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**Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine**

**Weekly Fact List** (weeks 1–79)

Fact week #1

Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel uses water as a weapon against Palestinians.

95% percent of Gaza’s 2 million residents are without clean drinking water due to Israel’s destruction of Palestinian wells and water infrastructure.

In the West Bank, the 650,000 people living in Israel’s illegal settlements are allotted six times more water than the 2.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

(B’tselem, 2014) www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

(Al-Shabaka, 2015) https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/how-israeli-settlements-stifle-palestines-economy

(Mondoweiss, 2016) http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/#sthash.BWiYB9dI.dpuf

Fact week #2

53% of Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem are banned under Israeli law from being connected to the city's water network. (EWASH, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015)

www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

Fact week #3

Due to Israel’s destruction of Palestinian wells and water infrastructure, 95–97% of the water in Gaza is now unfit for drinking, cooking, or agricultural use. (B’tselem, 2014)

www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20140209\_gaza\_water\_crisis

Fact week #4

Palestinians in the West Bank are allocated only 20 percent of water from the Mountain Aquifer, which is their sole source of water. The 80 per cent allocated to Israelis is only one of several water resources available to them. (Amnesty Int’l, 2009)

Amnesty International, “Troubled waters – Palestinians denied fair access to water / Israel-occupied Palestinian Territories,” pdf, 2009

Fact week #5

In 2011, Israel allotted the average settlement household in the Jordan Valley 7.5 times more water than the average Palestinian household in the same region (450 versus 60 liters per day). (Human Rights Watch, 2016)

Human Rights Watch, “Occupation, Inc. How Settlement Businesses Contribute to Israel’s Violations of Palestinian Rights,” pdf, 2016

Fact week #6

Nearly 90% of aquifers in the West Bank are diverted to Israelis, leaving Palestinians with access to less than 10% of their own water, in violation of international law. (If Americans Knew)

www.ifamericansknew.org/cur\_sit/water.html

Fact week #7

Mekorot (Israel’s state-owned water company) routinely cuts the supply of water to Palestine—by as much as 50%—during summer months to meet the consumption in Israel and its settlements. (Amnesty International, 2009)

Amnesty International, “Troubled waters – Palestinians denied fair access to water / Israel-occupied Palestinian Territories,” pdf, 2009

Fact week #8

From 2011 to 2013 the Israeli army destroyed 205 Palestinian water and sanitation structures: 92 cisterns, 46 toilets/sanitary units, 33 water tanks, 22 wells, 8 pipelines, 4 springs. (EWASH 2013)

EWASH demolition figures provided by UN OCHA, 2013: PASSIA, “Area C: The key to the two-state solution,” 2012

Fact week #9

Israel’s 2014 war on Gaza resulted in $34m in damages to Gaza’s water infrastructure. (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2015) http://www.nrc.no/arch/img.aspx?file\_id=9206776

Fact week #10

Some remote Palestinian communities consume just 10-20 liters per person/day, and are dependent on expensive, poor quality tanker water, while illegal Israeli settlements scattered throughout the West Bank consume as much as 700 litres per person/day for domestic use. (EWASH, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015)

www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

Fact week #11

Ninety-five percent of Gaza’s 1.8 million residents—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water. (EWASH)

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/#sthash.BWiYB9dI.dpuf

Fact week #12

50,000 Palestinians in 151 communities live on less than the minimum amount of water deemed necessary by the World Health Organization (WHO) for “short-term survival.” Mekorot routinely cuts the supply to Palestinians—sometimes by as much as 50%—during summer months to meet consumption needs in Israel and the settlements.

B'tselem, Internet: 10/11/2016

Fact week #13

“They take the water from under our feet, they give it to the settlers for free,”  says Jamal, a resident of Aqabat Jaber refugee camp near Jericho. “But they sell it back to us. Our water, that comes from our land.”

