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The guiding principle behind the *Gaza Atlas* comes out of our understanding of the genocide as a vast multiplicity, composed of thousands upon thousands of intersecting acts and incidents whose relationship and structure become apparent through our research methods.

Our tendency toward visual abstraction in composing this atlas reflects an interest in the deconstruction of evidentiary elements to their most essential forms: a deconstruction of our findings to expose the process behind the research, the gradual coming together of layers through which the individual datapoints acquire a language of their own. The relative abstraction also reflects a concern for the political implications surrounding the representation of people and place; for reasons of privacy and security, we did not wish to reproduce imagery of Palestinians of the kind that continues to circulate widely online, even though it naturally informed our work. We also chose to exclude the borders of the Gaza Strip from our renderings of it, as we understand the borders to be in themselves a form of violence imposed on this southwestern coastal part of Palestine. Instead, it is through the dense plurality of datapoints, each one representing a different atrocity, that Gaza's geographical contours and imposed borders materialize.

We began our work on Gaza immediately in October 2023, oscillating between trying to investigate individual incidents, respond to Israeli disinformation, and start breaking down the Israeli military's conduct in Gaza into distinct categories of violence. These three efforts coalesced in the creation of an expansive integrated database, which would become the basis of our "Cartography of Genocide" platform and subsequent report. This report was provided to the South African legal team to support their ongoing submissions in the genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

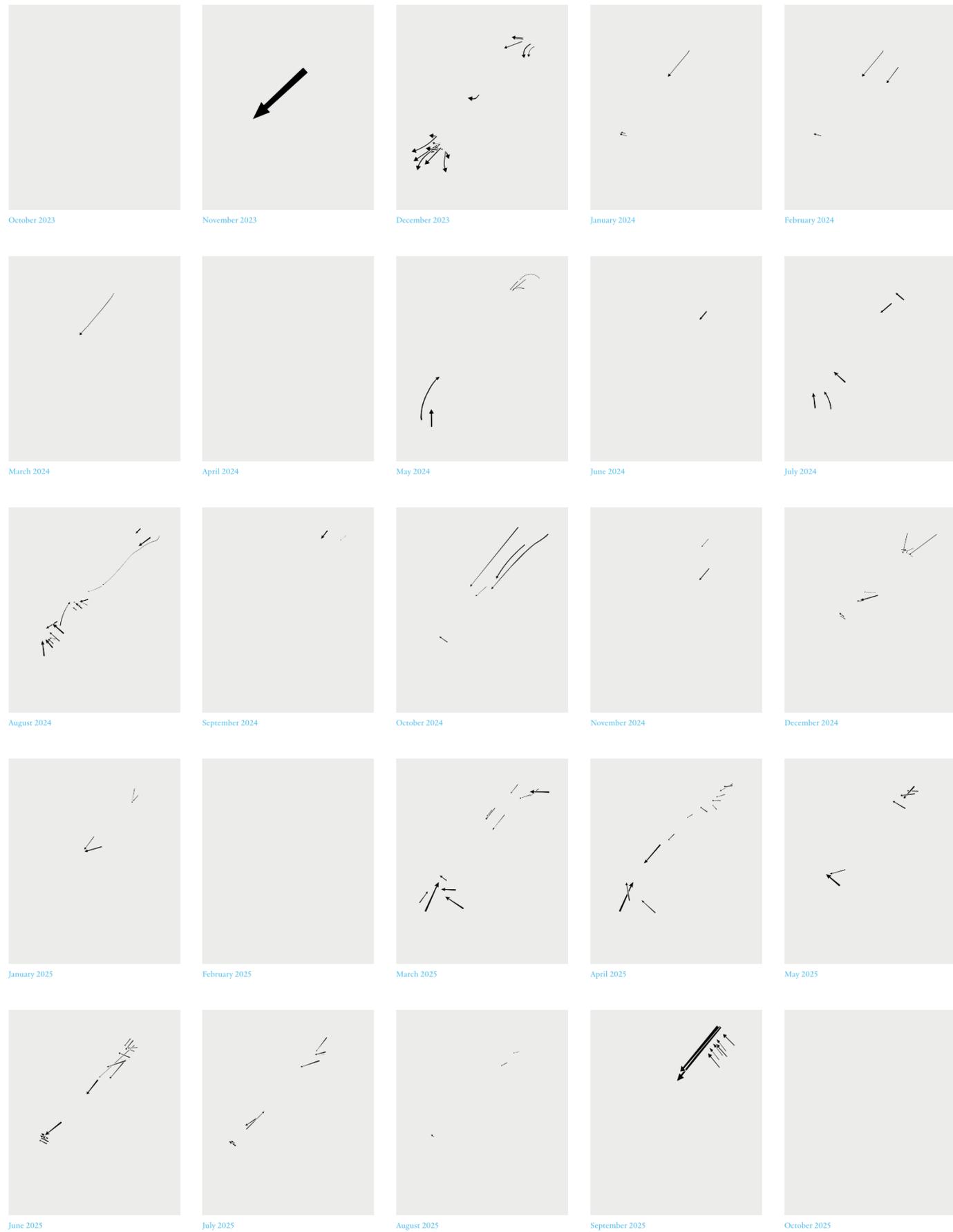
As we produced this research, we were simultaneously continuing to collect and analyze visual material and recorded testimonies posted online by people on the ground in Gaza or sometimes sent to us directly by friends and collaborators there. We watched, listened, and read heart-breaking accounts of pain and cruelty, each testimony speaking to experiences at once individual and collective of loss and displacement, bombings and demolitions—deeply personal stories that also evidenced Israeli efforts to systematically destroy different dimensions of life in Gaza.

