

In 2017, near the Bethlehem District village of Tuqu’, where Palestinian farmers live and raise livestock and crops, the Israeli military destroyed seven cisterns and other necessary water supply infrastructure. Israel does not allow the communities to connect to the water supply network. The farmers had dug the cisterns to collect rainwater with the financial aid of an international humanitarian organization. Israel's troops also demolished farming-related sheds, and would not allow the landowners to reach the demolition scene.

In 2017, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian teenager during clashes in Tuqu’. He was shot with live ammunition in the chest at least three times and his body was detained for an unspecified time before being handed over to ambulance workers.

In 2018, in Tuqu’, the Israeli military shot and injured several Palestinian students, while dozens of others suffered from tear-gas inhalation. Israeli forces raided the local high school and fired tear-gas bombs and rubber-coated steel bullets at the students.

Also in 2018, about ten masked Israeli soldiers, accompanied by assault dogs, raided two family homes in Bethlehem. The soldiers forced open the doors to the homes and set the dogs on the adults and children.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/palestinian-villages-hours-water-week-161023105150024.html

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/palestinians-hit-by-local-drought-after-water-cuts-1.5398787

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/things-palestinians-cant-do\_us\_586554d4e4b0eb58648895bc

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=781757

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/01/04/iof-demolish-10-water-wells-near-bethlehem/

https://mondoweiss.net/2017/01/israeli-palestinian-southern/

https://www.btselem.org/routine\_founded\_on\_violence/20181002\_soldiers\_raid\_homes\_in\_bethlehem\_with\_military\_dog

Fact #123 (1/8/19)

In 1967, Israel’s then prime minister Levi Eshkol, planning the removal of Palestinians from Gaza, said: “If we don’t give them enough water they won’t have a choice, because the orchards will yellow and wither.”

Today all water access in Gaza is controlled by Israel. Israel's destruction of wells and water infrastructure has forced 97% of Gaza's two million residents (991,400 are children) to live without clean drinking water. More than 96% of the water is unfit for drinking.

Meanwhile, Israel is referred to as a “global leader in innovative and breakthrough technologies to manage scarce water resources,” including desalinization and waste-water recycling. Israel holds the world record for reusing domestic wastewater, 86% of which is treated and recycled for irrigation. It has a water surplus with an abundance of water for agriculture.

Yet, Gaza’s water-treatment and desalination plants at best operate minimally. In 2018, electricity outages ranging from 18 to 20 hours a day caused more than 40% of agricultural land to suffer from irregular irrigation. The exorbitant prices for pumped water forced many farmers to abandon farming altogether.

Israel's destruction and disrepair of Gaza's sanitation system has caused contaminated water and lethal overflowing sewage. Its blockade of Gaza restricts more than 70% of the materials critically needed to repair Gaza’s sewage-treatment facilities, so waste flows through neighborhoods and into the sea, which is now 73% polluted.

Israel's further tightening of the blockade of Gaza has stopped

—a major desalination plant that would have provided water to 200,000 people

—two water tanks and a water-booster system that would have provided water to 190,000 people

—facilities that would treat wastewater for hundreds of thousands of households and reduce the contamination load discharged to the sea.

Israel’s imposed restrictions are also stopping water-related projects funded by international donors, amounting to tens of millions of US dollars.

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/zionisms-calm-destruction-palestine

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-study-water-desalination-advances-lends-to-dramatic-boost-for-farmers-1.5848554

http://nocamels.com/2017/05/desalination-israel-drought-water-shortage/

http://www.maannews.com

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/energy-crisis-takes-its-toll-palestinian-farmers-gaza

https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620527/mb-gaza-israel-blockade-civilians-270818-en.pdf

Fact #124 (1/22/19)

As a result of Israel's bombardment of Gaza's water infrastructure and refusal to allow the destruction to be repaired, Palestinians in Gaza suffer from both a shortage of potable water (97% of drinking water is contaminated) and a lack of wastewater sanitation.

