



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 16 July 2014

The daily report highlights the violations behind Israeli home demolitions and demolition threats in the occupied Palestinian territory, the confiscation and razing of lands, the uprooting and destruction of fruit trees, the expansion of settlements and erection of outposts, the brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army, the Israeli settlers violence against Palestinian civilians and properties, the erection of checkpoints, the construction of the Israeli segregation wall and the issuance of military orders for the various Israeli purposes.

The Violations are based on reports provided by field workers and/or news sources.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for clarity.

The daily report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.

Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the main entrance of Beit Ummer town, north of Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades. The IOA closed the main entrance of the town. (Safa 16 July 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) closed Halhul Bridge, north of Hebron city after clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA in the area. (Safa 16 July 2014)

- Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at Ash-Shalal Street in Hebron city. The IOA fired rubber bullets, teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians.
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) stormed and searched several Palestinian houses in Budrus village, northwest of Ramallah city. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas grenades at Palestinians and houses. During the operation, the IOA arrested Abdalla Mohammd Odeh (18 years) and assaulted his brothers and father. (Safa 16 July 2014)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Silwad town, north of Ramallah city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians. (Safa 16 July 2014)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) at the northern entrance of Turmus'ayya village, north of Ramallah city. (Safa 16 July 2014)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) prevented Palestinians from entering Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem city and at the same time, the IOA allowed a group of Israeli settlers to storm and tour in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa mosque. (Al-Quds 16 July 2014)
 - Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) attacked a non-violent protest in Al-Eiziriya town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at participants, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (RB2000 16 July 2014)
 - Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) in Abu Dis town, east of Jerusalem city. The IOA fired teargas grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (RB2000 16 July 2014)
- **Palestinian Center for Human Rights in Gaza Strip (PCHR) published, the report about the situation in Gaza strip on the 15th of July 2014. Ongoing Israeli Offensive on Gaza: 181 Palestinians Killed, of Whom 147 Are Civilians, Including 36 Children and 29 Women, and 1,181 Others Wounded, Mostly Civilians, Including 368 Children and 253 Women; 246 Houses Targeted and Destroyed and Hundreds of Others Extensively Damaged; Thousands of Palestinian Civilians Forcibly Displaced.** Israeli occupation forces have continued their brutal and immoral offensive on the Gaza Strip for the 8th consecutive day, and have continued the policy of collective punishment in disregard for the international law and humanitarian law, which ensure protection for civilians in times of war, and in violation of the principles of necessity, proportionality and distinction. Israeli forces have continued their aerial, ground and sea attacks

throughout the Gaza Strip, causing more civilian casualties and damaging civilian facilities, including houses and mosques. From 10:00 on Monday, 14 July 2014 to 10:00 on Tuesday, 15 July 2014, 18 Palestinians, 10 of whom are civilians including 2 children and a woman, were killed. Additionally, 164 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were wounded – this number includes 36 children and 41 women. Israeli warplanes also targeted and destroyed 37 houses. The latest developments since the press release issued by PCHR yesterday noon have been as follows: **The Northern Gaza Strip:** Israeli warplanes launched 59 airstrikes and Israeli tanks and gunboats fired dozens of shells targeting houses, agricultural plots and open areas. As a result of these attacks, 76 Palestinians, including 21 children and 26 women, were wounded. Eight houses were targeted, and 7 of them were destroyed. Additionally, 3 flats were destroyed and fire broke out in warehouses of Palestine Red Crescent Society. The most significant attacks were as follows: an Israeli drone a missile at a house belonging to Hamed Ramadan in Jabalya. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. An Israeli warplane fired at an empty flat in al-Nada apartment buildings in the west of Beit Hanoun. The flat was destroyed. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to the Suleiman family in Jabalya. The house was damaged. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Na'el Mannoun in Jabalya. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. An Israeli done fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Mohammed Mousa Abu Jarad in 'Izbat Beit Hanoun. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at an agricultural plot near the building of Palestine Red Crescent Society in Jabalya. As a result, fire broke out in a warehouse of the society. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Khaled Ibrahim Abu Darabi in Beit Lahia. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Sameer al-'Attar in Beit Lahia. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. an Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Bassel Mohammed al-Barrawi in Beit Lahia. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at the 5th floor of a building in Sheikh Zayed housing project. Two flats on the follow belonging to Miravt Halawa and Ismail Shbaki were destroyed. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to the 'Abdul Nabi family in Beit Lahia. Later, an Israeli warplane bombarded and destroyed it. **Gaza City:** Israeli warplanes launched 15 airstrikes targeting houses, agricultural lands and open areas. As a result of these attacks, 19 Palestinian civilians, including 2

