

The Gaza Crisis, Explained in Eight Graphics

Home to almost two million Palestinians, the majority of whom are long-term refugees, Gaza is one of the most crowded places on Earth

By [Middle East Eye](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

1. Where is Gaza?

Gaza is home to almost [two million Palestinians](#), the majority of whom are long-term refugees (a further 3.25 million Palestinians live in the [West Bank](#)). It's been run by [Hamis](#) since elections in 2007: the [group is designated](#) as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the US and the EU among others. The West Bank is governed by the [Palestinian Authority](#), which is currently controlled by Fatah, rivals of Hamas.

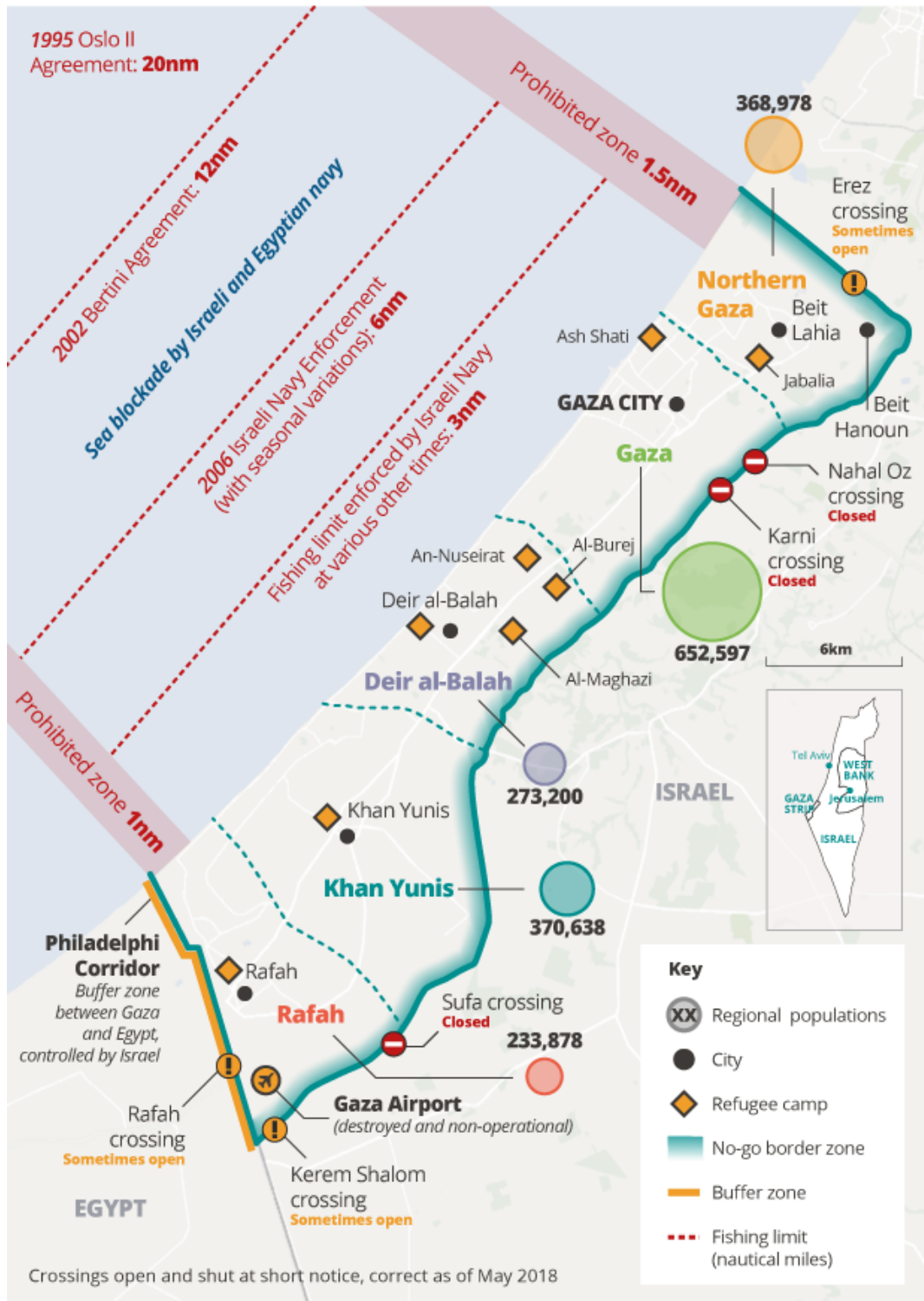
Gaza mapped

The Palestinian territory of Gaza is one of the most crowded places in the world. But the Israeli blockade means that residents of Gaza find it tough, if not impossible, to leave.