There is a strange gulf between the chaos and confusion of an ongoing genocide conveyed in the videos and testimonies received from Gaza—and the indescribable grief, rage, and disbelief we felt at what we were witnessing—and the legal necessity to calmly collect, classify, and catalogue evidence, and therein find a way to demonstrate and articulate the unspeakable, the incomprehensible. Ours was a desperate, often Sisyphean attempt to document as much as we could, to carefully look at each of the many thousands of incidents and try to understand them both as unique atrocities affecting specific people, places, and communities, and in terms of their relations to other observed incidents. Different patterns emerged across this aggregate data, and as it became possible to visualize it spatially and temporally within our cartographic platform, the relationships between these individual incidents demonstrated that different types of seemingly unrelated atrocities, perpetrated simultaneously, amplified the harm created by others. The cumulative impact was greater than the sum of its parts: in legal terms, the deliberate infliction on the Palestinian people of the conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction, a genocide.

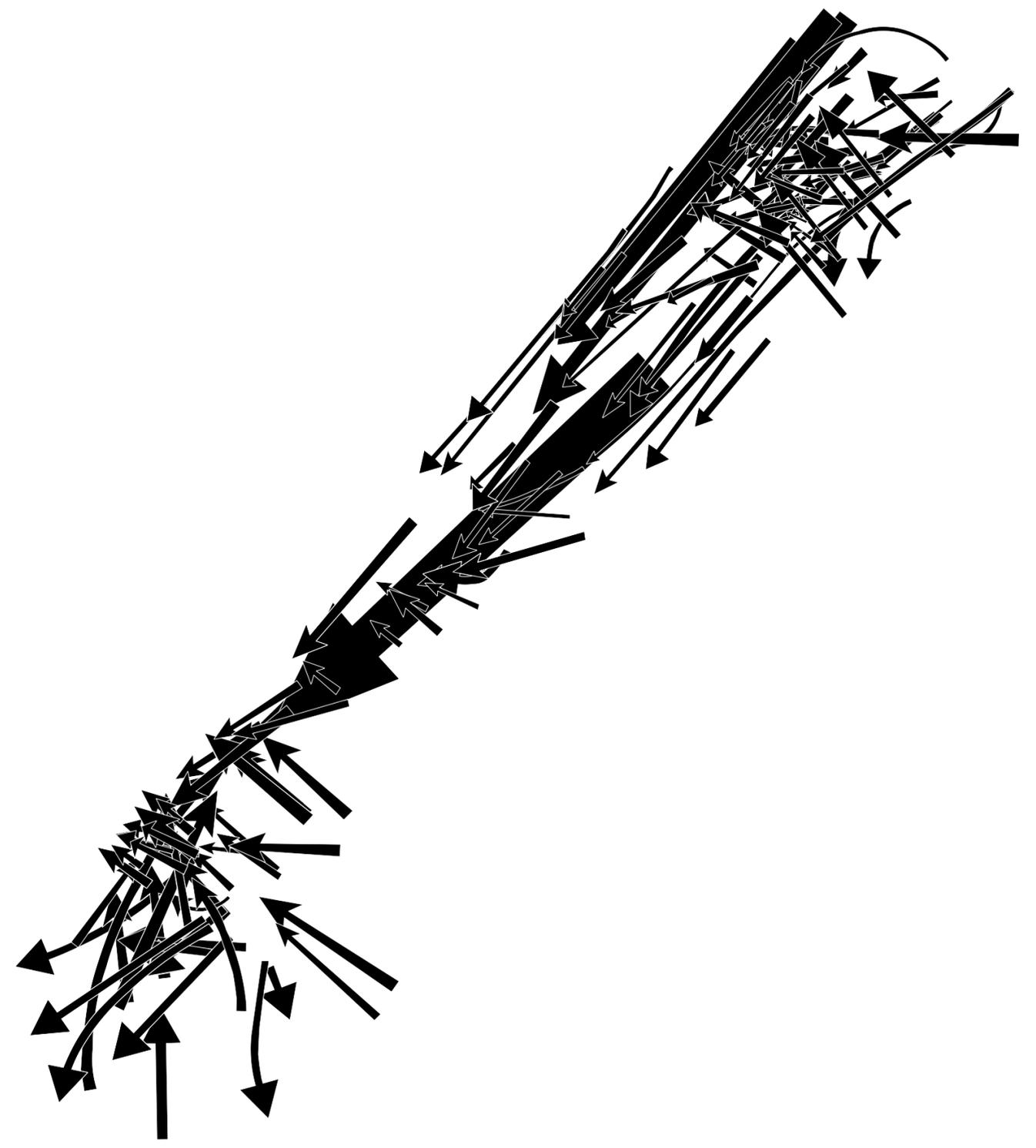
—Forensic Architecture



EVACUATION LEAFLETS
 According to the UN, at least 90 percent of Palestinians in Gaza were displaced one or more times since October 2023. Far from an inadvertent byproduct of the Israeli military campaign, the catastrophic displacement crisis in Gaza is part of a deliberate strategy within which evacuation orders are a central tool for the creation of genocidal conditions on the ground. Since October 2023, Palestinians in Gaza have again and again recorded videos of skies suddenly flooded with airdropped paper leaflets, sometimes fluttering like snowflakes, or taking flight like a flock of starlings, slowly carrying their messages of psychic terror to the waiting population below. Containing nothing but words and maps, these leaflets are some of the most lethal weapons in Israel's arsenal.—FA