<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=64x5v7a14125yii9e407go>

Fact week #14

Around 200,000 people in West Bank rural areas have no connection to the water network and rely on tankered water to meet their basic needs. They pay up to 400% more for every litre than those connected to the water network. (EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

Fact week #15

Since 1995, Israel has rejected 26 out of 30 Palestinian proposals for new, desperately needed, waste water treatment facilities. Of the 4 projects approved by Israel since 1995, only one has been built. (World Health Organization, 2015)

World Health Organization, “Report of a field assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, 22 March to 1 April 2015,” pdf

Fact week #16

Due to the Occupation and unrepaired war damage, 120,000 people across Gaza remain disconnected from the water network. (UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2015)

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2015 Humanitarian Bulletin

Fact week #17

Israel controls over 90% of water resources in Palestine. (Palestinian Water Authority Minister, 2015 in al-monitor.com

www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/03/palestine-water-resources-israel-agreement-resolution-291.html

Fact week #18

Palestinians receive on average 18.5 gallons of water per person per day, falling short of the World Health Organization’s minimum standard of 26.5 gallons per person per day. (US State Dept. Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Israel and OPT, 2014)

http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2014/nea/236604.htm

Fact week 19

In Gaza, chloride and nitrates in water exceed 5–10 times the acceptable level. (WHO, 2015)

World Health Organization, “Report of a field assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, 22 March to 1 April 2015,”

Fact week 20

Nearly 600,000 Israeli settlers use 6 times more water than the entire population of the West Bank (some 2.86 million people). (al-shabaka.org, 12/15/2015)

https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/how-israeli-settlements-stifle-palestines-economy

Fact week 21

Palestinian farmers’ limited access to water and the higher price they pay for water have crippled their farms and livelihoods. Many Palestinians must then seek employment in settlements, providing a steady source of cheap labor for settlement companies. (Human Rights Watch, 2016)

Human Rights Watch, “Occupation, Inc. How Settlement Businesses Contribute to Israel’s Violations of Palestinian Rights,” 2016

Fact week 22



Fact week 23

The Israeli army routinely carries out orders to demolish communal water cisterns and water wells (many of which are hundreds of years old) on privately owned Palestinian farmland. In 2011 alone, the army destroyed 89 WASH structures in the West Bank, including 21 wells, 34 cisterns, and many small fixed water tanks that have been given to rural households. Demolition includes razing vegetable gardens, animal barns, and storage sheds.

http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact week 24

Cutting off Palestinian communities and farmers (who depend on water for their livelihoods) from their water resources usually precedes Israel’s dispossession of Palestinian land for new Israeli projects and settlements. Israeli settlers have used threats, intimidation, and fences to ensure control of water points close to the settlements.

http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact week 25

Due to Israeli-imposed artificial water shortages and lack of wastewater treatment facilities and sewage networks, the majority of Palestinians have to privately construct water wells, cesspits, and septic tanks. In the rural areas Palestinians must depend on rainwater-gathering pools, cisterns, and water tanks, which increases the risks to public health.

It is estimated that 44% of Palestinian children in rural areas suffer from diarrhea—the biggest killer of children under 5 years old in the world—because of poor water quality and hygiene.

http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact week 26

The Israeli Apartheid wall, built to include on the Israeli side the fertile Palestinian agricultural land with large groundwater aquifers, has resulted in the loss of Palestinians’ access to 49 water wells and reservoirs used for drinking and agriculture. http://www.intifada-palestine.com/2014/05/israels-water-genocide/

Fact week 27

The World Health Organization’s minimum of water consumption per person is 100 litres/day. (EWASH) Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015 ewash.org

BUT

In the West Bank, water consumption per person (for all use) is 73 litres/day for those connected to a water grid and is as low as 20­ litres/day for those not connected to a water grid. (B’tselem 2014)

www.btselem.org/jerusalem/20140527\_shufat\_water\_crisis

Fact week 28

96 percent of the water from the aquifer in Gaza is is contaminated with nitrates and chloride. The [total number of wells](http://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/gaza_water_crisis) in Gaza that meet WHO safety criteria for both nitrates and chloride is just 14—or 6.5 percent of the wells.

www.inthesetimes.com/article/14148/gaza\_the\_worlds\_largest\_open\_air\_prison and www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip (2014)

Fact week 29

40% of people in Gaza receive water for only 5 to 8 hours every three days. (EWASH, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015)

www.ewash.org/wash-in-opt/west-bank

Israel has obstructed efforts by aid organizations to address the water issue in Palestine. Israel’s blockade has restricted 70% of the materials needed for water and wastewater projects [example: cement, wood, solar panels], calling them “dual-use items,” considered to have military and civilian applications.

www.inthesetimes.com/article/14148/gaza\_the\_worlds\_largest\_open\_air\_prison and www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip (2014)

Fact week 30

Due to the low quantities of water available to Palestinian farmers, only 6.8% of the cultivated land in the West Bank is irrigated. (EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

Israel confiscates 82% of Palestinian groundwater in the West Bank for use inside Israel’s borders and in its settlements. (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact week 31

In February 2017, Israeli forces demolished a water pipeline in the Jordan Valley region of the occupied West Bank—after destroying the same pipeline earlier in the month. The 47 Palestinian families who depended on the pipeline lost their water source.