Population
1,899,291

Area
365km²

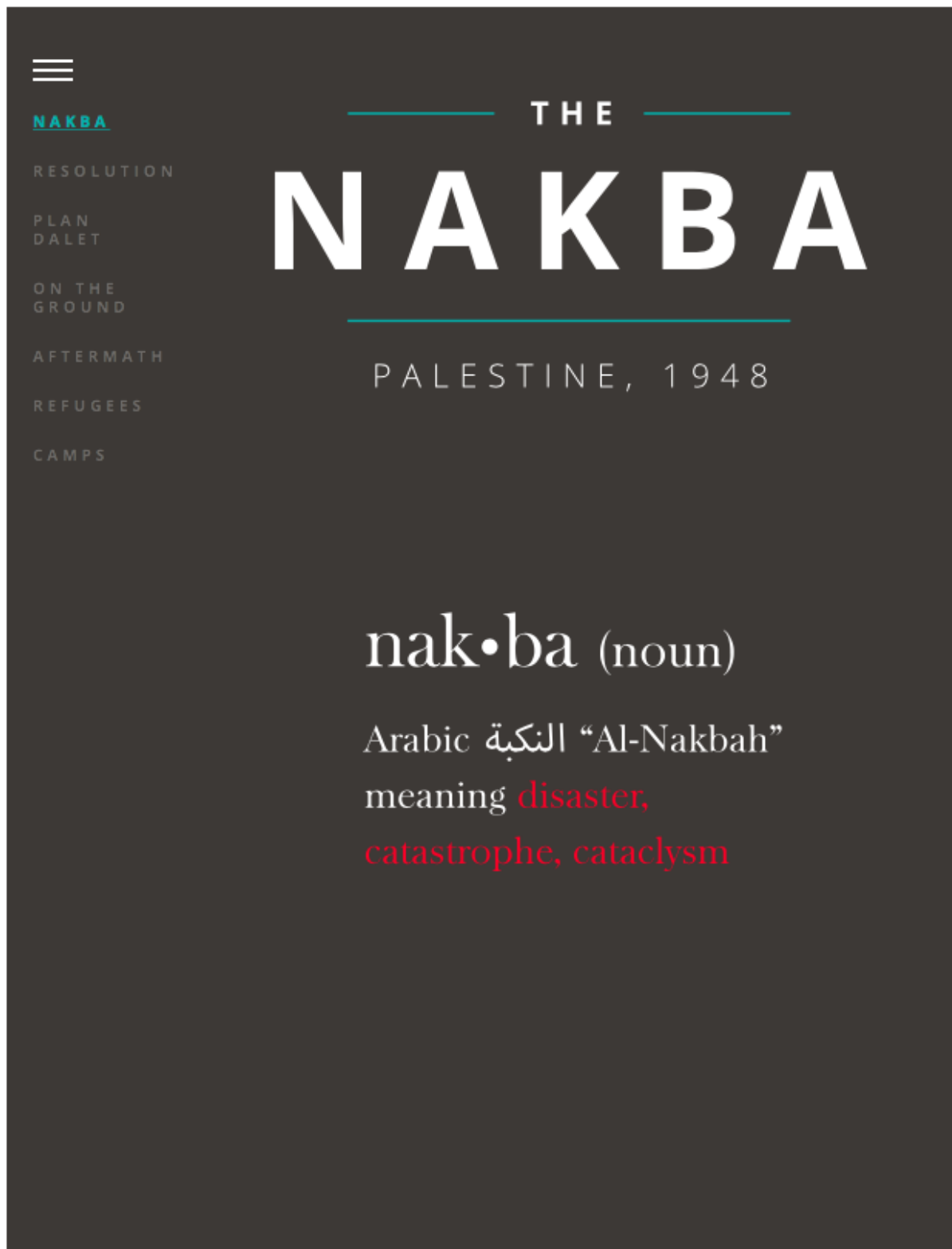
Population density
5,203 people per km²



Source: Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics, Palestine Authority, UNOCHA, preliminary Gaza census results 2017

2. The event that changed Palestinians

The dominant event for Palestinians in Gaza during the past century has been the Nakba of 1948, when hundreds of thousands were driven from, or else fled, their homes in what is now modern-day Israel as the state came into existence. The [right of return](#) to ancestral homes (or “Haq al-Awda”) is the over-riding long-term priority for many Palestinians: it forms part of [United Nations resolution 194](#).



3. Palestinians recall what was lost

Palestinian houses and cinemas, shops and mosques, train stations and markets were all lost in 1948. [Tarek Bakri](#), a researcher and archivist based in Jerusalem, started to collect archive photography which documented these losses. The image below slides left and right: MEE has [published more examples](#).



Above: Israelis looting houses in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Musrara in Jerusalem. Musrara is one of the oldest neighbourhood built outside Jerusalem's Old City walls in the 1860s.

4. Gaza since 1948

The seven decades after the Nakba have been ones of turmoil and crisis for the residents of

Gaza, including [occupation](#), [uprisings](#) and Israeli [military operations](#).

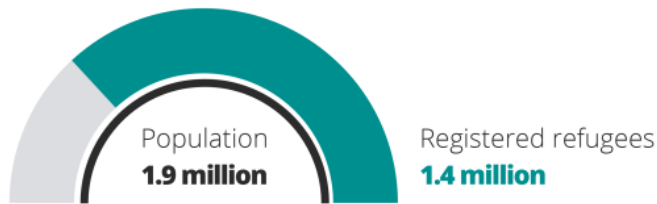


5. Daily living

Long-term [living conditions](#) in Gaza are some of the worst in the Middle East. A report by the UN in 2015 noted that the economic well-being of Palestinians living in Gaza was worse than in 1995 and that it may be [“uninhabitable” by 2020](#); last year the organisation said that [conditions were “unliveable”](#).

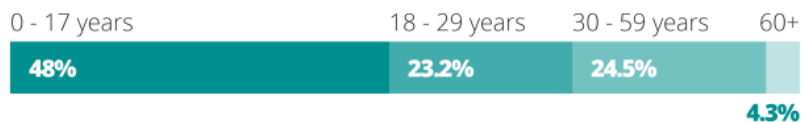
Life in Gaza

1. Most of the population are registered as refugees

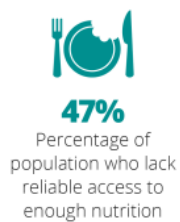
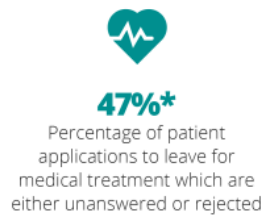
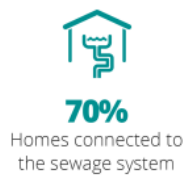


2. The population is young

Median Age **17.2 years** *(ninth lowest age out of 229 countries and territories worldwide)*



3. Health and sanitation is at risk



* January - September 2017

4. There's not enough space



5. There are frequent power cuts

Electricity is infrequent, due to destroyed infrastructure and disputes between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017 census, CIA Factbook, FSS, B'tselem, Reuters

6. Financial misery

[Economic development](#) in Gaza has stalled due to [wrecked infrastructure](#), the [blockade imposed by Israel](#) and [internal Palestinian political conflict](#). Major military operations by Israel especially have had an impact which long outlast the duration of any army action.



7. Israeli attacks on Gaza

Aside from wrecking infrastructure including [electricity lines](#) and power stations, [health services](#) and [water supplies](#), Israeli military assaults on Gaza have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinians, as well as Israeli soldiers and civilians, most notably during a string of military operations between 2006 and 2014.



8. The protests

On [30 March](#), Palestinians started regular protests in the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the Nakba on 15 May. Israeli forces sometimes fired at the demonstrations, saying they were doing so to defend the border – with fatal consequences. The highest number of [deaths was on 14 May](#), the day that the [US embassy](#) opened in Jerusalem, when [62 were killed](#). Many protesters were also demonstrating about the conditions under which they had lived in Gaza for years.



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