Poor water quality, poor access, and contamination account for more than 26% of all reported disease in Gaza and is a leading cause of child mortality (more than 12% of child deaths).

If a family can afford to buy water from a tanker truck, that water also has a high risk of chemical and bacterial contamination.

Children risk even greater exposure to bacterial contamination through water in schools. In Gaza, children under age 15 constitute 42.7% of the population.

Gaza schools have one toilet per 75 pupils and one sink for washing hands per 130. Most of this water is either recycled or from a polluted reservoir.

The ratio of students to one cleaning staff member is 445:1. In urban schools, one cleaning staff member serves 553 students. 37% of refugee camp-based schools are surrounded by solid waste and stagnant water.

Hospitals in Gaza are only cleaned when necessary in order to conserve water for life-saving treatment. Staff can only wash their hands when it’s essential and not regularly when going from one patient to another. Hospitals have reduced cleaning and sterilizing of medical facilities.

The 1,000+ Palestinians shot by Israeli forces during the anti-occupation protests now have infections that could leave them permanently crippled.

https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium.MAGAZINE-polluted-water-a-leading-cause-of-gazan-child-mortality-says-rand-corp-study-1.6566812

The Public Health Impacts of Gaza's Water Crisis

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RR2515.html

https://www.presstv.com/detail/2018/11/29/581476/msf-gaza-palestine-israel-protestsDoctors

Fact #125 (2/5/19)

About 750,000 Israelis currently live in the ever-expanding illegal settlements in the West Bank, roughly 11% of the total Jewish Israeli population.

These illegal Israeli settlers use six times more water than do the 3.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

Palestinian communities in the West Bank not connected to a water grid must live on just 10–20 liters/person/day—for all uses. Those connected to a water grid might receive as much as 73 litres/person/day. (The World Health Organization’s minimum standard is 100/litres/person/day.)

Expensive, poor-quality tanker water often costs one-fifth of a family's income.

Illegal Israeli settlements scattered throughout the West Bank consume as much as 700 litres/person/day—for domestic use (even more for swimming pools, lawns, etc.).

Developing new water access or repairing infrastructure that Israel destroyed is nearly impossible for West Bank Palestinians. Israel regularly denies permits, demolishes buildings and wells. And even constructing a small new water pipeline is hampered by the large water pipelines servicing the illegal settlements.

In 2018, in one day, for example, Israel destroyed—to expand or build new illegal settlements—three water systems, six homes, eight livelihood structures, and four solar-power systems. Eleven of those structures had been funded by the EU.

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2017\_hrp\_draft5\_20\_12\_2017\_v2.pdf

Fact #126 (2/19/19)

Since the nonviolent Great Return March began on March 30, 2018, the Israeli military has killed 240 Palestinians—including 40 children, three paramedics, two journalists, and seven persons with disabilities—and injured 23,000 people using live ammunition and tear gas bombs. And the military sprays the protesters with sewage water. U.S. taxpayers supply Israel with $3.8 billion in weapons *every year*.

Israel’s assaults and bombardments of Gaza’s wells and water infrastructure have forced 97% of Gaza's two million residents (991,400 are children) to live without clean drinking water. More than 98% of the water is unfit for drinking.

The deterioration of the sanitation system, the prevalence of contaminated water and sewage, and the lack of clean drinking water has led to

• a 41.5% rate of diarrhea among young children

• undernutrition, which contributes to diseases and impedes growth (7.1% of children are being stunted in height)

• anemia in 59.7% of schoolchildren

Families in Gaza are forced to buy expensive drinking water, with little or no quality control, from private vendors. 53% of the population lives below the poverty line. Approximately 34% (656,000 people) lives on less than $3.60 per day.

Israel’s blockade of Gaza bans entry of more than 70% of the materials necessary for water and wastewater projects, calling them “dual-use items,” considered to have military and civilian applications. "Dual-use items" include cement, wood, solar panels, construction materials, water pumps, spare parts, generators, clothing, blankets, mattresses, mobile pumps to dewater flooded areas, water-testing and disinfection material, essential electromechanical equipment, epoxy paints for insulation.

