

Has Israel Committed Genocide?

“Genocide” is the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a national, ethnic, racial or religious group in order to destroy that particular group. The term was coined by Raphael Lemkin during World War II to describe the Nazis’ plan to systematically murder all European Jews, which they called the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question.” Not all large casualty attacks constitute genocide. It is the intent of the killing -- i.e. to bring about the physical destruction of a particular ethnic group -- that determines the occurrence of a “genocide.”

Israel Has Not Committed Genocide

Antisemites and Israel-haters have been promoting the claim that Israel is committing a genocide against the Palestinian people.

But this is unequivocally false.

- The Israeli authorities have made it explicitly clear that its military actions in Gaza are intended to defeat terrorists, **not to attack Palestinian civilians.**
- According to John Spencer, Chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute (MWI) at West Point, “Israel has taken more measures to avoid needless civilian harm than virtually any other nation that’s fought an urban war.”
- Israel has provided humanitarian corridors enabling Palestinian civilians to leave areas of military activity and has facilitated humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.
- Notwithstanding false claims to the contrary, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) did not suggest that Israel’s military activities during the Gaza war constitute genocide. The ICJ ruled solely on the plausibility of “the rights claimed by South Africa” to seek protection for the Palestinians, as the former presiding judge of the ICJ, Joan Donoghue, has made clear.
- The accusation that Israel has been perpetrating a genocide on the Palestinians over the past 75 years is similarly false, belied by demographic data indicating the significant growth of the Palestinian population:
 - According to the Palestinian Central Bureau, the Palestinian population grew eightfold since the establishment of the modern state of Israel.
 - According to the U.S. Census Bureau International Database, the Gaza Strip’s population has grown 600 percent since 1960.

Genocide Inversion

- The U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, historian Deborah Lipstadt, describes a type of Holocaust distortion that turns “the victims of genocide into perpetrators” and calls this “genocide inversion.”
- “Genocide inversion” is a form of antisemitism, according to the widely-adopted IHRA definition of “antisemitism.”

Palestinian Genocidal Goals

- While anti-Israel activists falsely accuse the world’s only Jewish state of committing genocide, it was the Palestinian leader, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who partnered with the Nazis, serving as one of their wartime propagandists and agitating against the Jews in exchange for “a free hand to eradicate every last Jew from Palestine and the Arab world.”
- Hamas openly expresses its genocidal goal of eliminating the Jews in its governing charter, quoting a Muslim hadith that calls for hunting down and killing the Jews in order to achieve salvation.
- Palestinian leaders and clerics have publicly predicted the “cleansing of Palestine of the filth of the Jews,” prayed for the destruction of Jews and their supporters, and called on Palestinians around the world to “attack every Jew on planet Earth and slaughter and kill them.”
- These openly and oft-repeated genocidal goals culminated in the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust on October 7, 2023, with a Hamas official vowing to repeat such massacres “time and again until Israel is annihilated.”