

MARCH 2024, ISSUE 11

SPECIAL EDITION:  
**UKRAINE: TWO  
YEARS ON**



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Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights empowers civilians in war zones to monitor and document violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. This month's newsletter addresses the two year anniversary since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and an update on the Israel-Hamas war. Don't miss the details inside about upcoming fundraising opportunities to help support our crucial initiatives.

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# UKRAINE: TWO YEARS ON

24th February marked two years since Russian forces invaded Ukraine in 2022. Despite the passage of time, the conflict shows no signs of ending with Russia continuing to launch further attacks. According to the latest findings from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the toll on civilians remains staggering: a total of 30,457 civilian casualties have been documented since February 2022, comprising 10,582 lives lost and 19,875 individuals injured. The devastation extends beyond human lives, with Ukrainian infrastructure bearing the brunt of relentless assaults. 1,072 educational facilities have been either completely destroyed or partially damaged, alongside 465 medical facilities. As we reflect on these statistics, it becomes evident that to adequately address the needs of Ukrainian civilians and support their journey towards recovery and reconstruction, reparations are essential.

OVER 30,000  
CASUALTIES AND  
1.5 MILLION  
HOMES  
DESTROYED SINCE  
THE OUTBREAK OF  
WAR IN UKRAINE



Kyiv, Ukraine ©Shutterstock

## Reparations Progress

### National Level:

The enactment of a compensation law for property damage and the introduction of a new draft law addressing urgent interim reparations for survivors of sexual abuse demonstrates positive progress at a national level. These advancements have been championed by Ukrainian colleagues, whose efforts Ceasefire works to amplify and promote at the international level.

### International Level:

- Key milestones included the issuance of arrest warrants at the International Criminal Court, including for President Putin, as well as the establishment of the International Register of Damages in The Hague. However, while there has been notable focus on the need to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes, the likelihood of apprehending senior figures remains uncertain, and less attention has been paid to securing reparations for civilians.



- Notably, both Russian state assets and oligarch assets remain frozen around the world since 2022. However, legal hurdles, including concerns regarding sovereign immunity, have hindered their reallocation for reparations. Now, politicians in the US and the EU are pushing to use at a minimum the interest accrued on the assets, including as a replacement for US military aid.
- It is important to ensure that these assets are not diverted for military or security purposes but are instead directed towards victims and incorporated into the broader framework of reparations.



@EVGENIY MALOLETKA

### **Ceasefire's Guiding Principles on Reparations for Ukraine:**

Ceasefire has developed an international route map outlining a proposed reparations scheme for Ukraine. This framework contains a set of foundational guiding principles:

1. **Civilians First**
2. **Holistic Approach**
3. **Victim-Orientated Approach**
4. **Inclusive and Non-Discriminatory**
5. **The Perpetrator Should Pay**

In collaboration with our partner organisation in Ukraine, Ceasefire is actively engaged in the implementation of a reparations project. We have started by ensuring that lessons are learnt from previous attempts to provide civilians with reparation. We have successfully conducted numerous interviews and facilitated focus group discussions involving former detainees, survivors of conflict-related violence, and officials responsible for compensation administration. Ceasefire remains resolute in its dedication to addressing the pressing need for reparations in Ukraine. Through this project, we aim to secure a comprehensive and victim-centred resolution for Ukrainian civilians.



# THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Violence and civilian suffering continue to dominate the Israel-Hamas War. Since 7 October 2023, over 1,300 Israelis have been killed, and over 30,000 Palestinians have been reported killed (OCHA) with over 70,000 Palestinians reported injured (MoH Gaza). Aid convoys are consistently denied entry to Gaza and humanitarian actors have been unable to access most of both northern and southern Gaza safely. Reports continue of Israeli forces firing on Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid.

OVER 65,000 HOUSING UNITS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN GAZA (MOPWH) AND 1.7 MILLION DISPLACED IN GAZA (UN ESTIMATION).



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Over the last few months, Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights has been working to publicize violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the Gaza conflict. IHL sets basic humanitarian standards which are applied universally and equally to all parties to a conflict. Ceasefire has called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and those detained arbitrarily. Ceasefire has criticized the Israel Defense Forces' tolerance for civilian harm and disproportionate civilian "collateral damage", best evidenced with the 31 October 2023 Jabalia refugee camp airstrike.

Ceasefire has also raised concerns over indiscriminate bombing in Gaza. Indiscriminate bombing violates the most important IHL principle of distinction, whereby all parties to a conflict must distinguish between military and civilian objects and direct attacks only against military objectives. The IDF has been using large amounts of unguided munitions including air-to-ground munitions and heavy artillery shells rather than precision weapons. These unguided munitions pose a serious threat to civilians in





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CEASEFIRE'S  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR MARK  
LATTIMER



such densely populated urban areas. Although IHL forbids carpet or area bombardment, numerous photographs and satellite images display entire neighbourhoods destroyed to the ground in Gaza.

This past month, Ceasefire has also been pressuring the UK and US governments to support implementation of the interim measures ordered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On Friday January 26th, the ICJ ordered Israel to take provisional measures to prevent acts of genocide and ensure humanitarian access to the Gaza population under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Ceasefire has joined with 30 other NGOs to urge the UK Government to publicly recognise the ICJ's findings and support the application of the provisional measures. The UK, as a party to the Convention, is bound to ensure it prevents and is not complicit in violations of the Genocide Convention of 1948.

Ceasefire and other NGOs have also urged the UK to join calls for an immediate ceasefire in order to deliver essential humanitarian assistance and ensure adherence to these provisional measures. An earlier temporary ceasefire saw the safe return of 105 hostages, a complete suspension of hostilities, and the delivery of increased aid for the civilian population.

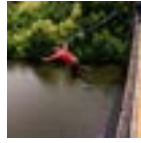
For more, read Ceasefire's Executive Director, Mark Lattimer's articles on the Gaza conflict:

- <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/64322/the-gaza-conflict-could-forever-change-how-we-apply-the-laws-of-war>
- <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/the-international-court-of-justice-s-interim-measures-to-prevent-genocide-in-gaza>

# CEASEFIRE FUNDRAISING EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

## BUNGEE JUMPS

Multiple dates and locations (2024)



## BARCELONA MARATHON

March 2024



## PARIS HALF MARATHON

March 2024



## PARIS MARATHON

April 2024



## MANCHESTER MARATHON

April 2024



## HACKNEY HALF

May 2024



## EDINBURGH 10K/5K

May 2024



## EDINBURGH MARATHON/HALF

May 2024



## ASICS 10K

July 2024



## INFLATABLE 5K

Multiple dates and locations (2024)



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CHALLENGE EVENT  
WHILST RAISING FUNDS FOR AN IMPORTANT CAUSE?

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE AWESOME EVENTS BELOW AND  
JOIN THE TEAM!

Check out the 'Run for Charity' page on our website for more  
information. <https://www.ceasefire.org/run-for-charity/>

If you have another event in mind, please get in contact with  
us. We would love to partner with you!

Email: [fundraising@ceasefire.org](mailto:fundraising@ceasefire.org)

