

## Over 700 killed fetching water, Gaza accuses Israel



Published on July 14, 2025

Document Date: Wed, Jun 10 2026 01:11:56 pm

Category: ,English,Middle East - ,Snippets

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Sources Anadolu Agency

GAZA CITY / ISTANBUL, July 14, 2025

More than 700 Palestinians, mostly children, have been killed by Israeli fire while collecting water since October 2023, according to Gaza's government media office.

In a statement Monday, the media office accused the Israeli army of deliberately targeting

civilians seeking water, calling it a “systematic war of thirst” and a violation of international humanitarian law. “Water has become a weapon of war,” the office said, adding that the Israeli military has carried out 112 attacks on Gazans fetching water, including Sunday’s strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp that killed 12 people, among them eight children.

The statement further revealed that over 720 water wells have been deliberately destroyed by Israeli forces, cutting clean water access to over 1.25 million residents. The blockade has also prevented the entry of 12 million liters of fuel monthly crucial for running wells, sewage stations, and waste systems leading to complete infrastructure paralysis and a surge in disease, particularly among children.

Authorities called on the international community and human rights organizations to intervene urgently and stop Israel’s targeting of water infrastructure and civilians. They also urged the reopening of Gaza crossings to allow fuel and essential aid into the besieged enclave.

Israel has maintained a full blockade on Gaza since March 2, halting food, medicine, and humanitarian supplies, further worsening famine and health conditions for Gaza’s 2.4 million residents.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel’s military operations have killed more than 58,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and caused extensive destruction across the Strip.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, while Israel also faces genocide charges at the International Court of Justice.