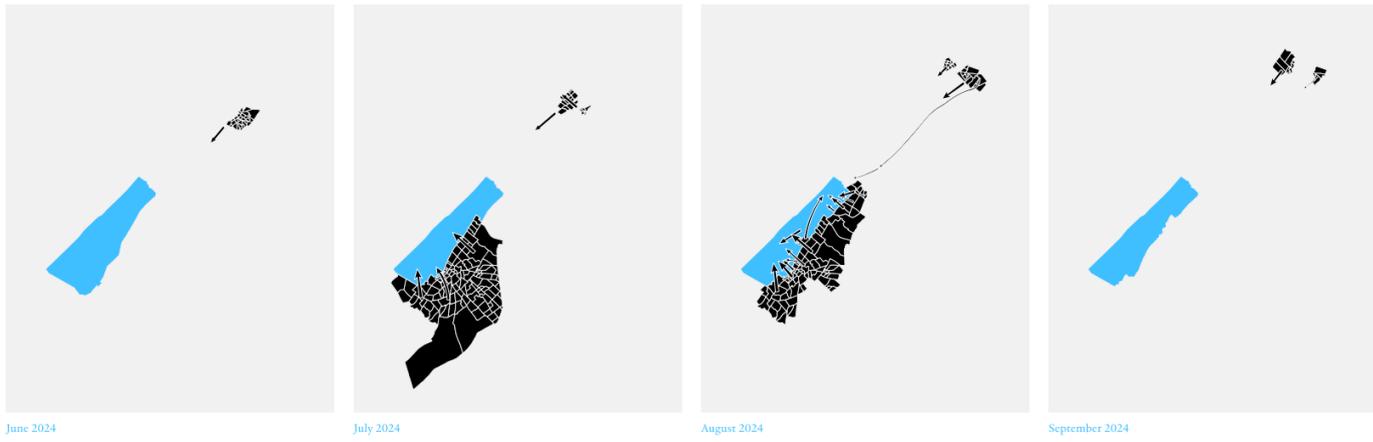
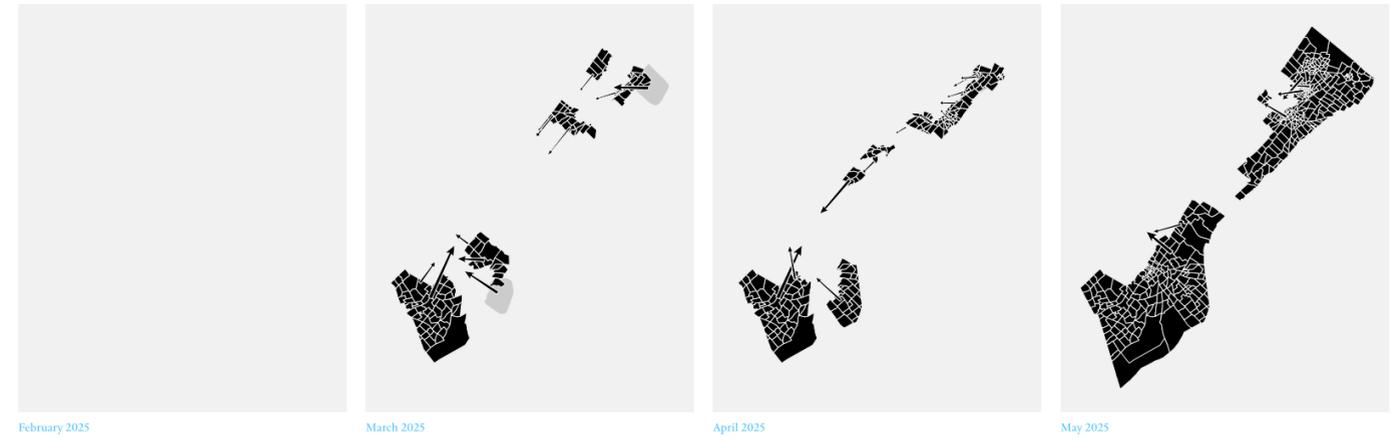
