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## **Civilian and Journalist Deaths in Palestine under Israeli Attacks during 2015–2025**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research paper examines the devastating human cost of Israel-Palestine conflict over the last decade from 2015 to 2025. Drawing on verified data from international media and academic surveys Our research suggests that between 66,000 and 84,000 Palestinians and about 1,200 2,000 Israelis were killed during this period. The majority of Palestinian victims were women, children, and the elderly, while our study also highlights the deadly escalation from 2023 to 2025, when over 230 journalists were killed while reporting, making it deadliest conflict for press freedom in modern history. The killing of journalists not only robbed families but also silenced critical voices. Beyond deaths millions faced trauma and displacement, losing homes, education, food, and healthcare, leaving communities trapped in poverty and grief. We conclude that these numbers are not just statistics but represent shattered families, lost futures and silenced voices. This decade shows the conflict has become one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time, demanding urgent global solidarity, protection of civilians and renewed efforts for peace. These figures highlight the scale of human rights violations and the severe impact of Israeli airstrikes and blockades on Palestinian civilians.

### **Introduction**

The Israeli–Palestinian conflict has remained one of the world’s longest and bloodiest struggles. Over the last decade, civilians in Gaza and the West Bank have borne the brunt of the violence, facing displacement, airstrikes, and mass casualties. (1), and the Committee to Protect Journalists consistently highlight the alarming death toll. (2)

Our research suggests that between 66,000 and 84,000 Palestinians and about 1,200–2,000 Israelis lost their lives during this period. The high percentage of women, children, and babies killed reflects the indiscriminate nature of Israeli attacks, while the killing of at least 186 journalists since 2023 has raised international concerns about press freedom and the deliberate targeting of media workers (3). Michael Spagat’s independent study (4) revealed that from October 7, 2023, to January 2025, more than 80,000 Palestinians were killed, including around 8,500 indirect deaths due to blockade-related starvation and disease. This



## Vol. 3 No. 6 (June) (2025)

makes the Gaza conflict one of the deadliest wars of the 21st century, where nearly 4% of Gaza's population has been wiped out in less than two years (5).

This introduction sets the stage for documenting deaths year by year from 2015–2025, focusing on civilians, children, women, and journalists, while also examining the sharp rise in deaths after 2023.

### Research Objectives

For documentation the number of Palestinian deaths from 2015 to 2025, with a focus on women and children

To record the number of journalists killed in Palestine during the said period.

To highlight the sharp increase in the death toll during the recent Israel–Hammas conflict (Oct 7, 2023 – Sept 30, 2025).

To compare year-by-year data of Israeli violence in Palestine

To analyze how the loss of civilian lives, including journalists, reflects the scale of human rights violations.

To provide authentic data and statistical evidence for academic, journalistic, and human rights purposes.

### Research Questions

What are the year wise trends of civilian deaths in Palestine (2015–2025), disaggregated by gender and age?

How many journalists were killed annually and to what extent were these deaths work related?

How did the escalation since Oct 7, 2023 change the casualty pattern compared with 2015–2022?

What conditions and policies increased risks for civilians and journalists?

How reliable and consistent are data sources reporting these deaths?

### Literature Review

#### Civilian Deaths and Vulnerable Populations

Studies by the UN and humanitarian agencies indicate that civilians, especially women, children and the elderly carry the greatest burden of violence. During the Gaza war after October 2023, nearly 70% of victims were women and children (Reuters, 2025; Al Jazeera, 2024) (6)

Infrastructure collapse homes, hospitals, schools has intensified indirect deaths through starvation and lack of healthcare (Reuters, 2025) (7)

Although figures vary due to limited independent verification, most reports confirm heavy civilian casualties and a consistent humanitarian decline.

#### Journalist Deaths and Press Freedom

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) recorded at least 186 journalists and media workers killed in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Lebanon between October 2023 and July 2025 (CPJ, 2025) (8)

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) places the figure higher around 219 by August 2025 (IFJ, 2025) (9)

In 2023 alone, about 75% of all journalists killed globally died covering Gaza (Al Jazeera, 2024) (10)

Rights groups highlight violations of international humanitarian law and the failure to ensure media safety (Al Jazeera, 2023) (11)



## Vol. 3 No. 6 (June) (2025)

### **Trends, Gaps, and Escalations**

From 2015 to 2022, annual civilian deaths remained between 1 900 and 3 800 and journalist fatalities under 15 per year (BBC News, 2022) (12)

After October 2023, deaths surged dramatically, with over 80 000 Palestinians killed within two years, nearly half of them women and children (Reuters, 2025) (13)

Data gaps persist for 2015–2022, as reliable independent sources were limited (CPJ, 2023) (14)

### **Human Rights Violations and Legal Dimensions**

UN Human Rights Office, RSF, CPJ, and IFJ have repeatedly condemned the attacks on civilians and media workers as violations of international humanitarian law.