The pipeline had been funded by UNICEF.

Earlier in the month, Israel seized 400-meter-long water hoses used by local farmers for irrigation.

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=775564

Fact week 32

Gaza’s 2 million inhabitants must rely on polluted coastal aquifers as their main source of freshwater—95% of this water is not safe to drink. (Guardian, 2015)

The few who can pay for clean water will spend up to a third of their income. (Mondoweiss, 2016)

Gaza has the world's highest unemployment rate. Israel's 2014 war on Gaza, and its land, air, and sea blockade has pushed unemployment to a record high of 43%. (NBC News, 2015)

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/gaza-becoming-uninhabitable-as-society-can-no-longer-support-itself-report

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/gaza-has-highest-unemployment-rate-world-bank-report-n364711

Fact week 33

Israel controls approximately 80% of water reserves in the West Bank.

Israel’s control of water, plus Israeli settlements and the apartheid wall, have deprived the Palestinian economy of 63% of the agricultural resources of the West Bank, including the most fertile and best grazing land.

Only 35% of irrigable Palestinian land is actually irrigated, costing the Palestinian economy 110,000 jobs per year.

European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact week 34

Some Israeli settlements consume as much as 400 litres/day/person of water, and have enough water to run farms and orchards, swimming pools, and spas. (UNHRC)

Palestinians in the West Bank consume 70 litres/day—and even less for those not connected to a water grid. (UNHRC)

(The World Health Organization minimum of water consumption per person is 100 litres/day.) (EWASH)

United Nations Human Rights Council [http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/03/26/water-apartheid-in-palestine/]; EWASH.org, Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015 ewash.org

Fact week 35

In the West Bank, 180 Palestinian communities are not connected to the water network and 122 communities have a connection with no or irregular supply as a result of Israeli restrictions. (UN Conference on Trade and Development)

Israel does not allow Palestinians to build small dams to collect and store rainwater and release it throughout the year. If these structures were permitted, significant water resources could be used for irrigation—and for drinking. (Aljazeera)

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/israel-water-tool-dominate-palestinians-160619062531348.html; http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact week 36

After Israel’s 2014 war on Gaza, more than 50% of the water infrastructure could not be used and over a million residents were left without access to water.

Today, 95% of Gaza’s 2 million residents—whose water access is controlled by Israel—are without clean drinking water and 23% of the population in Gaza is without sanitation services.

(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015), unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

(Mondoweiss, 2016)

http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

Fact week 37

Israel controls about 80% of water reserves in the West Bank.

The 9,500 Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley alone use one-third the total amount of water used by the West Bank’s 2.6 million Palestinians.

(EWASH and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, cited in European Parliamentary Research Service, 2016)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56e619ec59827e4b8476aa75/t/57cc57efc534a5dcc4306f34/1473009660299/EPRS\_BRI%282016%29573916\_EN.pdf

(Human Rights Watch, 2016)

Human Rights Watch, “Occupation, Inc. How Settlement Businesses Contribute to

Fact week 38 (two photos)

Fact week 39

Supply and treatment of water depend on electicity. In Gaza, the electric supply at full capacity meets only 70% of demand, and Palestinians are subjected to daily power outages of 12–16 hours.

Israel's cuts in Gaza’s electricity and its blockade of construction materials necessary for the sanitation network have caused increased salination and sewage pollution of the water.

As a result, 96% of the water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption.

(EWASH) Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group, 2015, ewash.org

Fact week 40

Last month (4/17), Israeli bulldozers—escorted by Israeli military jeeps and officials from Israel’s Civil Administration—destroyed all the water pipelines providing the village of Bardala, in the West Bank, with water.

The 3,500 residents were left without access to any water.