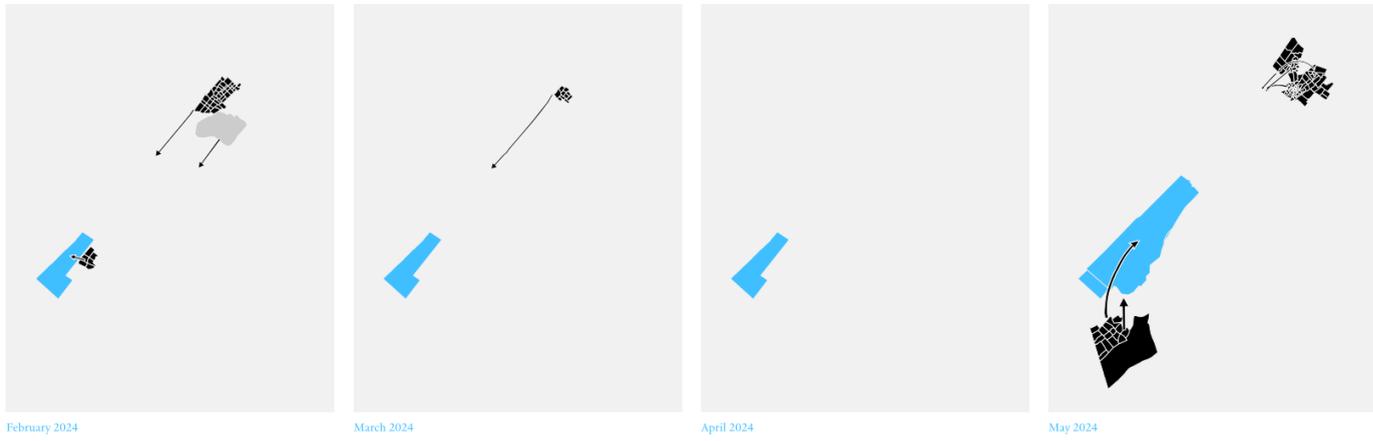
