

Gaza Strip



U.S. ARMY

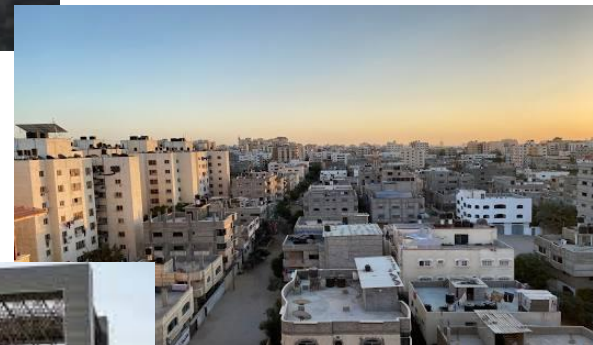
(U) This infographic provides information on the Gaza Strip. Gaza Strip, Arabic Qiṭā' Ghazzah, Hebrew Rezu'at 'Azza, is territory occupying 140 square miles (363 square km) along the Mediterranean Sea just northeast of the Sinai Peninsula. The Gaza Strip is unusual, as it is a densely settled area not recognized by law as part of any extant country. In 1993, Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization signed the first of the Oslo Accords establishing the Palestinian Authority with limited administrative control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Pursuant to the Accords, Israel continues to maintain control of the Gaza Strip's airspace, land borders (with the exception of Gaza's border with Egypt), and territorial waters.



The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas of the world. More than two million people live inside the sliver of land, just 25 miles long and 7.5 miles at its widest. The confined quarters make it nearly impossible to avoid civilian casualties when airstrikes are launched against the region.



The Gaza Strip Boarder Wall



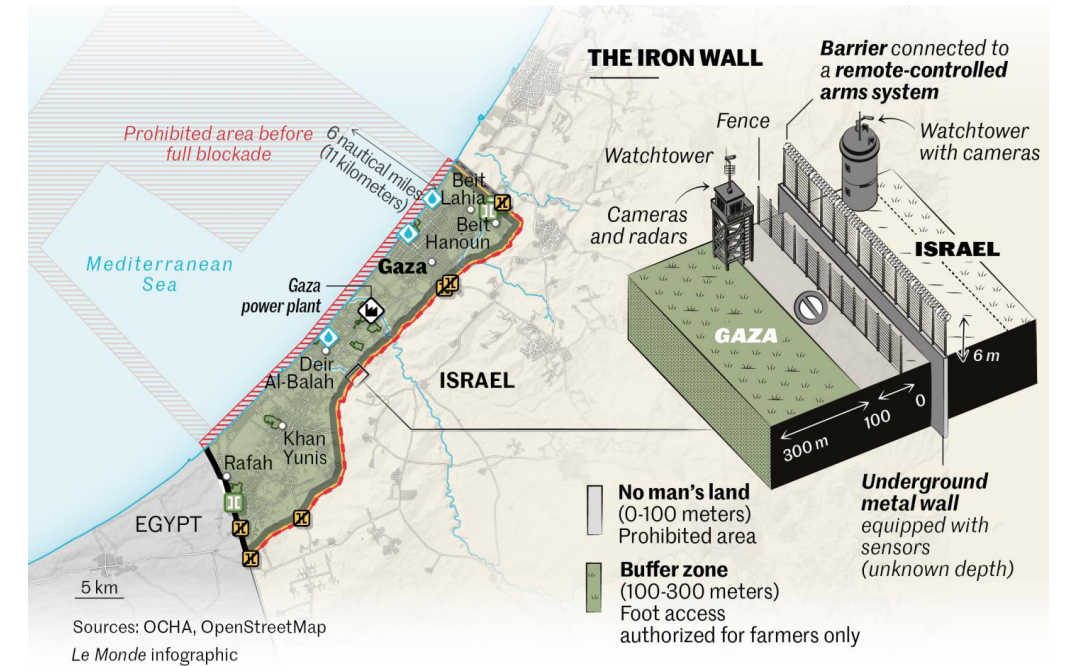
The Gaza City



Rafah Border Crossing

Source:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/10/07/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-maps.html>
- <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/gaza-strip/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza%E2%80%93Israel_barrier



The Gaza–Israel barrier (sometimes called the Iron Wall) is a border barrier located on the Israeli side of the Gaza–Israel border. The Erez Crossing, in the north of the Gaza Strip, is the only crossing point for people and goods coming from Israel into Gaza; there exists a second crossing point in the barrier, called the Kerem Shalom border crossing, which is exclusive for the crossing of goods coming from Egypt, as Israel does not allow goods to go directly from Egypt into Gaza through the Egypt–Gaza border.

A fence along the border was first constructed by Israel in 1994 as a security barrier, and has been rebuilt and upgraded since. It was constructed by Israel to control the movement of people as well as goods between the Gaza Strip and Israel, which it could not achieve by normal border crossings.

There is also one crossing along the Egypt–Gaza border, the Rafah Crossing, though it is limited to the crossing of people; as per Israel's demand, any cargo or goods that are to enter Gaza must go through Israel, usually through the Kerem Shalom border crossing.