Amnesty International estimates that up to 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=776708NABLUS (Ma'an)

Fact week 41

The World Health Organization estimates that contaminated water is responsible for 26% of all disease in Gaza and 50% of children suffer from water-related parasitic infections.

Diarrhea, acute bloody diarrhea, and viral hepatitis (all waterborne) have been the [leading causes of death from infectious disease in Gaza](http://www.moh.ps/attach/759.pdf), according to the UN Relief and Works Agency.

During its 2014 war on Gaza, Israel destroyed more than 50% of Gaza’s water infrastructure.

95% of the Gaza Strip’s two million residents rely on polluted water.

fanack sept 15, 2015 https://water.fanack.com/specials/gaza-water-crisis/ Aljazeera America http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/4/18/sewage-crisis-threatens-gazas-access-to-water.html

(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, 2015)

[unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1068)

(Mondoweiss, 2016) http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/palestinians-in-gaza-are-drinking-contaminated-water-from-their-sinks/

Fact week #42

Israel regularly cuts off water supply to many Palestinian towns and villages for weeks. Palestinians are then forced to buy trucked water at five times the price of network water. [2]

Trucked water can cost 50% of a Palestinian family’s monthly expenditure. [1]

Illegal Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley spend a mere 0.9% of their expenditure on water. [1]

[1] http://english.pnn.ps/2017/03/23/israeli-apartheid-and-the-case-of-water-question-and-answer/

[2] http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/israel-water-tool-dominate-palestinians-160619062531348.html

Fact week #43

Israel’s 2014 assault on Gaza damaged an estimated 778 underground wells.

Only 162 have been fixed because Israel denies entry for the materials needed for the repairs.

As a result, approximately 100 million cubic meters of water are lost annually.

Winter downpours could have replenished reservoirs had they been properly functioning, but instead, 60% of rainwater seeps into the sea.

https://electronicintifada.net/content/water-pollution-reaches-catastrophic-levels-gaza/16616 10 May 2016

Fact week #44

Only 16 of the 180 Palestinian villages in Area C (in the West Bank) are connected to a water supply.

Even then, they are not connected to a water source, but are dependent on Israel’s water network, Mekorot.

Mekorot assigns fixed water limits to Palestinians, but Israelis in the settlements receive water based on demand and consumption. [1]

During the summer months, Mekorot meets the increased demand for water in the settlements by reducing supply to Palestinian communities. [2] Palestinians wait weeks for water, often receiving it only in the middle of the night.

<http://www.lifegate.com/people/news/israeli-palestinian-water-conflict>, April 2017

http://www.btselem.org/water/201609\_israel\_cut\_back\_supply

Fact week #45

When Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli army issued a series of military orders seizing control of water and land resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Amnesty International https://www.amnestyusa.org/pdf/mde150272009en.pdf

Fact week #46

Agriculture and fishing are critical to the Palestinian economy.

In the Gaza Strip, in addition to controlling water, Israel has restricted Palestinians’ access to over 50% of the agricultural land and 85% of the maritime space.

Israel’s Deadly Catch, Al-Haq report, http://www.alhaq.org/publications/publications-index/item/israel-s-deadly-catch

Fact week #47

Israel limits fishing off the Gaza coast to 3 to 6 miles, instead of the 20 miles stipulated in the Oslo Accords. Those who sail beyond this limit risk arrest, being shot, and having their boats seized.

The limited fishing areas are contaminated with sewage because Israel destroyed sewage treatment facilities and refuses to allow their repair.

The number of Palestinians employed in the fishing industry has declined by 66% since 2000.

The lack of affordable protein has led to a decline in nutrition and led to serious health problems, especially for children.

(United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/gdsapp2015d1\_en.pdf

Fact week #48

Every day, 100,000 cubic meters of raw sewage are [discharged](https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-196) into the sea around Gaza.

About half of Gaza’s beaches are [unfit](http://www.environment.gov.ps/ar/?Action=Details&ID=180) for swimming. Many are closed to the public. Both sand and water are contaminated.

Electricity, necessary to treat raw sewage, is currently available [fewer than 3 hours/day](http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.796822).