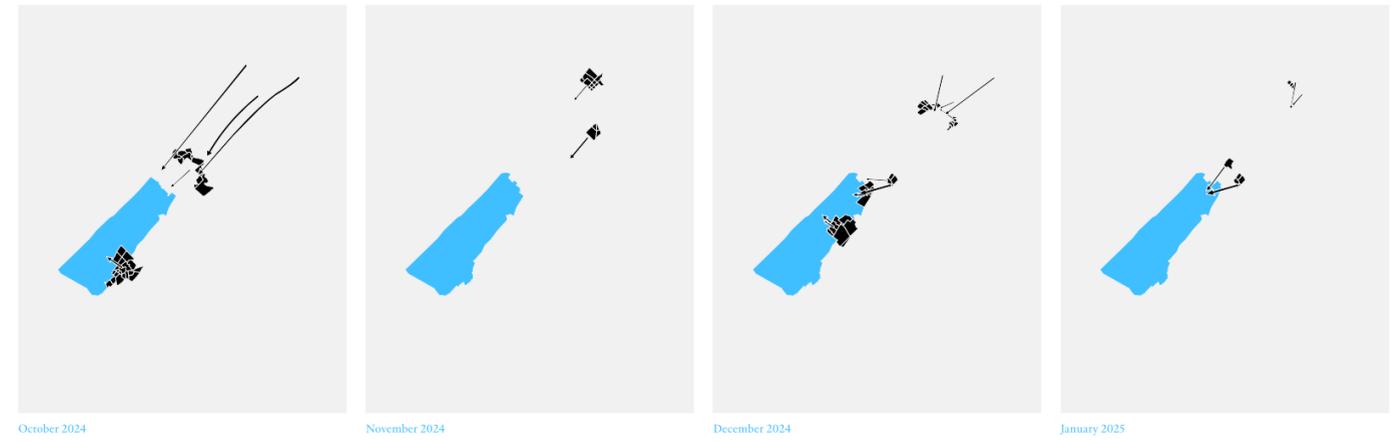
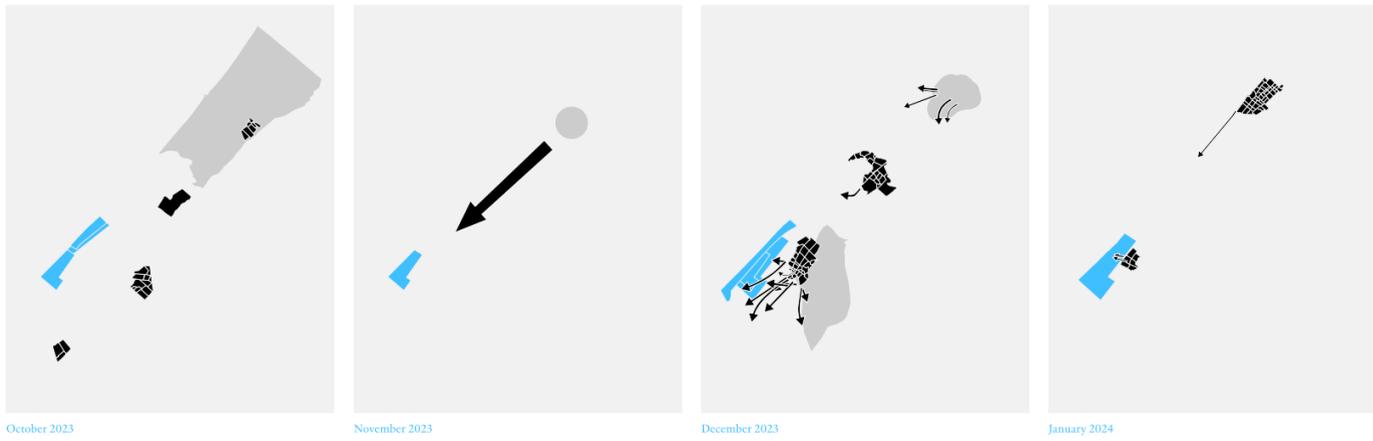


