

Jabalia

Northern Gaza Strip

31°31'45.83"N, 34°28'47.07"E

Published: July 26, 2025 by Palestine Desk

Updated: September 30, 2025

Incident Date: October 2023 (Ongoing)

Fatalities: Hundreds

Injured: Thousands

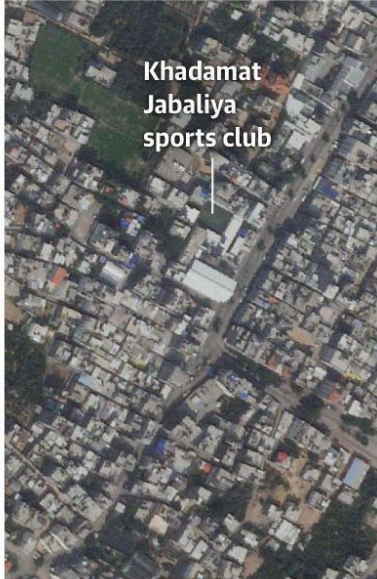
Aggressor(s) Profile: IDF
(airstrikes, artillery, and ground incursions).

Victim(s) Profile: Camp residents, families, children, displaced persons

The destruction of Jabalia refugee camp—Gaza's largest and most densely populated—conveys Israel's broader strategy in its military campaign, echoing patterns seen in earlier conflicts but with unprecedented intensity. Established in 1948, Jabalia had evolved into an urban hub housing 107,415 refugees before Israel's three-phase offensive: October 2023–January 2024 (aerial bombardment and ground invasion citing Hamas tunnels), May 2024 (re-invasion after Hamas regrouped), and ongoing since October 2024 (bulldozing entire neighborhoods for "buffer zones"). Satellite imagery shows 70% of buildings flattened, including UN schools and clinics, while eyewitnesses describe sniper killings, forced evacuations under drone surveillance, and a "scorched earth" approach rendering the camp "uninhabitable" (UNRWA 2015). Israel's claim of targeting Hamas clashes with evidence of indiscriminate artillery strikes in crowded areas, akin to the 2006 Beit Hanoun shelling, while its blockade—condemned as collective punishment—has exacerbated starvation and medical shortages. The camp's vertical expansion (due to Israel's land restrictions) made civilian harm inevitable, with density reaching 6,100/km². HRW notes deliberate infrastructure erasure to create "security corridors," violating IHL's distinction principle. With no independent investigations and Gaza's reconstruction barred by material restrictions, Jabalia's

annihilation reflects a long-term policy of territorial control through displacement, compounding 76 years of refugee precarity.

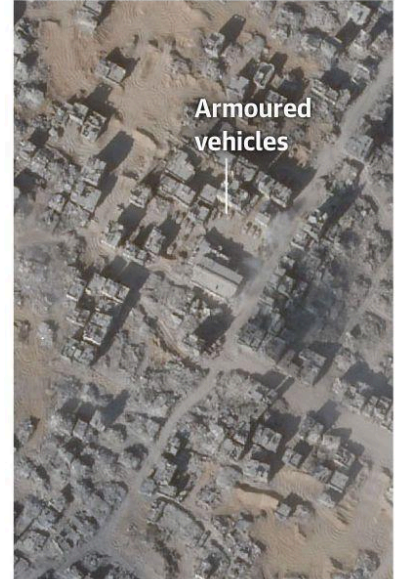
8 October 2023



12 June 2024



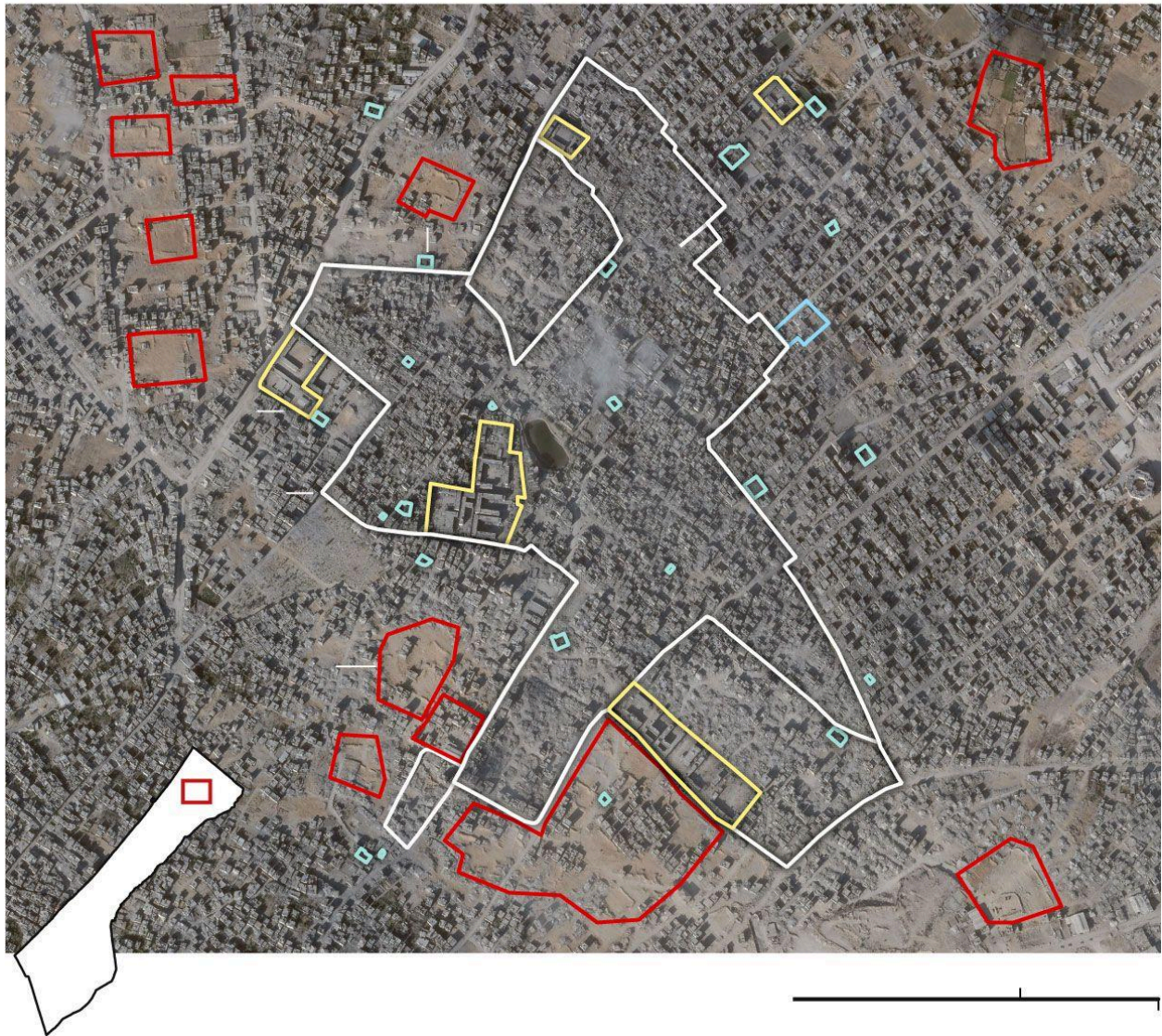
12 November 2024



Source: Beaumont, P., Tantesh, M.A. and Ahmed, K. (2024) “‘Everything is gone’: how Israeli forces destroyed Jabaliya refugee camp”, *The Guardian*.



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