Israel bombed Gaza’s sole electric power plant in 2006 and further destroyed and damaged Gaza’s infrastructure during successive bombings. In addition, Israel’s imposed economic blockade restricts the repair of this necessary infrastructure.

https://electronicintifada.net/content/life-septic-tank/20826

Fact week #49

Since Israel’s occupation of Palestine began, in 1967, not a single Palestinian village or individual has received permission to drill a well for irrigation. Over this period, Israeli settlements have drilled 27 new wells.

In addition, Israeli settlements and military bases remove large quantities of West Bank water from Palestinian wells and springs through pipes and tank trucks.

Today, July 4th, while the U.S. is celebrating its independence, Palestinians have been living under occupation for 50 years.

http://www.merip.org/mer/mer116/water-israels-occupation-strategy

Fact week #50

Between 1990 and 2015, Israel expanded the area of its illegal settlements in the West Bank (including occupied East Jerusalem) by 185%—from 30 to 76 square miles. The population of Israeli settlers tripled—from 240,000 in 1990 to more than 763,000 in 2016.

The average water supply for Palestinians in the West Bank is a meager 76 liters/day/person (24 liters/day/person fewer than the World Health Organization’s minimum). Israeli settlers’ use has soared to an average of 369 liters/day/person.

<http://english.pnn.ps/2017/05/22/arij-report-50-years-of-occupation/>

Fact week #51

In June (2017), Israel demolished the Bedouin village of al-Araqib in the Negev region of southern Israel for the 114th time since 2010, and for the sixth time this year.

Israel considers Al-Araqib an “unrecognized” village and therefore refuses to connect it to the water grid. Approximately 80,000 Negev Bedouin live in 35 “unrecognized” villages.

Al-Araqib residents have been ordered to pay more than two million shekels (approximately $541,000) for the cumulative cost of Israel’s demolitions carried out against them since 2010.

Israeli Jewish communities in the Negev continuously expand, with five new housing plans approved last year. (Ma’an News)

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777646

Fact week #52

In one month (January 2017), Israeli bulldozers

—demolished an 11 kilometer water line serving 36 Palestinian families in two Bedouin communities in the Jordan Valley.

—damaged a plastic water provider serving 36 families in two communities. (This water system was supported by donors.)

—demolished ten water wells used by Palestinian farmers, under the pretext of unlicensed construction.

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/01/10/iof-damage-water-line-which-provides-to-36-families-in-jordan-valley/

http://english.pnn.ps/2017/01/04/iof-demolish-10-water-wells-near-bethlehem/

Fact week #53

Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

During the summer months, up to 50% of Palestinian water supplies were diverted by Mekorot (Israel’s water network) to meet the consumption needs of Israel's illegal settlements.

Israelis, including settlers, have access to 300 liters of water per day, while the West Bank average is 70 liters, below the World Health Organization's recommended minimum of 100 liters per day for basic sanitation, hygiene, and drinking.

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777632 June 2017

Fact week #54

On July 19, 2017, Israel’s military and Civil Administration forces confiscated two water tanks in Kh Tall al-Himma in the northern Jordan Valley, along with a pump from a spring used as the community’s main source of water. (Solar panels were confiscated there on July 5.)

The forces then cut a pipe used to bring water from a natural spring to a reservoir in the community of Kh Um al-Jmal, used for livestock and irrigation.

http://www.btselem.org/ota

Fact week #55

Cancer rates in Gaza are rising steeply. In 2016, there were 90 cases per 100,000 people, compared with 65 in 2010.

The rates are worryingly high given the unusually young population, with 60% of the patients under 25.

Health workers blame the impact of three consecutive wars on Gaza, which have left poisonous elements in the water and soil, including depleted uranium. Daily use of insecticides by Israel to clear border areas is also blamed. (Guardian, July 2017)

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/22/gaza-electrcity-shortages-hamas-israel-blockade-children

Fact week #56

In Gaza, more than 97% of the water table is unfit for domestic use.

The water’s high salinity and pollution are contributing to a 13–14% increase each year in the number of people admitted to the hospital with kidney problems.

As the deepest part of the water table is being tapped, the water’s chloride and nitrate levels rise, which can cause congenital cyanosis in babies and play a role in developing cancers.

Microbiological pollution, caused by fecal bacteria, comes from wastewater and agricultural runoff. Many children in Gaza have parasites and worms and suffer from diarrhea and malnutrition.