0 2 km



EVACUATION ORDERS: ISRAELI MILITARY ARROWS

With every evacuation order issued by the Israeli military, a new arrow or set of arrows laid over the map of Gaza would indicate where Palestinians located in the newly designated area under evacuation were being instructed to go. Sometimes multiple orders would be issued in the same day providing contradictory information (arrows going in different directions); sometimes displaced people would arrive at the safe zone the arrows had directed them to, only to find that place was now under evacuation order. Seen together, these directional devices form a network of utter chaos and confusion: instructions that were never designed to be understood.—FA



EVACUATION ORDERS + AREAS + HUMANITARIAN ZONES
 Between October 2023 and October 2025, Israel issued over 150 evacuation orders. The areas under evacuation were sometimes communicated using a confusing grid system developed by the military, other times whole areas would be placed under evacuation, often demarcated with shapes inconsistent with the logic of the grid. Meanwhile, the “humanitarian zone” in al-Mawasi, designated as early as October 2023 by the military as a safe area where aid would be provided, was subject to repeated aerial attacks and has had its boundaries redrawn repeatedly without warning, causing panic and confusion on the ground.—FA



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50612-21943 50612-50079 50618-26571 50619-59908 50712-58900



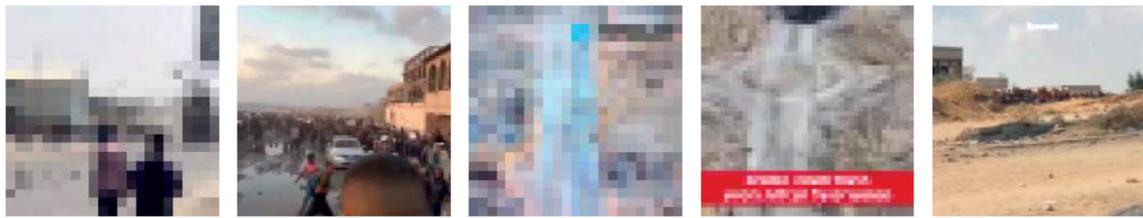
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50729-20255 50729-82076 50730-38221 50801-61057 50804-47891