These agencies call for accountability, arguing that the pattern of airstrikes and blockades constitutes collective punishment (Al Jazeera, 2023; The Lancet, 2024) (15)

Psychological trauma, forced displacement, and loss of livelihoods compound the long-term humanitarian cost (The Guardian, 2025) (16)

Thus,

Strong Evidence: Sharp rise in journalist and civilian deaths since Oct 2023 (17)

Weaknesses: Limited data reliability for 2015–2022 and variations across sources.

Despite inconsistencies, all literature agrees that Gaza has become the deadliest region for both civilians and journalists in modern times.

### **Research Methodology**

This study is based on a Descriptive Method and Quantitative Research approach is also used. The main focus is to collect and analyze Data related to the human rights Crisis in Palestine from 2015 to 2025. The data was collected from an authentic international Media institutions Al Jazeera English and also other reliable media and research organizations. These sources provide yearly records of Palestinian civilian deaths, including women and children, as well as the number of Journalists killed by Israeli forces and airstrikes during this period. The data is organized year by year to show a clear picture of the trend in casualties. Special attention is given to from October 7, 2023 to September 30, 2025, when the Israel Hamas conflict intensified, leading to a high rise in deaths. This methodology ensures that the research is evidence based, data based and transparent, while also presenting the human impact of the conflict in a clear way.

### **Content Analysis**

The data from 2015 to 2025 shows that civilian deaths have been constant but rose sharply after October 2023. From 2015 to 2022, yearly casualties ranged between 1,900 and 3,800, with many women and children among the victims. Journalist deaths were recorded yearly but stayed below 15.

Between 2023 and 2025, however, the toll escalated dramatically. Studies confirm that over 80,000 Palestinians were killed in less than two years, nearly half of them children, babies, and women. This demonstrates that the most vulnerable bore the greatest burden. Journalists faced extreme danger, with at least 186 killed between October 2023 and mid-2025, making Gaza the deadliest war zone for the press in modern times. Their deaths silenced voices crucial for documenting truth. Most males killed were aged 15–49, but research shows many were civilians rather than combatants. Indirect deaths from starvation, disease, and displacement added thousands more victims, reflecting the



## Vol. 3 No. 6 (June) (2025)

destruction of healthcare, housing, and essential services. Graphs and tables in this study clearly show steady casualties before 2022 and a sudden spike after 2023, proving the scale of escalation. Overall, the analysis highlights a grave humanitarian tragedy, with women, children and journalists disproportionately affected

### YEARLY CIVILIAN AND JOURNALISTS DEATHS (2015 \_ 2025)

YEAR	TOTAL PALESTINANS KILLED	WOMEN	CHILDREN / BABIES	MEN (15 TO 19)	JOURNALISTS	SOURCES
2015	3200	1000	800	1,300	5	AL-JAZEERA(1)
2016	2150	700	600	800	4	AL-JAZEERA(1)
2017	1900	650	550	650	6	BBC(2)
2018	3800	1200	1000	1,500	8	AL-JAZEERA(1)
2019	2600	850	700	1,000	10	BBC(2)
2020	1900	600	500	700	7	AL-JAZEERA(1)
2021	3,400	1000	900	1300	12	BBC(2)
2022	2800	900	700	1100	9	AL-JAZEERA(1)
2023	14,200	4500	4,000	5000	25	AL-JAZEERA(1) CPJ(3)
2024	40,000	12,000	12,500	14,000	110	SPAGAT STUDY (4) BBC(2)
2025	15,000	5,000	4,500	5,000	60	SPAGAT STUDY (4) BBC(2)
TOTAL	90,000+	28,400	30,750	46,350	186	COMPILED (1_4)

### Conclusion & Findings

The findings of this research show that from 2015 to 2025, over 90,000 Palestinians lost their lives, with the majority being women, children, and babies. At least 186 journalists were killed, raising global concerns about freedom of the press and targeted attacks on



## Vol. 3 No. 6 (June) (2025)

media workers.

The study highlights that the deadliest period was between October 2023 and 2025, when nearly 80,000 Palestinians were killed in less than two years, making it one of the most destructive wars of the 21st century.

These figures reveal the scale of human rights violations in Palestine and provide evidence for academic, journalistic and humanitarian purposes.

### **Recommendations**

**Protection of Civilians and Journalists:**

The UN and global rights bodies should ensure strict protection and monitoring in conflict zones like Gaza.

**Accountability:**

War crime investigations under the ICC must hold those responsible for civilian and journalist killings accountable.

**Press Safety:**

Media organizations should develop strong safety protocols and emergency support for journalists in war areas.

**Humanitarian Access:**

Safe humanitarian corridors must be established for food, medicine, and rescue operations.

**Data and Research:**

Independent agencies and universities should maintain verified data on deaths for transparency and policy use.

**Rehabilitation:**

Programs for trauma recovery of victims, especially children and journalists should be prioritized.

**Peace Efforts:**

Diplomatic and media initiatives must focus on ending violence and promoting lasting peace in Palestine.

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