Ammunition fired by Israel during its wars on Gaza have caused toxic chemical pollution.

https://phys.org/news/2017-03-war-scarred-gaza-pollution-health-woes.html

Fact week #57

Medical Aid for Palestinians reports that Gaza’s water treatment and desalination plants can “only operate minimal services” due to the electricity crisis, and 73% of Gaza’s shoreline “is now dangerously polluted”—which has already led to the death of a five-year-old boy last month after he fell ill from the contamination after swimming.

The amount of untreated or partially treated waste-water released into the ocean increased from 90,000 cubic metres/day in 2012 to 100,000 cubic metres/day in 2016, and is now 108,000 cubic metres/day.

This equates to 43 Olympic-size swimming pools of poorly treated sewage being dumped into the Mediterranean every day.

http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=778835 Ma’an august 25, 2017

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, PDF

Fact week #58

Despite Israel’s obligation under the Oslo Accords to permit fishing up to 20 nautical miles off the Gaza coastline, Israel restricts the range to six nautical miles.

This has led to overfishing in the small area, resulting in a decreased fish population and depletion of fish breeding grounds. And now the sea is contaminated with sewage.

Since January 2017, Israel has seized at least five fishing boats, detained at least 14 Palestinian fishermen, shot and injured six, and killed one fisherman who drowned after Israeli forces sunk his boat.

http://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20170129\_killing\_the\_fishing\_sector Jan 2017

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777694 June 18, 2017

Fact week #59

The sewage pouring into Gaza’s waters has affected Gaza’s already dire fishing industry.

In 2000, Gaza had about 10,000 fishermen. Today, there are roughly 4,000, whose income supports 50,000 persons. However, about half the fishermen are out of work, since their boats are out of commission and cannot be repaired due to the blockade of necessary raw materials.

95% of Gaza’s fishermen live below the poverty line. These families belong to the 80% of Gaza’s overall population who rely on humanitarian aid.

http://www.btselem.org/gaza\_strip/20170129\_killing\_the\_fishing\_sector Jan 2017

Fact week #60

People in Gaza must buy expensive tankered water. Each cubic meter of desalinated water cost 25 to 30 shekels ($6.50 to $7.80), compared to 1 to 3 shekels from the water system.

In Gaza , 90% of the population of 2 million live under the poverty line, 85% depend on UNRWA, World Food Program, and other charities’ rations and food. The unemployment rate is 65%.

http://www.ewash.org/news/in-the-news/haaretz-think-gaza-strip-next-time-you-drink-tap-water

https://www.democracynow.org/2017/7/19/unlivable\_gaza\_on\_verge\_of\_collapse

Fact week #61

In the West Bank, water availability went from 118 million cubic metres in 1995 to 87 cubic metres in 2014—while the population increased from 1.25 million to 2.7 million people.

Decaying infrastructure, regular Israeli demolitions of Palestinian water pipeline construction, and Israel’s restrictions on Palestinians’ water consumption have severely affected Palestinian access to water.

Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water.

http://www.lifegate.com/people/news/israeli-palestinian-water-conflict, April 2017

https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=777632 June 14, 2017

Fact week #62

More than 96% of Gaza's water is unfit for drinking. For domestic use *other than* for drinking,

—50% of residents receives water for only 8 hours every four days

—30% receives water for only 8 hours every three days

—20% receives water for only 8 hours every two days

“Gaza Ten Years Later,” United Nations Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, July 2017, pdf [https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/gaza\_10\_years\_later\_-\_11\_july\_2017.pdf]

Fact week #63

Israel’s 2014 bombardment of Gaza destroyed two major water reservoirs. Today, 1/3 of the water pumped from the aquifer is lost due to the old and war-damaged pipelines.

Israel’s approval is mandatory for bringing in materials, spare parts, equipment, and experts to fix or maintain water projects, including those operated or funded by international agencies.

Hand on the Switch, January 2017 http://gisha.org/UserFiles/File/publications/infrastructure/Hand\_on\_the\_Switch-EN.pdf

Fact week #64

Israel impedes the development of new Palestinian water infrastructure, destroys and confiscates existing infrastructure, and limits Palestinian access to local water sources such as fresh water springs, drilled wells and rainwater cisterns.

In previous summers, residents of the Palestinian city of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, received running water *once every five to eight days*.