children, were wounded. Additionally, 11 houses were destroyed. The most significant attacks were as follows: Israeli warplanes launched 5 missiles at 3-storey house belonging to 'Abdul Rahman 'Aayed Hlaiwa, 60, in which 21 people live, in al-Sha'af neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The house was completely destroyed. Four of the missiles were fired by Israeli drones, while the 5th one was launched by a fighter jet. An Israeli drone fired 2 missiles at an empty house belonging to Mohammed 'Abdul 'Azim Jouda on an agricultural plot in the third street in Sheikh Radwan neighborhood. An Israeli warplane then launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at a 30-square-meter store belonging to 'Alaa' aal-Hadidi near the western mosque in al-Shati refugee camp in the west of Gaza City. The store was destroyed. Israeli tanks positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel fired a number of shells at Palestinian areas in the east of Gaza City. A shell hit a 2-storey house belonging to 'Abdul Karim Hassan Swaidan, in which 41 people live, in al-Sha'af neighborhood in the east of Gaza City, Israeli warplanes launched 5 missiles at a 2-storey house belonging to Mo'in Rajab, a professor at al-Azhar University, opposite to Barcelona Park in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood in the south of Gaza City. The house was completely destroyed. Four of the missiles were fired by an Israeli drone, while the 5th one was launched by a fighter jet. Israeli drones fired 3 missiles at a 4-storey house belonging to the heirs of Mohammed Khalil al-Batash, in which 55 people live, in al-Sha'af neighborhood in the east of Gaza City. The house was extensively damaged. Israeli drones launched 3 missiles at a 4-storey house belonging to Yassin Nemer al-Madhoun, in which 35 people live, in al-Manara neighborhood in al-Nafaq Street. The house was extensively damaged. An Israeli drone fired 2 missiles at a house belonging to Tariq Shafeeq Ghurab in al-Blakhiya area in al-Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at a house belonging to Zakria Ahmed Badran, in which 8 people live, in al-Zaytoun neighborhood in the southeast of Gaza City. The house and a nearby grocery shop belonging to Badran's father were destroyed. An Israeli drone fired a missile at an uninhabited flat in an apartment tower in Tal al-Hawa neighborhood. The flat was destroyed. **The Central Gaza Strip:** Israeli warplanes launched 13 airstrikes targeting houses, agricultural lands and open areas. As a result of these attacks, a Palestinian was killed, and 30 Palestinians, including 5 children and 14 women, were wounded. Six houses were also destroyed. The most significant attacks were as follows: an Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Haman Khalil

