

# UN Inquiry Accuses Israel of Crime of ‘Extermination’ in Destruction of Gaza Health System

By [Emma Farge](#)

Global Research, October 11, 2024  
[Reuters](#)

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [United Nations](#)  
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*A United Nations inquiry said on Thursday it found that Israel carried out a concerted policy of destroying Gaza’s healthcare system in the Gaza war, actions amounting to both war crimes and the crime against humanity of extermination.*

A statement by former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights **Navi Pillay** that accompanied the report accused Israel of “relentless and deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities” in the war, triggered by Hamas militants’ deadly cross-border attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

“Children in particular have borne the brunt of these attacks, suffering both directly and indirectly from the collapse of the health system,” said Pillay, whose 24-page report covering the first 10 months of the war will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 30.

Israel’s prime minister’s office and its foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Israel says that Gaza’s militants operate from the cover of built-up populated areas including private homes, schools and hospitals and that it will strike them wherever they emerge, while also trying to avoid harming civilians. Hamas denies hiding militants, weapons and command posts among civilians.

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*Featured image: Some of the wounded at al-Shifa hospital (Gaza Health Ministry)*

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