This year, the water supply dropped to *once every ten to fourteen days*.

Nablus residents must live on only 65 liters/person/day. In some neighborhoods, and for people in the refugee camps, average consumption is 50 liters/person/day. (The WHO minimum is 100 liters/person/day.) (B’Tselem, Sept. 13, 2017)

http://www.btselem.org/water/20170913\_acute\_water\_shortage\_in\_nablus

Fact week #65

Electricity outages in the Gaza Strip range from 18 to 20 hours a day. As a result, nearly 40% of areas planted with seasonal vegetable crops are at risk due to irregular irrigation.

The increased—already exhorbitant—prices for pumped water leave farmers with hard choices:

• paying the additional costs (taking loans, going further into debt)

• raising the cost of the produce and losing competitive advantage

• decreasing the period of irrigation thereby reducing the quality of the produce

• prioritizing crops that can survive on minimal water

• abandoning farming altogether.

(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, Sept. 2017)

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/energy-crisis-takes-its-toll-palestinian-farmers-gaza

Fact week #66

The Separation Wall and illegal settlements already cut off Palestinians from the best water extraction points.

When completed, the Wall will cut off Palestinians from areas that would yield an additional 90 million cubic metres (23 billion gallons) annually.

(Palestine Monitor Factbook, 2015) [http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=pezte3a10667y0cifjtlt9](http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=pezte3a10667y0cifjtlt9" \t "_blank)

Fact week #67

In Palestine, small-scale farmers, herders, and fishermen face a high risk of destitution due to Israel’s imposed water shortages and land degradation, and extreme weather events driven by climate change.

111,310 farmers own agricultural small-holdings in Palestine. Agriculture, fisheries, and forestry employ 7.4% and 8.8% of all employed men and women, respectively.

(United Nations Country Team, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Common Country Analysis, 2016)

https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/common\_country\_analysis.pdf

Fact week #68

In Gaza, 40% of the medications needed to treat patients are not available. Cancer patients are dying daily because there is no medicine for them and because they are prevented from leaving Gaza to receive care.

95% of the 2 million Gaza residents may now be at risk of waterborne diseases.

(Dr. Mona El-Farra, MECA newsletter 2017)

https://www.mecaforpeace.org/meca-newsletters-reports/

(UN Economic and Social Council, May 2017)

https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/A6BAAFBCB0A4A2098525813F005B1376

Fact week #69

Of the 142 proposed water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in Gaza, Israel has allowed only 64 to completed—less than half.

Of the 5,373 “dual use” items submitted for water, health, and sanitation projects, an alarming 2,950 are still awaiting Israel’s approval. And only 856 items have been imported—less than 16% of the total needed. (OXFAM Briefing Paper, May 2017)

https://www.oxfam.org/en/file/bp-treading-water-gaza-reconstruction-mechanism-220317-enpdf-0

Fact week #70

Residents of al-Walaja, a village in the occupied West Bank near Bethlehem, will soon be forbidden to access a large portion of their land because Israel is relocating a checkpoint.

Inside the land is the second-largest spring in the occupied West Bank, one of the main water sources for the residents’ livestock to bathe in and drink from. Residents have tended to the spring, fields, and farming terraces for generations. It is also a recreational spring for the people of the surrounding areas, who flock there to picnic and swim.

Israel plans to surround the spring with a fence, build a visitors center and a restaurant, and turn it into one of the entrances to Jerusalem’s metropolitan park, off limits to residents of al-Walaja and Bethlehem. (Ma’an 11/20/17)

http://maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=779487

Fact week #71

Palestinians’ limited access to water not only contributes to the erosion of their health, income, and livelihoods, but also increases their exposure to intimidation and violence while they are fetching water from distant sources.

These factors combined with Israel’s destruction of Palestinian homes and livelihood-related structures (50,000 in the last 50 years) create a coercive environment that increases the risk of forcible transfer. (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, July 2016, Amnesty International, June 2017)

https://www.ochaopt.org/content/water-tankering-projects-target-most-vulnerable-communities-area-c

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/06/israel-occupation-50-years-of-dispossession/

Fact week #72

30% of The Dead Sea’s shore is in Palestinian territory, but Israel forbids Palestinians from developing and accessing their shore.