'Asfa, in which 16 people live, in Deir al-Balah. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched missiles at the house and destroyed it partially. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 3-storey house belonging to Mahmoud Mohammed Nejem, in which 48 people live, in al-Nussairat refugee camp. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it partially. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Sarah Rashid Abu 'Aayesh, in which 15 people live, in al-Nussairat refugee camp. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it partially. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to Yousef 'Abdul Rahim Abu 'Eissa, in which 8 people live, in Deir al-Balah. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it completely. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a Palestinian in the north of al-Nussairat refugee camp, killing him. He was identified as Mohammed Yasser 'Ali Hamdan, 24. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Marwan Hassan al-Jamal, in which 18 people live, in al-Nussairat refugee camp. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a 5-storey house belonging to 'Abdul Karim 'Ali 'Abdul Hadi, in which 50 people live, in al-Boreij refugee camp. A few minutes later, Israeli warplanes launched 2 missiles at the house and destroyed it. **Khan Yunis:** Israeli warplanes launched 33 airstrikes targeting houses, agricultural plots, open areas, security sites and a mosque in the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. Israeli tanks and gunboats also fired dozens of shells at agricultural and open areas. As a result, 11 Palestinians were killed, including 5 civilians, one of whom is a child. Additionally, 6 Palestinians, including 3 children, were wounded. Israeli warplanes also destroyed 2 houses and 2 security sites and damaged a mosque. The most significant attacks were as follows: an Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Daqqa, in which 11 people live, in Bani Suhaila village, east of Khan Yunis. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and rendered it inhabitable. Before the attack, Israeli forces had phoned the family to evacuate the house. Israeli warplanes launched 3 strikes at open areas in the east of Khan Yunis, in the vicinity of Khalil al-Rahman Mosque in the center of the town and in al-Qarara village, north of the town. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a motorbike in al-Qarara village, north of Khan Yunis. As a result, a Palestinian, 'Abdullah Mahmoud Baraka, 24, from 'Abassan village, who was riding the motorbike was seriously wounded. He was pronounced dead at 14:35. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at a room on an agricultural plot in 'Abssan village, east of Khan Yunis. The

room was destroyed and a Palestinian, Tamer Salem Musallam Qudaih, 37, was killed. An Israeli drone launched a missile at al-Rida Mosque in al-Fukhari area in the southeast of Khan Yunis. The mosque was damaged. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a motorbike in Bani Suhila village. The rider was wounded and his lower limbs were cut off. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a motorbike in Kuza'a village, east of Khan Yunis. As a result, Ziad Maher Mohammed al-Najjar, 17, who was riding it, was killed. A passing child was also wounded. Israeli warplanes launched 3 airstrikes on open areas in Khan Yunis. No casualties were reported. Israeli warplanes launched 3 missiles at the headquarters of the Internal Security Service in the west of Khan Yunis. The building was destroyed, but no casualties were reported. Israeli warplanes launched 2 missiles at a training site of the Palestinian police in the west of Khan Yunis. The site was damaged, but no casualties were reported. An Israeli drone fired 2 missiles at a number of Palestinians in al-Satar al-Gharbi area. As a result, 2 Palestinians were killed: Mohammed Younis Suleiman Abu Yousef, 30, 30; and Mohammed Shakib al-Agha, 23. Two civilians were wounded, one of them, Ahmed Younis Suleiman Abu Yousef, 28, died a few hours later. Israeli tanks positioned at the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel fired a number of shells at Palestinian agricultural lands and communities in the east of Khan Yunis. As a result, a house belonging to Hassan Muhanna in al-Qarara village was damaged. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a group of Palestinians in al-Mawasi area in the west of Khan Yunis. As a result, 2 members were killed: Kamal 'Aatef Yousef Abu Taha, 19; and Ismail Nabil Ahmed Abu Hatab, 21. A third member was also wounded. an Israeli drone fired a missile at a 2-storey house belonging to Majdi Fayez Abu Jame', in which 8 people live, in Bani Suhaila village, east of Khan Yunis. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. Two nearby houses were also damaged. Before the attack, Israeli forces had phoned the family to evacuate the house. Israeli warplanes launched 4 airstrikes at various areas in Khan Yunis. No casualties were reported. Israeli warplanes launched 2 missiles at agricultural plots in Bani Suhaila village, east of Khan Yunis. An Israeli drone fired a missile at 'Ata Hajj 'Amira al-'Omour, 58, in al-Fukhari area in the southeast of Khan Yunis. He was seriously wounded, and he died upon his evacuating to the hospital. Israeli warplanes launched 3 airstrikes on lands in al-Satar al-Gharbi and Ma'an areas. No casualties were reported. An Israeli warplane launched a missile at the lands where the evacuated Israeli settlements used to stand in the southwest of Khan Yunis. As a result, 2 Palestinian civilian guards were killed: Ismail Saleem 'Abdul Karim al-Najjar, 47; and Mohammed Ahmed

