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## UN report: Israel attacks Palestinians' reproductive capacity in Gaza



*Most children born in Gaza suffer from malnutrition (Khan Junis, 7.12.2024)*

Israel has committed "genocidal acts" against the Palestinians by systematically destroying women's health facilities and using sexual violence as a war strategy during the war against the civilian population in Gaza, which has been raging for a year and a half. This is the conclusion reached by a UN expert commission in its latest report on serious human rights violations in Gaza, presented in Geneva on Thursday. Sexual assaults are being used as a means of oppressing and controlling the Palestinian population. Israel rejected the allegations as "unfounded, biased, and lacking in credibility," according to *Reuters*. According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the UN is already an "anti-Semitic organization."

According to the report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel shelled the main fertility clinic in Gaza in December 2023, destroying 4,000 embryos, 1,000 sperm samples, and unfertilized eggs. The Israeli army also prevented the import of medications for pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn care

into the sealed-off enclave. As a result, children and women died from complications, which constitutes a crime against humanity. "The Israeli authorities have partially destroyed the reproductive capacity of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as a group, including through measures to prevent births," the report states. This constitutes genocide and violates the provisions of the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention. Among other things, the report documents cases of sexual assault and rape. Women were also forced to undress in public.

"One cannot escape the conclusion that Israel has used sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinians to terrorize them and to maintain a system of oppression that undermines their right to self-determination," said Navi Pillay, chair of the commission. The reaction of the far-right Netanyahu government, however, was as grotesque as it was predictable: "This is one of the worst cases of blood libel the world has ever seen (and the world has seen many)," the Israeli Foreign Ministry wrote in a completely uninhibited response to X. The UN report is "a sick document that only an anti-Semitic organization like the UN could produce," it continued. Blood libel, also known as the ritual murder myth, refers to the centuries-old anti-Semitic conspiracy narrative that falsely claims that Jews kidnap and kill Christian children to use their blood for religious rituals, particularly at Passover. Equating the well-founded allegations of the UN experts with a medieval hate story about Jews drinking children's blood deprives the concept of anti-Semitism of all meaning.