

# ***UNDERSTANDING LIFE IN THE GAZA STRIP***



**Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people did not start in October 2023.** The Gaza Strip has been subjected to brutal violence for decades, which is part of Israel's ongoing system of apartheid against all Palestinians. **The British government is complicit with these crimes**, including by approving the export of millions of pounds worth of weapons to Israel.

Since 2007, **Israel has imposed a debilitating siege by land, air, and sea on the Gaza Strip.** This has turned the once flourishing hub of Palestinian culture and industry into the world's largest open air prison. **Palestinians are calling for this to end.**

The siege prevents free movement of goods and people, including essentials like medicines and building materials. **It has triggered major socioeconomic and health crises**, exacerbated by periodic military assaults that have devastated Gaza's already fragile infrastructure.

In 2012 the UN warned that Gaza would become uninhabitable by 2020 unless the illegal siege was lifted. Instead, life has got worse for Palestinians in Gaza. **This is the root cause of the problems manifesting today...** and why the UK must urgently call for an end to the siege.

**Palestinians in Gaza demand freedom.  
The siege must be lifted, now.**