Ibrahim al-Najjar, 49. **Rafah:** Israeli warplanes launched 27 airstrikes targeting houses, civil society organizations, agricultural lands and security sites in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah. Israeli forces also fired dozens of shells from the ground and the sea at various areas in Rafah. As a result, 4 Palestinians were killed, and 2 others died of previous wounds. Five of the victims are civilians, including a child and a woman. Additionally, 33 Palestinians, including 5 children and a woman, were wounded. Including 2 civilians were killed, and 16 others, including 2 children and 3 women, were wounded. Seven houses, a flat and a number of civilian facilities were destroyed. The most significant attacks were as follows: an Israeli drone fired 2 missiles at a house belonging to Qaddafi 'Atiya al-Qutati, a leader of Islamic Jihad, in Bader camp in the west of Rafah. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. Israeli warplanes launched 4 missiles at the roof and the upper floor of an apartment building belonging to Nash'at Mohammed Qeshta in al-Brazil neighborhood in the south of Rafah. A few minutes later, an Israeli drone launched a 5th missile at a flat on the first floor rented by 'Abdul Hai Jum'a al-Bahnasawi. The flat was partially destroyed. The families living in the building had evacuated their flats once the first 4 missiles were fired at the building. Israeli drones fired 3 missiles at a 2-storey house belonging to 'Abdul Fattah 'Ali al-Hamas, in which 30 people live, in Yebna refugee camp in the south of Rafah. A few minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. Six Palestinian civilians, including a journalist, were wounded. Medical sources declared that Zaid Suleiman Mahmoud al-Shawi, 42, died of wounds he had sustained on Saturday evening, 12 July 2014, when Israeli warplanes bombarded a vehicle of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility. an Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to 'Omar Ahmed Sheikh al-'Eid, 27, in Musabbah neighborhood in the north of Rafah. The house was partially destroyed, and Sheikh al-'Eid, his child, 4-year-old Sarah, and his brother Jihad, 36, were killed. His brother, Mahmoud, was wounded. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to 'Emad Ahmed Shaqfa, in al-Shouka village, southeast of Rafah. Ten minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. A number of nearby houses were damaged. Israeli warplanes launched 7 missiles at the new buildings of Rafah Governorate and central prison in the southwest of Rafah. The building was extensively damaged and 7 Palestinian civilians were wounded. Israeli warplanes launched 3 missiles at the building of the Zakat Charity in al-Shaboura refugee camp in Rafah. The building was partially destroyed, but no casualties were reported. An Israeli drone fired 2 missiles at a house belonging to

Mohammed Jum'a Zo'rob in al-Nasser village, north of Rafah. As a result, Bushra Khalil Zo'rob, 63, was killed, and Ahmed Jum'a Zo'rob, 25, was wounded. The house was partially destroyed. An Israeli drone fired a missile at a house belonging to Adam Mohammed Abu Hadayed, , in which 14 people live, in al-Shaboura refugee camp. Five minutes later, an Israeli warplane launched a missile at the house and destroyed it. A number of nearby houses were damaged. Israeli warplanes launched 2 missiles at the building of al-Karama Culture and Arts Association in al-Tannour neighborhood in the east of Rafah. The building was partially destroyed, but no casualties were reported. In the morning, medical sources declared that Suleiman Salama Mohammed Abu Louli, 27, died of wounds he had sustained by an Israeli airstrike a few days ago. ([PCHR Gaza](#) 16 July 2014)

During the 16th of July 2014:

