

supplies, similar to the mass killing of buffalo in the United States as a means to commit genocide against Plains Indians. Israelis encouraged by Benjamin Netanyahu's references to Amalek since October 7, justify these actions with reference to Jewish scripture, citing 1 Samuel 15:3, "Now, go, and you shall smite Amalek, and you shall utterly destroy all that is his, and you shall not have pity on him: and you shall slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."



## ANIMALIZATION AS A WEAPON OF GENOCIDE

Fundamental to Israel's genocidal Zionist ideology is the fusion of Jewish supremacy and human supremacy in the bigoted notion that Palestinians are animals and that animals are subhuman creatures who do not have rights. The founding slogan of the Zionist movement was "a land without people for a people without a land", which implied that Palestinians were not really people and were something less than human. This justified the notion that Palestinians had no right to their homeland and could simply be expelled or exterminated to make way for the creation of Israel. Israeli literature and discourse is full of references to Palestinians as pigs, two-footed beasts, rats, dogs, monkeys, moles, salmon (a reference by former Israel prime minister to the desire of the Palestinian refugees to return home) snakes, crocodiles, leaches, lice, mosquitoes, wasps, spiders, locusts, and termites. On October 9, 2023, as Israel began its current genocidal assault on Gaza, Israeli defense minister Yoav Gallant described Palestinians as "humans animals", an attitude that has been pervasive in the troops under his command's treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and on the West Bank. The animal liberation movement is a justice movement committed to fighting oppression justified by human supremacist bigotry. In the case of Palestine, this must mean fighting for the liberation of the Palestinian people along with all other sentient beings harmed by the state of Israel and the genocidal, ecocidal Zionist movement.

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## ISRAEL: THE VEGAN PARADISE?

Israel claims to be the world's most vegan nation and courts vegan influencers like Gary Yourofsky and That Vegan Couple. US-based org Jewish Veg collaborated with Israeli organization Mayanot to sponsor a vegan Birthright propaganda trip to Israel. Birthright trips are sponsored by far-right billionaire Miriam Adelson and are a tactic to ensure that young Jews remain loyal to Israel and do not question its abuses of human and animal rights. What Israel doesn't tell the vegans is far from being a vegan paradise, it has the **7th highest rate of per capita meat consumption of any nation!**

The Israeli Defense Forces (commonly referred to as the Israeli Occupation Forces - IOF) calls itself "the most vegan army in the world". On their Youtube page, you can find a video where they brag about vegan boots, and vegan meal options. This serves two functions. The first is recruitment. While military service is mandatory for Israeli Jews, Israel also seeks to recruit soldiers from overseas through its "Lone Soldier" program. This video and other outreach efforts like it tell vegans that their dietary and clothing choices will be accommodated in the IOF. The second function is called "hasbara", a Hebrew word that literally translates to "explaining" in English and describes propaganda aimed at audiences outside of Israel. Israel knows that people associate vegans with compassion, gentleness, and a commitment to ethical conduct. By framing the IOF as the world's most vegan army **Israel attempts to borrow vegans' reputation to encourage the impression that the IOF is the world's most moral army**, one that respects animals, obeys international law, and seeks to avoid causing harm to civilians. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the IOF uses its vegan image to disguise its horrific violation of animal and human rights, a cynical propaganda tactic called veganwashing.

**Far from a "vegan" army, the IOF is an army of cruelty and abuse.**

## WAR ON CATS AND DOGS

Even as they themselves starve, the people of Gaza have struggled to provide cats, dogs, and other animals with food, water, and veterinary care amid a crushing blockade on humanitarian supplies by the Israeli government intended to cause a famine. In April, a shelter in Gaza that cares for 65 disabled cats was bombed in an Israeli airstrike. **Starving cats and dogs are eating the corpses of humans killed by Israelis.** Children like Ahmed Aaed are desperately trying to save the lives of starving, sick, and injured cats and grappling with the pain of their deaths as they are unable to save them with inadequate supplies. People who care about animals know the fear dogs and cats experience from fireworks. The terror Gaza's surviving animals are subjected to on a daily basis is far worse. According to Saeed Al-Err, of Gaza's Sulala Animal Rescue, "When it comes to the animals, they are scared when they hear an airplane. Whenever a plane flies over, they run and try to hide. When there are bombs, they are even more frightened—even those with us in the house. The cats in the shelter—the chalet—when outside and hearing a plane, run inside. Both cats and dogs... Not all like being inside; some prefer to play and run outside. But when there's a plane, they run to the doors or windows, and we let them in."



## WAR ON ANIMAL RESCUERS

No place is safe in Gaza and animal rescuers are among the sick, starving, and dying. **Loay Rami Al Wadi, a 19-year-old who helped hundreds of animals, was killed in a weekend of intense Israeli bombing.** Maryam Barq, known as "The Cat Lady of Gaza" runs the shelter described above. According to Ester Kef of Dutch animal emergency relief organization Animal Heroes, "Maryam is a young woman who can barely walk due to severe muscle loss caused by malnutrition. She has been dizzy for months and has developed kidney problems. She has been surviving on bread and lentils for more than a year – and even the bread has completely run out. We cannot even begin to imagine what it's like to live like this. This is the second time she has physically been attacked by an airstrike. She survived both attacks, at the same time we are watching helplessly as a brave, selfless young animal rescuer is slowly dying of famine."



19-year-old Loay Rami Al Wadi helped hundred of animals at Sulala Animal Rescue before being killed in an Israeli bombing.

## WAR ON ZOO ANIMALS

Zoo animals in Gaza are literally starving to death as a result of Israel's blockade as caretakers try desperately to keep them alive. As animals are dying, food is rotting on aid trucks and desperately needed medical and veterinary supplies went unused.

## WAR ON WILDLIFE

Israel's many brutal military operations in Gaza had already taken a devastating toll on wildlife even before the current aggression. **By 2022, biodiversity had declined 40% since the early 2000s** according to the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Pollution and damage to infrastructure from bombing has destroyed critical wildlife habitat in coastal wetlands, forests, and agricultural areas. Migratory birds, mammals and reptiles have suffered as a result. Animals including the Arabian gazelle and Palestine sunbird have all but disappeared. Bombing has also caused severe air pollution, with contaminants including lead, mercury, and depleted uranium. This shortens the lifespans and fertility of birds. Smoke-filled, polluted air also disrupts their migratory patterns.



Palestinian Sunbird

## WAR ON AQUATIC LIFE

Aquatic life has not been spared. Water pollution from the bombing of water treatment plants and sewage infrastructure has killed off fish and other river and sea life. According to M&S Research Hub's Global Economy Newsletter, **"Underwater explosions, whether from naval bombardments or aerial strikes, have devastating effects on marine ecosystems. The shockwaves kill fish, destroy coral reefs, and disrupt the delicate balance of marine life.** Furthermore, oil spills from damaged fuel depots near the coast contribute to the pollution, creating a hostile environment for marine organisms."

## WAR ON FARMED ANIMALS AND BEASTS OF BURDEN

The combination of lack of food and water, bombing, and targeted killing has led to a catastrophic death toll for Gaza's animals since October 7, 2023, including 97% of Gaza's 10,000 cows, 60,000 sheep, and 10,000 goats and 93% of Gaza's 3 million chickens. Only 6% of Gaza's over 20,000 donkeys, horses, and mules remain. The destruction of these animals is a deliberate strategy to starve, impoverish, and deprive the people of Gaza of means of transporting food and