

# Climate justice demands ceasefire and arms embargo on Israel

Israel, with the US's [financial](#) and [military](#) support, is subjecting Palestinians in Gaza to apocalyptic conditions on top of the worst bombardment in their history, with a daily death rate that is higher than any war of the 21st century. Since October, Israel has [killed an estimated 186,000](#) Palestinians in Gaza both directly and via the effects of wholesale destruction of public health, environmental, and social infrastructure. This situation sums to a genocide perpetrated with US taxpayer dollars.

Both the ongoing genocide and the [apartheid regime](#) that Israel maintains over Palestinians are fundamentally incompatible with the [tenets of climate justice](#). Resistance to occupation, war, and militarism are core to struggles for a just future where all life can thrive. **To avert continued human and planetary harm, the United States must enact an immediate arms embargo on Israel and insist on an immediate, permanent ceasefire and end to the siege on Occupied Palestinian Territory.**

- **The climate crisis is here, and genocide and militarism more broadly are making it worse.** As a result of decades of Israeli blockade, apartheid, and military activity, Gaza was already highly vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis. The ecological devastation wrought by the invasion makes things worse.
- The occupation of Palestine and the ongoing genocide in Gaza have displaced Palestinian people from their lands and resources and environmental devastation. **Israel has attacked agriculture, water systems, and natural resources—leaving behind pollution, rendering local ecosystems unlivable, and threatening all forms of life.**
- In the US, spending on war and militarism is a massive drain on public dollars that are much better put toward building a safer future for all through massive public investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

## Ecological warfare on Palestine

Military activities are inherently destructive; the violent impacts of war and militarism are both immediate and long term. The devastating and irreparable loss of life, destruction of homes and cultural heritage, and other daily horrors of war are compounded by long-term health [implications to people and the environment](#). A preliminary UN assessment of the siege on Gaza [documents](#) rapidly growing soil, water, and air pollution and risks of irreversible damage to natural ecosystems. **The scale of the damage in Palestine has led some to characterize the ongoing siege of Gaza and historic attacks on Palestinian life, land, and resources as an [ecocide](#):**

Since the [1948](#), Israeli forces have displaced Palestinian people from their natural resources and cultural connection to land while systematically destroying those resources.

Food production has been [systematically targeted](#) by Israel, exacerbating the current famine and depriving Palestinians of resources for survival. Over [800,000](#) olive trees have been uprooted by Israeli authorities and settlers, a key source of livelihood for many Palestinians.

Even before October 7, [97% of the water in Gaza](#) was undrinkable by World Health Organization standards. The

Israeli military's escalation of attacks on water wells, sanitation and wastewater treatment has worsened the public health crisis. Ten months into Israel's relentless bombing campaign, Polio (previously eradicated in Gaza) [has been detected](#) in wastewater. Palestinians are now at risk of contracting polio while the [IDF vaccinates](#) their soldiers against this dread disease.

## Carbon costs of warfare in Gaza

While many of the violent impacts of war and militarism are spectacular and instantaneous, others are more diffuse. **Carbon emissions from war and militarization, for example, are a significant yet under-accounted for source of global greenhouse gas emissions.** In the absence of mandatory reporting requirements under the UNFCCC, [researchers have estimated](#) the carbon emissions of the war in Gaza:

**Immediate:** The materials and resources used to wage war are carbon-intensive. The projected emissions from the first 120 days of the Israel-Gaza conflict alone were greater than the annual emissions of 26 individual countries and territories. **More than 99% of the estimated 652,552 metric tons of carbon dioxide generated are linked to Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza.**

**Long-term:** The reconstruction of Gaza represents the largest source of carbon emissions. The devastating scale of the Israeli bombardment has resulted in widespread damage and destruction of buildings and infrastructure that will cost more than \$40 billion according to the World Bank.

**Reconstructing Gaza, even to its previously precarious state, will generate more carbon emissions than the annual emissions of over 135 countries, comparable to the annual emissions of Sweden or Portugal.**

The climate impacts of war-related activities are comparable to powering 16 coal-fired power plants for one year. The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment [noted that](#), “Armed conflict pushes humanity even closer to the precipice of climate catastrophe, and is an idiotic way to spend our shrinking carbon budget.” This is true of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and of militarism more broadly. **Globally, military operations represent about 5.5 percent of total emissions**—more than double those of commercial aviation, and on par with agriculture. Importantly, this figure only includes “everyday” military activity, and does not account for additional emissions from conflicts and warfighting such as the siege on Gaza.

**The US is not only supplying arms, but supplying (and investing in) oil that is fueling the genocide.**

There are calls to [boycott oil companies](#), particularly Chevron, which made a \$24 million investment in new natural gas production capacity off the coast of Israel in February. [Other key sources](#) of fuel, especially jet fuel, including ExxonMobil, BP, and Shell.

## **Divest from death, invest in life**

Almost [two-thirds of federal discretionary spending](#) in the United States goes to militarized programs, including war and the military, deportations and detentions, and prisons and policing. The U.S. spent over \$820 billion in defense spending in fiscal year 2023, and the defense budget has continued to skyrocket annually.

**Despite clear evidence of war crimes, the United States continues to supply [billions of dollars](#) in**

## **What you can do**

- #NotAnotherBomb - Join the [Not Another Bomb Campaign](#): sign this [petition](#); join the weekly [action calls and phone banks](#); and join an [upcoming event](#)
- Call your [members of Congress](#) today and tell them there’s [#NoRecessForGaza](#): Congress needs to step up to [support an immediate ceasefire](#), an arms embargo, and to call for an end to further U.S. troop movements into the Middle East, which raises the risk of escalation.
- Sign the petition: [Global Energy Embargo for Palestine](#)



**military funding and [other assistance to Israel](#).**

While Congress has the [authority](#) to block these transfers, they have failed to act—effectively [greenlighting](#) the ongoing atrocities amidst [domestic](#) and [global](#) condemnation.

Beyond the United States’ direct complicity in the ongoing genocide, the same systems of militarized control used to oppress and surveil Palestinians are connected to systems of [policing](#) deployed here in the United States that especially target Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and other communities of color. Instead of investing in our communities and building a world where all people can thrive, public money is funneled into systems that destroy life and land. **It will be impossible to realize climate justice without cutting funding to systems of apartheid, dispossession, and militarized violence**—in Palestine, in the United States, and around the world—that hinder the collective ability to adapt and mitigate the climate crisis.

## **The US climate movement must stand in solidarity with Palestine**

The fight for just futures is at the core of the fight for climate justice. The climate movement must unite against genocide, war, and all other forms of militarized violence and stand firmly for peace, decolonization, and life. This necessarily includes a commitment to honoring Palestinian self-determination, and following the lead of Palestinians in Palestine, demanding a permanent ceasefire and an end to the siege on Gaza.

**This is a key moment to connect demands across movements, because we’re strongest when we move in unity.** Climate justice affirms visions for a fully decarbonized, healthy, peaceful world where all people and ecosystems can thrive. To align our future with these principles requires an end to occupation, apartheid, and genocide, beginning with the US enacting an immediate arms embargo on Israel—but that will not happen without continued pressure on this administration, or the next one. **The climate movement must show up for Palestine or else we tell the powerful that we will allow many, many lives to be considered expendable as the climate crisis intensifies.**