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) warned Al-Wafa' medicinal Hospital, east of Gaza city, to evacuate it under the claim that the Israeli warplanes will attack it with several missiles. (RB2000 16 July 2014)
- **14 Palestinians Killed In Gaza. Palestinian medical sources reported, on Wednesday, that seven Palestinians have been killed, and several others have been injured, in Israeli airstrikes targeting different parts of the Gaza Strip. The sources said resident Farid Mahmoud Abu Doqqa, 33 and Abdalla Al-'Arjani, were killed and four other were injured after the Israeli warplanes launched missiles at houses in Khan Younis city, south of Gaza Strip. The Ministry of Health in Gaza has reported that another Palestinian, identified as Mohammad Taiseer Abu Sharab, 23, was also killed in another airstrike in Khan Younis, while a number of residents were injured. Four** Palestinians were killed after an Israeli airstrike targeting a Palestinian vehicle in Khan Younis city, south of Gaza strip. The Ministry added that resident Mohammad Sabri Debari, 20, was killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting Rafah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip; several Palestinians have been injured. Another Palestinian, identified as Ashraf Khalil Abu Shanab, 33, was killed in another Israeli airstrike targeting an area in Rafah. A Palestinian child, Luma As-Sarti (5 months) was killed after an Israeli airstrike hit her family house in Rafah city. The Ministry of Health in Gaza also reported that resident Ahmad Adel Nawajha, 23, died of wounds suffered Tuesday when the Israeli warplanes fired a missile into a car east of Rafah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. In addition, Israeli missiles killed Mohammad Abdullah Zahouq, 23, Mohammad Ismael Abu Odah, 27, have been killed by an Israeli missile targeting the Abu Odah family home, west

of Rafah. Several residents, including children, have been mildly wounded when the army fired a missile into the Daoud residential tower, west of Gaza City. On Wednesday at dawn, the army bombarded a home belonging to the Abu Odeh family, west of Rafah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. The Ministry of Health said several children have been moved to the Shifa Medical Center, in Gaza, after the army fired a missile into Daoud Tower, in Gaza. The Israeli army and air force also destroyed at least 30 Palestinian homes, since midnight, while dozens of homes have been partially damaged. It also targeted the Ministry of Internal Security, at dawn. Also on Wednesday, at dawn, the army carried out several air strikes targeting the homes of political leaders of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, and fired a missile into the home of former Interior Ministry, Fathi Hammad, in northern Gaza, and the home of legislator Ismael al-Ashqar, north of Gaza. The Ministry of Health said 205 Palestinians have been killed, and at least 1,530 Palestinians, including hundreds of women and children, have been injured in the ongoing Israeli strikes since the war the Israeli aggression on Gaza started on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. ([IMEMC](#) & Wafa & Wattan 16 July 2014)

- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched missiles at a Palestinian house owned by Mahmoud Az-Zahar, in Tal Al-Hawa neighborhood, west of Gaza city. The house was completely destroyed and a number of surrounded houses were damaged. (Al-Quds 16 July 2014)
- IOA Warns Northern Gaza Residents to Evacuate Their Homes. IOA tells residents of two northern Gaza neighborhoods that an airstrike against terrorists is impending. The IOA has warned residents of northern Gaza to evacuate their homes, *Al Arabiya* reported on Tuesday night. According to the report, the warning was given to residents of the Sajaiya and Zeitoun neighborhoods. The IOA traditionally warns innocent civilians ahead of an airstrike so that they are unharmed. Earlier this week, the IOA dropped leaflets above northern Gaza and sent cell-phone messages to locals. The messages warned civilians to move away from Hamas terrorists and command centers, which pose a grave risk to their safety. Hamas urged Palestinian Arabs to ignore these warnings. (Al-Quds 16 July 2014)
- Tareq Hamdiya, a Palestinian journalist, was injured after the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) launched missiles at a Palestinian building, south of Gaza city. (Al-Quds 16 July 2014)
- Israeli Occupation warplanes launched missiles at an area in Beit Lahiya town, north of Gaza strip. A Palestinian child was injured. (Wafa 16 July 2014)
- Three Palestinians were injured after Israeli airstrikes targeting Ash-Shuja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza city. (Wafa 16 July 2014)

