# UN Report Highlights Gaza's Environmental and Health Crisis Amid Ongoing Conflict



### UN Report Highlights Environmental and Health Crisis in Gaza

The United Nations has reported that over eight months of conflict between Israel and Hamas have left the Gaza Strip with more than 39 million tons of debris, exacerbating an existing health crisis. According to a preliminary assessment released on Tuesday by the UN Environmental Program, the debris includes hazardous substances such as unexploded ordnance and asbestos, as well as human remains. The conflict has also disrupted almost all environmental management systems in Gaza, damaging water sources and wastewater treatment facilities.

Additionally, the UNRWA stated that as of early June, 330,000 tons of waste have accumulated near populated areas, posing severe health and environmental risks. The U.N. Satellite Center previously reported significant damage to about 65% of Gaza's road network.

Humanitarian efforts are further hampered by restricted access to fuel and landfills, with Gaza cited as the most dangerous region for aid workers. UNRWA reported at least 250 aid worker deaths since the conflict began, including nearly 200 from their agency.

### Paris Court Lifts Ban on Israeli Exhibitors at Arms Show

A Paris court on Tuesday overturned a French government directive that barred Israeli companies from participating in the Eurosatory defense exhibition due to the Gaza conflict. The court ruled the ban as discriminatory, allowing Israeli exhibitors to join one of the world's largest arms fairs, which opened on Monday.

### Greek-Owned Commercial Ship Reported Sunk Following Houthi Attack

A British maritime agency confirmed on Tuesday that oil and debris were detected at the last known location of a Greek-owned bulk carrier named Tutor, which was disabled and likely sunk following an attack attributed to the Houthi militia. The U.S. Navy has rescued the ship's crew, who described the ordeal at a news conference.

### Humanitarian Pause in Gaza

Israel announced a daily pause in military operations in southeastern Gaza to facilitate aid delivery. However, aid groups have expressed skepticism, stating that the pause alone will not ensure a smooth flow of assistance. Among the obstacles to effective aid distribution include damaged infrastructure and restrictive inspection protocols enforced by Israel. Aid organizations have called for improved communication to prevent attacks on aid convoys and for better access to essential supplies like water and electricity.

### Israeli Peace Activist's Changed Stance Post-Captivity

Ada Sagi, a 75-year-old Israeli peace activist who was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7 and held for 53 days, has stated that she no longer believes peace between Israelis and Palestinians is possible. Released during a temporary ceasefire, Sagi recounted her captivity experience, revealing the psychological toll it took and urging the Israeli government to secure the release of remaining hostages through a ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

### International and Domestic Reactions

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has faced domestic criticism for his handling of the conflict and hostage crisis, with protesters calling for early elections and resumption of truce talks. Meanwhile, the White House denied allegations by Netanyahu that the U.S. was withholding military supplies from Israel.

In parallel developments, a UN report accused Israel of conducting disproportionate attacks in Gaza, which have resulted in civilian casualties and significant infrastructure damage.

In sum, the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas continues to inflict severe environmental, health, and humanitarian challenges in Gaza, while international and domestic stakeholders navigate complex diplomatic and operational landscapes.