Israel has also forbidden the entry of fuel and cooking gas, including emergency fuel supplied by the UN. Gaza’s severe and chronic lack of electricity makes fuel necessary to power generators in homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and water and sewage facilities. (As the result of Israel’s destruction of water treatment facilities and power facilities, the equivalent of 43 Olympic-size swimming pools of poorly treated sewage flows into the Mediterranean every day.)

www.democracynow.com

http://www.alhaq.org

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/04/gaza-protest-latest-updates-

https://mondoweiss.net/2018/10/refugee-palestinians-largest/

www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620527/mb-gaza-israel-blockade-civilians-270818-en.pdf

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=778835

Fact #127 (3/5/19)

Israel confiscates 82% of Palestinian groundwater in the West Bank for its own use, including its illegal settlements.

Last month, in two weeks, Israel’s military destroyed three water connections in the occupied West Bank that had supplied tens of thousands of Palestinians with drinking water. Two pipelines were funded by international donors as humanitarian assistance. One had been laid just two months earlier.

The water connections supplied running water to 18,000 people in two villages in Nablus, 1,200 people in 13 herding communities near Hebron, and 320 people in a Bedouin community in the Jerusalem area—all of which suffer from severe water shortages, especially in summer.

Through its water company, Mekorot, Israel develops infrastructure to supply water to its illegal settlements and outposts and their agricultural projects (dairy farms, greenhouses, and vineyards). Although pipes run very close to Palestinian villages, they are not allowed to be connected.

Recently, when one Palestinian village connected neighboring communities to its water pipe, Israel confiscated the pipe and cut off the water supply.

Palestinians in the area are forced to rely on rain water stored in cisterns or buy expensive tanker-delivered water. Israel regularly demolishes the water cisterns, claiming they were built without permits, even though they date back centuries. (Israel forbids Palestinians from digging wells.)

http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=2eCTFVa108617859372a2eCTFV

https://www.btselem.org/video/20190214\_civil\_administration\_cuts\_and\_confiscates\_water\_pipe\_servicing\_12\_communities\_in\_masafer\_yatta#full

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

Fact #128 (3/18/19)

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development called for an observance of the crucial role that water plays in our everyday lives. March 22 was declared World Water Day. This year’s theme is “Leaving No One Behind.”

Israel uses water as a weapon against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and in Gaza.

In the Gaza Strip, Israel forbids the reconstruction and repair of the Palestinian wells and water infrastructure that it demolished during its four devastating bombardments since 2008. 98% of the water is unfit for human use. 95% percent of the Gaza Strip’s two million residents are without clean drinking water.

Bad water is a leading cause of child mortality in the Gaza Strip, where children are facing a deadly health epidemic of unprecedented proportions.

Babies are suffering from dehydration, vomiting, life-threatening diarrhea, and fever. In recent months doctors report sharp rises in gastroenteritis, kidney disease, anemia, pediatric cancer, marasmus (a disease of severe malnutrition), and "blue baby syndrome." Medical journals document increased infant mortality and an "alarming magnitude" of stunting, which can affect brain development.

Diarrheal disease has doubled to epidemic levels and there are spikes in salmonella and typhoid fever caused by fecal contamination (110 million litres of raw and poorly treated sewage flows over land into the Mediterranean every day).

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/gaza-drinking-water-spurs-blue-baby-syndrome-illnesses-181029110434881.html

Fact #129 (4/2/19)

In 1967, when Israel completed its conquest of Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights, it monopolized access to water, and forbade Palestinians to drill new wells or repair existing ones.

Levi Eshkol, then Israel’s prime minister, proposed a plan to expel the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians newly under military occupation: “If we don’t give them enough water they won’t have a choice, because the orchards will yellow and wither.”

Palestinian agriculture declined. In 1994 it accounted for only 13% of the Palestinian GDP. Today it has been reduced to 3%.

In 1995, Israel took control over Area C, the 61% of West Bank land most suitable for agriculture. Israel and its illegal settlements took 80% of the water supply and allocated a mere 20% to Palestinians.

