

## Summary of PHRI's Argument on Genocide in Gaza

The NGO *Physicians for Human Rights - Israel (PHRI)* concludes that Israel's military campaign in Gaza since October 2023 constitutes genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention. Their findings are based on extensive documentation of health outcomes, humanitarian conditions, and state policy.

### 1. Legal Framework

The Genocide Convention defines genocide as certain acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. PHRI argues that at least three provisions are fulfilled:

- **Article II(a): Killing members of the group**
- **Article II(b): Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group**
- **Article II(c): Deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction**

### 2. Article II(c) – Conditions of Life

PHRI places strongest emphasis on Article II(c). They argue Israel deliberately dismantled Gaza's health system and broader life systems:

- Systematic bombardment, siege, and forced evacuations of hospitals, leaving almost all non-functional.
- Killing and detention of over 1,800 medical workers, including senior specialists.
- Blocking medical evacuations and humanitarian aid, leading to untreated injuries and famine.
- Starvation as a weapon: tens of thousands of malnourished children, mothers unable to breastfeed, outbreaks of disease.
- Collapse of water, sanitation, housing, and education systems—rendering Gaza uninhabitable.

### 3. Article II(a) – Killing

- PHRI cites over 57,000 confirmed deaths (mostly women and children) with estimates nearing 100,000 when indirect deaths are counted. Mass killings include repeated strikes on homes, hospitals, and aid convoys. This illustrates systematic targeting.
- They argue this scale of killing goes far beyond collateral damage and meets the threshold of genocide.

### 4. Article II(b) – Bodily and Mental Harm

The report documents:

- Tens of thousands injured, including 4,700 amputees (20% children).
- Widespread torture and abuse in detention.
- Severe trauma, mass orphanhood, disrupted education, and psychological harm across generations.
- Women: Famine and denial of reproductive healthcare leading to miscarriages and maternal deaths.

## **5. Genocidal Intent (Dolus Specialis)**

PHRI argues intent can be inferred from patterns of conduct and official statements:

- The systematic and sustained destruction of health and civilian infrastructure cannot be explained by military necessity.
- Statements by Israeli government officials (e.g., “No electricity, no food, no fuel”) show deliberate policy.
- The scale, repetition, and targeting of essentials for life demonstrate an intent to make Gaza uninhabitable, thereby destroying Palestinians in whole or in part.

## **Conclusion**

PHRI concludes that Israel’s actions against civilian life in the Gaza strip cannot be explained as warfare, but as a deliberate strategy that meets the legal threshold for genocide. It fulfills Articles II(a), II(b), and especially II(c) of the Genocide Convention, through both mass killings and the calculated destruction of conditions essential for life.

The report urges national states and international bodies to fulfill their obligation under Article I of the Genocide Convention to prevent and stop the Gaza genocide.