

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN GAZA...

LIFE IMPROVING DESPITE HAMAS RULE

Gaza's standard of living

- Gaza and the West Bank's standard of living ranked higher than all South Asian and Arab countries and even outpaced Brazil, Russia, India, and China. — *U.N. Human Development Project* ¹
- Gaza and the West Bank face less poverty than Russia, the Czech Republic, Brazil, and Turkey. — *U.N. Human Development Project* ²
- Gazans have a longer life expectancy than citizens in 110 other countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Turkey, Brazil, Indonesia, Estonia, Latvia, and South Africa.³
- Gazans have lower infant mortality rates than the populations of 105 other countries, including Turkey, Mexico, Armenia, Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa.⁴
- "There is no acute malnutrition." — *Mahmoud Daher, World Health Organization representative* ⁵
- 46% of Gazan households have personal computers, and 31% have access to the Internet, higher than the percentages in Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, and Syria.⁶
- 95% of Gazan households have TVs and have access to satellite or broadcast TV from the PA or Israel.⁷

Gaza is experiencing an economic boom

- "Roads are being paved, houses are being built, new cars have taken to the busy streets and shops are full of myriad products." — *Nidal Al-Mughrabi, June 20, 2011*⁸
- 2,000 new housing units, 42 new schools, four new health clinics, two new luxury hotels, and a second luxury shopping mall were built in 2010 and 2011.⁹
- Gaza has a thriving luxury market of high-priced restaurants, clubs, goods, and a just-completed Olympic-sized swimming pool. — *Ma'an News Agency, May 2010*¹⁰
- "Shops all over Gaza are bursting with goods ... [and Gaza] is flooded with Korean refrigerators, German food mixers and Chinese air conditioning units. Tunnel operators and traders alike complain of a saturated market—and falling prices. *Financial Times, May 2010*¹¹
- "Pharmacies look as well-supplied as a typical Rite Aid in the United States." — *Washington Post, June 2010*¹²

Israel and the international community ensure that all of Gaza's humanitarian needs are met

- June 2010–June 2011: Israel transferred approximately 6,000 tons of goods to Gaza daily, including 159,625 tons of building supplies for international construction projects and 28,000 tons of electrical products.¹³
- The international community funds the UN agency UNRWA, which supplies needs for 1.1 million Gaza residents (80% of Gaza's population). The U.S. has supplied more than 25% of UNRWA's budget for decades.¹⁴

Footnotes may be found at www.standwithus.com/fn/?id=1



UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN GAZA...

HAMAS GOVERNANCE

Hamas governs Gaza

- Israel's occupation ended in August 2005. "We in Gaza conducted a plan of resistance in order to drive the occupation out. The plan was accomplished, and not a single settler or soldier remains on the Palestinian land in Gaza." —*Hamas leader Mahmoud Al-Zahhar, July 2011*¹

Human and civil rights violated

- Gaza residents face "capricious imprisonments, torture and arrests for 'morality offenses' by Hamas police." —*Human Rights Watch, 2010*²
- "Every day we see detention and summoning of citizens by the dozens; not for unlawful acts they committed, but mostly for who they are and what they think, or for their mere political affiliation." —*Palestinian rights activist Mahmoud Abu Rahma, (who was stabbed twice in January 2012 for criticizing Hamas) 2012*³

No freedom of the press

- "Hamas committed systematic attacks on media workers" with "brutal force;" "intolerance for dialogue and press freedom." Hamas shut down dozens of media organizations, banned the distribution of some newspapers, and prosecuted journalists. —*International Federation of Journalists, 2011*.⁴

Political opposition violently suppressed

- Hamas has tortured and murdered political rivals. Hamas has committed "willful killings, extra-judicial executions," and "killings inside hospitals." —*Palestinian Center for Human Rights*.⁵

Summary execution of alleged Israeli "collaborators"

- One man was executed in May 2011, two in July 2011, two in April 2010, and an estimated 40 to 80 collaborators in June 2009.⁶

Closure of human rights groups' offices

- Hamas shut down six organizations in June 2010, including a women's health society and the Woman and Child Development Association.⁷

Persecution of minorities

- Christians have faced increasing persecution, violence, and death threats. Gaza's Christian population has dropped by about 45 percent, from 2,500 to 1,400, since the 2007 Hamas coup, and "festive celebrations and displays of crucifixes have become taboo." —*Guardian, 2011*⁸

Repression of women

- "A long series of deeds, from the indirect coercion of female students to wear a hijab...to the persecution [of girls] in restaurants and cafes, to the ban on smoking hookahs and 'searches' for immoral pictures on private computers." —*Palestinian researcher Dr. Khaled Al-Hroub, 2010*⁹

Promoting war, not peace

- The Hamas Charter calls for the murder of Jews and "obliteration" of Israel. "Armed resistance and the armed struggle are the path and the strategic choice for liberating the Palestinian land, from the [Mediterranean] sea to the [Jordan] river, and for the expulsion of the invaders [Jews]." —*Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, December 2011*¹⁰



Hamas indoctrinating children ¹¹



Hamas police beating protesters ¹²



Hamas morality police ¹³



Hamas harassing Palestinian ¹⁴