Half of the Palestinian wells have dried up. Now, only 6% of Palestinians' cultivated land in the West Bank is irrigated. (Israel forbids Palestinian herders and farmers to collect rainwater.)

“Agricultural terrorism” by Israel’s settlers and soldiers have uprooted 2.5 million fruit trees and 800,000 olive trees and have poisoned Palestinian farms with raw sewage.

Last month, Israelis from an illegal outpost in the West Bank dumped the carcasses of 10 sheep and lambs into a Palestinian farmer’s well. The farmer must now bring in a costly generator and pump to extract the contaminated water, and a water tank to rinse the well repeatedly until it’s cleansed and disinfected.

E. Hagopian, The Primacy of Water in the Zionist Project, *Arab Studies Qly*, Fall 2016

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/jimmy-johnson/video-forced-drought-hits-jordan-valley-farmers-israel-steals-their-water

https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/zionisms-calm-destruction-palestine

http://www.merip.org/mer/mer116/water-israels-occupation-strategy

https://mondoweiss.net/2019/03/farming-palestinian-outrage/

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-a-palestinian-farmer-finds-dead-lambs-in-his-well-he-knows-who-s-to-blame-1.7022413

Fact #130 (4/16/19)

As Israel’s brutal blockade on Gaza enters its twelfth year, and less than 16% of items needed to repair and construct vital water infrastructure are allowed entry, Gaza’s economy has all but collapsed.

Today in Gaza, 95% of the population does not have access to clean water. (In 2000, the public water network provided over 98% of Gazans with safe drinking water. By 2014, after Israel’s bombardments, that figure had plunged to 10.5%.)

Most people in Gaza—over 68% of whom are food insecure, and more than 55% of whom are unemployed— must rely on expensive low-quality trucked water. While the average cost of water in the West is 0.7% of monthly wages, a third of the monthly wages of Gazans goes towards buying water, for those who can afford it. Others must rely on tainted water from the public taps that operate at most a few times a week.

The Occupied Palestinian Territory has the world’s highest unemployment rate. In Gaza, specifically, over half the workforce is unemployed. 70% of youth, who make up almost 30% of the population, and 78% of women are without work.

Poverty in Gaza is pervasive; 53% of the population survives on less than $4.60/day. 60% subsist on less than $3.60/day.

Although Gaza has rich farmland and 40 km of coastline, the Israeli blockade has severely restricted the residents’ access to domestic food sources available through agriculture and fishing.

Israel’s strict limitations have severely hampered the livelihood of Gaza’s fishermen, 95% of whom already live below the poverty line. Israel routinely shoots at and arrests fishermen, confiscates their vessels, and, in the last two years, has killed two fishermen and injured dozens.

The agricultural potential of Gaza has been deeply undermined by the blockade. 35% of farmland falls within an Israeli-enforced “buffer zone.” Farmers wishing to use their arable land are in constant threat of being shot at by Israeli military. Israel has damaged Palestinian farmland in Gaza by aerially spraying the land with herbicides. In January 2018, 550 acres of agricultural lands belonging to 212 farmers were affected, with an estimated loss of $1.3 million.

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A\_HRC\_40\_73.pdf

Fact #131 (4/30/19)

Recently, in Hebron, in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military attacked Palestinian schoolchildren with tear-gas bombs and sound grenades.

Late last year, Israel cut off all water supplies to the only school in the Palestinian West Bank village of Faroush Beit Dajan.

In the last four months of 2018, 111 Israeli attacks on students and schools in the West Bank affected more than 19,000 children and involved live ammunition, tear gas, and stun grenades.

Israel denies Palestinians permits to build schools, then demolishes schools built without permits.

In Area C (60% of the West Bank where the Israeli military has exclusive control over building), over a third of Palestinian communities do not have primary schools. An estimated 10,000 children attend school in tents, shacks, or other structures without heating or air-conditioning.

About 1,700 children walk five or more kilometers to school due to road closures, or lack of passable roads or transportation.

2,500 Palestinian students must cross Israeli military checkpoints daily. Half have reported army harassment and violence. Jewish settlers set up their own checkpoints and throw stones at children or push them around.

In Gaza, children are exposed to bacterial contamination through water in schools, which have one toilet per 75 pupils and one sink for washing hands per 130 pupils. 37% of refugee camp-based schools are surrounded by solid waste and stagnant water.

Yet the literacy rate in Palestine (96.3%) is one of the highest in the Middle East, and the illiteracy rate (3.7%) is one of the lowest in the world.

The Gaza Strip has an even higher literacy rate than the West Bank.

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190415-israeli-soldier-attacks-palestinian-schoolchildren-in-hebron/

https://english.palinfo.com/news/2018/9/5/israeli-occupation-cuts-off-water-to-school-for-palestinian-children

https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/25/israel-army-demolishing-west-bank-schools

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=781571

The Public Health Impacts of Gaza's Water Crisis

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\_reports/RR2515.html

Fact #132 (5/14/19)

Only 50.9% of households in the West Bank have daily access to water. In Gaza, only 30% of households receive a daily water supply, which often stops altogether during wartime. This means that the Occupied Palestinian Territories has some of the lowest per capita water availability in the world.

Palestinians will suffer the effects of climate change more severely than Israelis. Israel is well positioned to deal with climate change: it is the 19th least vulnerable country and the 32nd most ready country.

Decreased rainfall is expected to be the most significant effect on Palestine/Israel over  this century, accompanied by a significant rise in average temperatures. The combination will result in a higher demand for water.

Although international law says that Israel, as the occupying power, must meet the needs of the occupied population (this includes the guardianship of natural resources and prohibits the appropriation of property and the destruction and removal of agricultural areas, drinking water installations, and irrigation works), Israel—as it controls over 80% of water in the West Bank—forbids Palestinians from accessing water from rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, and reservoirs, whose discharge is expected to decrease significantly over the coming years.

Israel even denies permits to Palestinians wanting to capture runoff water in dams.

https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/climate-change-the-occupation-and-a-vulnerable-palestine/

Fact #133 (5/28/19)

**In the first three months of 2019,** Israel demolished 136 Palestinian structures in the West Bank—48 in East Jerusalem and 88 in Area C—a higher rate of demolitions than in the last two years.

7% of the demolished structures were water, sanitation, and hygiene related. 42% were residential. 38% were livelihood related.

In addition to the 218 people displaced (including 97 children), 25,000 people were impacted by the destruction of their water connections and wells.

• All 18,000 residents of Beit Furik and Beit Dajan were affected when Israel destroyed a 750 metre-long water pipeline that supplied water to the villages.

• 1,300 people in 12 other communities were affected when Israel damaged and confiscated two donor-funded water pipes.

• 320 people in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Wadi abu Hindi suffered the total destruction of their water pipes.

• Between July 2018 and March 2019, Israel shut down 12 water openings in Bardala, gravely affecting the farmers’ livelihoods. Then in March 2019, Israel closed a water opening that irrigated 1,150 dunums, affecting 47 farmers.

270,000 Palestinians in Area C are directly affected by Israel’s control of water- and sanitation-related infrastructure and networks. 95,000 people receive less than 50 litres/person/day (WHO recommends 100 litres/day). Over 83,000 people receive bad quality drinking water or must purchase expensive and unregulated water.

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/demolitions-west-bank-undermine-access-water

Fact #134 (6/11/19)

The 18,000 residents of Beit Dajan and Beit Furik, West Bank, have one source of water, a shared well. In recent years, the capacity of pumping water from the well dropped by more than half. People must rely on high-priced tankered water—in summer, they wait for more than a month.

Although NGOs implemented a water network, after three months Israel destroyed the pipes.

The communities’ main source of income is livestock (over 25,000 sheep and goats), which consume about 75% of the water.

Palestinians in the northern Jordan Valley once cultivated about 15,000 dunums of land. Now the area has shrunk 50%—from water scarcity, limited access to water, and the increasing allocation of water in larger quantities to illegal Israeli settlers.

Illegal Israeli settlers, who use 8 times more water per person than do Palestinians, farm over 100,000 dunums of West Bank land. This serves Israel as a cheap and easy method for expanding and cementing its control in the West Bank.

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/demolitions-west-bank-undermine-access-water

https://conquer-and-divide.btselem.org/map-en.html

Fact #135 (6/25/19)

Gaza’s fishing industry has collapsed.

Israel restricts the zone within which Gazans are permitted to fish. In the past three months, it expanded and contracted the limits at least 10 times, including declaring the sea completely off-limits.

Recently, Israel’s navy fired 15 bullets at one fisherman off Gaza's coast, shattering his eyes and leaving him blind.

Two years ago, the Israeli navy shot the same man at sea, wounding his leg, then arrested him, impounded his boat, and imprisoned him for 14 months accusing him of fishing outside the mile limit (which he denied). The other fisherman on the boat was shot and blinded in one eye, and arrested as well.

In the first five months of 2019, Israel impounded 4 fishing boats, wounded 8 fishermen, and arrested 21 other fishermen and abducted them to Israel.

In 2000, Gaza had 10,000 fishermen. Today only one-third of them are still working as such.

95% of fishermen live below the poverty line—on less than $4.60 a day for food, housing, clothing, health care, and education.

Israel’s blockade of Gaza prevents fishermen from repairing their boats.

The blockade also vastly contributes to the sewage-contamination of the Gaza sea’s limited fishing areas. Israel’s bombardments destroyed sewage treatment facilities and now Israel restricts more than 70% of the materials critically needed for repairs. Every day, 28,530,581 gallons of raw sewage are discharged into the Gaza sea, which is 73% polluted.

Israeli soldiers have forced fishermen at gunpoint to take off their clothes and swim to the navy vessels. A number of times, soldiers fired at the fishermen, then propelled wastewater at the boats.

https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-idf-gunfire-left-this-gaza-fisherman-blind-israel-won-t-let-him-get-treatment-1.7367129

http://waterjusticeinpalestine.org/weeklyfacts

Fact #136 (7/9/19)

On June 11, the Israeli military arrived in the Um Kbeish area in the West Bank. It declared the area a closed military zone and razed and destroyed two wells for collecting water, a fence surrounding the land, and about 240 olive trees.

One of the wells had belonged to the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and was used to irrigate the olive trees. The other well belonged to a Palestinian resident and his siblings, who together own the nine dunums of land where the demolition took place. The family has documents proving ownership of the land and has planted olive trees since 2012, enduring financial hardships in maintaining its continued irrigation. In 2012, after they bought costly plastic water tanks to fill with tankered water, Israel issued a “removal notification” for the tanks.

In 2014, after the family constructed a water well, funded by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Israel issued another “removal notification” under the pretext that the land constituted “State land.” The family filed a complaint and had a court hearing set for June 24. Ignoring this, Israel’s demolition took place on June 11.

Throughout the years, six Israeli settlements and outposts and an Israeli military camp have been built on land belonging to the West Bank village Sinjel, whose residents have documents proving their ownership. Also on June 11, the Israeli water company, Mekorot, razed the land to build a pipeline for the company. The pipeline would run from the Israeli military camp to a settlement, through an agricultural road, and 60 dunums of private land used to cultivate olives, almonds, and wheat.

The denial of access of Palestinian residents to their agricultural land leaves the lands uncultivated and therefore subject to confiscation by the Israeli authorities.

Since the election of Donald Trump, and his support of the illegal settlements, Israel has increased spending on roads, schools, and public buildings for its illegal settlements by 39%—to $459.8 million.

The strongest growth was in school construction (for illegal settler children), which jumped 68%, and road construction (not for Palestinians), which rose 54%.

