

GAZA FACTS

- Total population: 1.5 million
- Total number of children: 793,520, or 56% of the population
- Total number of refugees: 1.1 million, or 74% of the total population
- Average age: 17.2 years
- Poverty: 80% of residents live on less than \$2 a day

BACKGROUND

- 1948: Establishment of State of Israel creates the world's largest refugee population today.
- 1967: Israel begins illegal military occupation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem, and begins illegal settlement activity (8,000 Israeli settlers to Gaza and 462,000 to the West Bank).
- 1970-2005: 8,000 illegal Israeli settlers in Gaza dominate over 1.5 million Palestinians by controlling 40% of the fertile land and the lion's share of scarce water resources – effectively creating an apartheid structure.
- 2005: Israel withdraws its illegal settlers from Gaza and places the territory under siege, restricting movement of people, food, medicine, and fuel - effectively creating a concentration camp.
- 2006: Palestinians under occupation participate in democratic elections and choose Hamas to head the government. Israel and US reject the election, despite Hamas' acceptance of Israel within its 1967 borders. Isolation of Hamas and the people of Gaza begins, setting the wheels in motion for a humanitarian crisis.

CURRENT CRISIS IN GAZA

- **June 19, 2008:** Israel and Hamas agree to cease-fire.
- **Nov. 4, 2008:** Israel violates cease-fire by killing 4 Hamas members, and Hamas retaliates.
- **Dec. 27, 2008:** Israeli military attacks Gaza (one of the most densely populated areas on earth) with the intent to forcefully remove Hamas.

- **FATALITIES:** Over 1000 Palestinians killed, and over 4,500 injured.

- **WOMEN & CHILDREN:** 322 children and 100 women killed, and more than 1,200 children critically injured.

- **WATER & POWER:** 1 million people, including 560,000 children, are without running water or power.

- **EDUCATION:** 16 schools in Gaza hit by Israeli missiles, and all schools have been closed indefinitely.

- **HEALTH CARE:** 4 hospitals, 3 clinics, and 3 ambulances in Gaza hit by Israeli missiles, and 6 medical personnel killed. Most hospitals in Gaza are without electricity since January 3, running only on back-up generators dependent on scarce fuel supplies.