The Dead Sea is rich in natural resources. Israel earns $3 billion each year from extracted products (and generates $291 million from 15 shoreline hotels).

The estimated value of a Palestinian Dead Sea mineral extraction industry would be $918 million.

Israel also diverts Dead Sea water to its settlements. That and its over-use of water for extracting minerals cause the sea level to drop about 3 feet per year. (Al-Haq, August 2015)

https://medium.com/@alhaq/facts-on-the-ground-542fb4d17d08

Fact week #73

The occupied West Bank is home to more than 160 factories in illegal Israeli settlements and Israeli industrial zones.

The factories produce chemicals, aluminium, leather, batteries, plastics, cement, canned foods, fibreglass, rubber, alcoholic beverages, ceramics, marble, detergents, cooking gas, and pesticides.

They pollute Palestinians’ water and air, deplete their natural resources, threaten their health, and degrade their agricultural land.

This has dire economic repercussions. The water released by many of these factories are a major source of pollution affecting Palestinian agricultural land and plants. The high mineral content of the pollutants has made it impossible to cultivate citrus crops and other fruit.

(World Health Organization, May 2016) http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact week #74

No Israeli settlement, except those built within the municipality of Jerusalem, has a sewerage system. Settlements release their wastewater into Palestinian watercourses and land, further exacerbating environmental pollution and degrading Palestinian agricultural water supplies. (World Health Organization, May 2016)

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact week #75

At least 34 Israeli dumping sites located throughout the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem have destroyed thousands of dunams of agricultural land (1000 dunhams = 247 acres), negatively affected tens of thousands more, and severely polluted groundwater, surface water supplies, valley watercourses, and springs. (World Health Organization, May 2016)

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\_files/WHA69/A69\_INF6-en.pdf

Fact week #76

In East Jerusalem, only 52% of the population has legal access to the water grid. Tens of thousands of residents are forced to install pirate connections, purchase water tanks, and operate pumps.

A third of the population lacks sewage connections. In entire neighborhoods, where the houses are not connected to the sewage network, the residents have to use cesspits in their yard.

Association for Civil Rights in Israel, May 2015

https://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/EJ-Facts-and-Figures-2015.pdf

(B’Tselem, November 2017)

http://www.btselem.org/jerusalem#barrier

(United Nations Economic and Social Council, May 2017)

https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/A6BAAFBCB0A4A2098525813F005B1376

Fact week #77

From the beginning of Zionist strategy, Palestine’s water resources played a crucial role.

In 1919, the World Zionist Organization presented a map at the Paris Peace Conference that anticipated the level of water needed for the projected Jewish state to develop an industrial and agricultural economic base and to provide a Western style of life for Jewish immigrants.

The World Zionist Organization stated: “The economic life of Palestine...depends on the available water supply. It is, therefore, of vital importance not only to secure all water resources already feeding the country, but also to be able to conserve and control them at their sources.”

E. Hagopian, The Primacy of Water in the Zionist Project, Arab Studies Qly, Fall 2016

Fact week #78

Sixteen-year-old Ahed Tamimi, who has spent the last month in an Israeli military prison, has been denied bail. She was arrested in her West Bank village of Nabi Saleh for slapping a soldier who had first slapped her, and—like many of the 300 Palestinian children currently in Israel’s prisons—could face long years in jail.

Israel’s military has killed and injured many Nabi Saleh residents since 2009, when they began holding weekly demonstrations against the theft of their land and natural water spring, Ein Al-Qaws , to build the illegal Halamish settlement.

The village’s 600 residents receive only 12 hours of running water a week from Israel, while the settlers in Halamish have running water 24 hours a day and enjoy a large swimming pool.

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/07/nabi-saleh-silent-ethnic-cleansing-170702123734851.html, Sept 2017

https://www.btselem.org/statistics/minors\_in\_custody, Jan. 2018

Fact week #79

In 1967, after Israel completed its conquest of all of Palestine and the Syrian Golan Heights, it took further control over Palestinian water resources through Military Orders 92 and 291. These permitted Israel to 1) monopolize access to Palestinian water and 2) routinely deny Palestinians the right to drill wells or repair existing ones.

E. Hagopian, The Primacy of Water in the Zionist Project, Arab Studies Qly, Fall 2016

Facts compiled by Denise Bergman, member of the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine.