



Israel uses Water as a Weapon against Palestinians

Fishing in the Gaza Strip

- Israel's bombardments of the Gaza Strip destroyed the water infrastructure, including sewage treatment facilities.
- Israel's blockade restricts critically needed materials and machinery. As a result, every day, 28,530,581 gallons of raw sewage are discharged into the Gaza sea, which is now 73% polluted.
- Israel severely limits the area and distance from shore that Palestinians are allowed to fish in the sea.
- The Israeli navy regularly shoots at, arrests, and detains Palestinian fishermen off the Gaza coast and destroys and confiscates their vessels.
- In 2019, 85% of fishermen suffered these violations.
- In 2019, Israel opened fire 347 times and arrested and detained 35 fishermen, including three children.
- In 2019, Israel wounded 21 fishermen, confiscated 15 boats, destroyed 12 boats, and damaged 11 boats.
- Israel's blockade and restrictions on the entrance of certain types of equipment, spare parts and boat engines prevent maintenance and repairs to fishing boats.
- Since 2000, the number of registered fishermen in Gaza has dropped from 10,000 to 2,000 actively fishing.
- The once prosperous fishing community is now one of the poorest in Gaza.
- 95% of Gaza fishermen (and their 50,000 dependents) live below the poverty line—on less than \$4.60 a day for food, housing, clothing, health care, and education.

See the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine, waterjusticeinpalestine.org, for citations.