Israeli Arrests

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested three Palestinians from Ar-Ram town, north of Jerusalem city. During the operation, the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades at Palestinians and houses. (ARN 16 July 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested 13 Palestinians after storming their houses in Bani Na'im town, east of Hebron city. The arrestees were identified as: Ibrahim Hatim Barakat, Qusai Abu Al-Khair, Issa Tarirah, Suliman Shehda Tarirah, Jad Fawaz Tafiha, Ma'mun Diyab Al-Hajouj, Ibrahim Hatim Manasrah, Qusai Manasrah, Yousef Tarirah, Mohammd Raid Manasrah, Othamn Balut, Ali Balut and Mohammad Samir Manasrah. (Safa 16 July 2014)
- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) arrested Khalil Rab'I after storming and searching his house in Yatta town, south of Hebron city. The IOA transferred the arrestee to unknown location. (Maannews 16 July 2014)

Israeli Military Orders

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) handed out military orders to demolish three Palestinian houses in Hebron city. The targeted houses are owned by: Amer Omar Abu 'Ayesh, Ahmed Ali Al-Qawasmi and Marwan Sa'di Al-Qawasmi. (Maannews 16 July 2014)

Other

- Gaza facing water crisis in face of Israeli bombings. UN aid agencies cite safety concerns as cause for lack of water treatment leading to sewage on the beach and 90% undrinkable water. Hundreds of thousands of Gazans are without water after Israeli air strikes have wrecked the water and sewage system and threatened the entire strip with a water crisis within days, aid agencies warned on Tuesday. The eight-day assault has caused massive damage to infrastructure and destroyed at least 560 homes, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) said. "Within days, the entire population of the Strip may be desperately short of water," Jacques de Maio, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Israel and the occupied territories, said in a statement. If hostilities continue, just as temperatures soar in the region, "the question is not if but when an already beleaguered population will face an acute water crisis", he said. "Water is becoming contaminated and sewage is

overflowing, bringing a serious risk of disease," de Maio added. Several municipal water engineers have been killed in the conflict and Gaza's water service provider has suspended all field operations until the safety of its staff can be guaranteed, according to the ICRC, an independent aid agency whose teams have helped with emergency repairs. "Water is a problem and it can quickly turn into a catastrophe," ICRC spokeswoman Nada Doumani told a news briefing. At least 184 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in the fighting, the worst flare-up in two years. The stated purpose of Israel's bombing is quieting cross-border rocket fire from Hamas militants fired into southern Israel. Untreated Sewage: UNRWA said the destruction compounded the effects of eight years of Israel's blockade of the enclave. "The water and sewage network is barely functioning, and with the sustained bombardment of the past 8 days, it's as good as destroyed," UNRWA spokesman Sami Mshasha told the briefing. "We're looking at 90 million liters of untreated sewage that flows into the ocean every day because there is no electricity to treat it. Ninety percent of the drinking water is not fit for human consumption." The World Health Organization (WHO), a UN agency, warned last week that health services in the occupied Palestinian territory were on the brink of collapse among severe shortages in medicines and fuel for hospital generators. Hamas militants continued firing volleys of rockets from the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, inspiring Israel to abandon an Egyptian-proposed truce it had unilaterally accepted earlier in the day. "We are extremely worried as UNRWA that if the ceasefire being negotiated today does not succeed, then the much-talked about ground offensive might unfold and we might see an Israeli military incursion into Gaza," Mshasha said when it was still unclear if the ceasefire would hold. If there is a truce, the ICRC hopes for better access to the increasing numbers of casualties, spokeswoman Doumani said. The ICRC is "documenting violations of international humanitarian law" in the conflict, she said. UN human rights Chief Navi Pillay on Friday voiced serious doubts that Israeli's military operation against Gaza complied with international law banning the targeting of civilians, and called on both sides to respect the rules of war. ([Ynetnews](#) 16 July 2014)