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid. For 2019, the President’s request for Israel would encompass approximately 61% of the total requested U.S. military funding worldwide. Annual grants to Israel represent approximately 19% of the overall Israeli defense budget. Israel’s defense expenditure as a percentage of its Gross Domestic Product is one of the highest in the world.

http://www.alhaq.org/documentation/weekly-focuses/1426--qq-

https://www.apnews.com/bcaac495333d4e5394b3518a9dc8cd42

Fact #137 (7/23/19)

In addition to the more publicized lack of water and uncontrolled sewage and rubbish caused by Israel’s bombardments of Gaza’s water infrastructure and its refusal to allow repairs, Gaza is suffering from other environmental disasters linked to the Israeli occupation and aggression against Palestinians.

The Israeli army regularly sprays herbicide on Palestinian arable land, damaging Palestinian crops and contaminating the soil and water. The chemical it uses most often is glyphosate, which has been proven to cause cancer.

Israel’s repeated bombardments of the Strip have contributed to pollution. Its use of depleted uranium and white phosphorus cause immediate harm to civilian populations AND remain a health risk long after the bombardment has stopped.

Israel’s weapons have contaminated the environment in Gaza with heavy metals such as tungsten, mercury, cobalt, barium, and cadmium, which are known to cause cancer, birth defects, infertility, etc.

In the West Bank, Israel is polluting Palestinian land by using it as a dumping ground for 80% of the rubbish generated by Israeli settlements. Israeli industries and the Israeli army are also known to discard toxic waste on Palestinian land.

Over the past few years, Israel has systematically moved polluting factories to the West Bank by designating so-called “industrial zones” that are permitted to release their toxic byproducts into the environment without regard to the wellbeing of Palestinians living nearby.

http://www.palestinechronicle.com/israels-environmental-crisis-is-of-its-own-making/

Fact #138 (8/6/19)

97% of Gaza’s 2 million residents (including 991,400 children)—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water.

Israel confiscates 82% of Palestinian groundwater in the West Bank for its own use, including its illegal settlements. The illegal Israeli settlers use six times more water than do the 3.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

In Area C in the West Bank, 270,000 Palestinians are directly affected by Israel’s control of water- and sanitation-related infrastructure and networks. 95,000 people receive less than 50 litres/day (WHO recommends 100 litres/day). Over 83,000 people receive bad quality drinking water or must purchase expensive and unregulated water.

In addition to using water as a weapon against Palestinians, in the first half of 2019—

The Israeli military in the Gaza Strip killed 54 Palestinians (including 12 children), injured 3,723 Palestinians (including 1,226 children), and arrested 88 Palestinians (including 22 children).

The Israeli military killed four children in the occupied West Bank.

Israel arrested 908 Palestinian minors.

The Israeli navy committed 207 violations against Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast (including detaining 28 fishermen and wounding 15), confiscated 11 fishing boats, and damaged nine boats.

Israel carried out 27 invasions in the Gaza Strip and razed tens of dunams of farmlands.

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/demolitions-west-bank-undermine-access-water

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2017\_hrp\_draft5\_20\_12\_2017\_v2.pdf

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190731-israel-killed-54-palestinians-in-gaza-during-first-half-of-2019/

Fact #139 (8/20/19)

An estimated 80,000 Bedouin Palestinians who carry Israeli citizenship live in villages that Israel refuses to recognize, which enables Israel to deny them access to water, basic state services, and infrastructure.

When Israel decides to use land around a Bedouin community for its military exercises, residents are forced to leave and sleep outside for days. They return to demolished dwellings and animal shelters, trampled crops and pastures, and churned-up earth where tanks passed through.

The first demolition of the Bedouin village al-Araqib, in the Negev region of southern Israel, was in June 2010. By June 2017, Israel had demolished al-Araqib 114 times (six times in 2017 alone).

This month, August 2019, Israel demolished al-Araqib for the 149th time.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/israel-razes-palestinian-bedouin-village-113th-time-170517075143632.html

https://electronicintifada.net/content/between-israels-bullets-and-bulldozers/24996

http://english.wafa.ps/page.aspx?id=c44yqua111168557412ac44yqu

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777646