50601-04742

A video published on June 1, 2025 shows armed individuals reportedly organising the resale of stolen aid, less than 2km southwest of the al-Tahliya roundabout. In the video, armed gangs can be seen intimidating crowds of civilians as they queue along a fence in a residential area to buy bags of flour from individuals reportedly affiliated with a family-run organized aid theft operation. Before this video was widely circulated, the Israeli military published drone footage of the same incident, claiming that these armed individuals were affiliated with Hamas, without providing any evidence. On the same day, the Gaza Media Office published a statement saying that the drone footage published by the Israeli military shows activities of gangs supported by the Israeli military, and claiming the timing of the video's publication was intentional, to distract from the fact that Israel had killed thirty-one Palestinians at the GHF station in Rafah that day. We verified this claim from a Palestinian source, who identified the men visible in the videos as members of a local gang family.

50601-16998, 50602-11483

Videos from May and June 2025 showing attacks on civilians seeking aid in proximity to the GHF ration station of the Swedish Village in Rafah.

50610-23501, 50612-50079, 50714-52104

We verified at least twenty-seven attacks against civilians near the Swedish Village, Saudi District and Wadi Gaza ration stations in Rafah and Netzarim between May 29 and August 1, 2025. These attacks included direct shooting at civilians [50610-23501; 50714-52104], and the use of tear gas [50612-50079]. Twenty occurred along the designated path communicated by the GHF for civilians to use to reach the ration stations.

50610-23501, 50611-53424, 50612-21943

Footage from the Swedish Village ration station shows security personnel pointing guns at civilians waiting for aid on June 11, 2025, forcing them to gather in large numbers beyond the fences and berms [50611-53424]. After the civilians are shouted at, the footage shows people desperately running toward the centre of the site, where aid boxes had been left by the GHF. Further footage on June 10 shows a similar scene at the Saudi Village station, with large numbers of civilians looking through boxes inside the ration station [50610-23501]. Footage from June 12 shows large number of civilians waiting outside the GHF ration station in Wadi Gaza, where shooting is audible and use of gas canister on civilians is visible [50612-21943].

50612-50079, 50728-05165

Videos taken between May and July 2025, showing attacks on civilians seeking aid in proximity to the GHF ration station of the Wadi Gaza in Bureij, central Gaza.

50610-23501, 50712-58900, 50719-90830

Videos from June and July 2025 showing attacks on civilians seeking aid in proximity to the GHF ration station of the Saudi District in Rafah.

50729-03946

To justify disrupting and withholding aid, Israel has repeatedly claimed that Hamas is stealing, hoarding or profiting from humanitarian assistance, and that aid provided by the UN and organizations such as the Palestinian Red Crescent benefits Hamas. Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israeli Minister of National Security said, "we need to explain to him [President Trump] that this aid goes to Hamas, and Hamas are Nazis, and they shouldn't be given a single grain of food." As part of these claims, on multiple occasions Israeli officials have circulated videos of armed individuals in Gaza, labelling them as Hamas members without providing evidence. Clan members, gangs, and other armed groups—including some directly supported by the Israeli military—also carry weapons. Forensic Architecture has disproved a number of these claims. One video published by the Arabic spokesperson of the Israeli military on July 29, 2025, showed armed individuals taking control of a truck. He claimed these individuals were members of Hamas without providing any supporting evidence. We geolocated this video and verified its location to be in one of the known aid diversion locations by gangs and desperate civilians near Zikim Crossing.

50729-12796

Satellite images from July 26, 2025 show aid trucks rerouted to a smaller road heading north from the Israeli military zone between the Morag and Philadelphi corridors. Since then, we have confirmed five cases of aid diversion along this road. One video from July 29, 2025 shows aid diversion by desperate civilians seeking aid on Omar ibn al-Khattab Road in Khan Younis.

50801-61057

Drone footage from August 1, 2025 shows a large crowd of desperate civilians near the Oasis Roundabout on al-Rashid Road as aid trucks entered Zikim through the Zikim crossing.

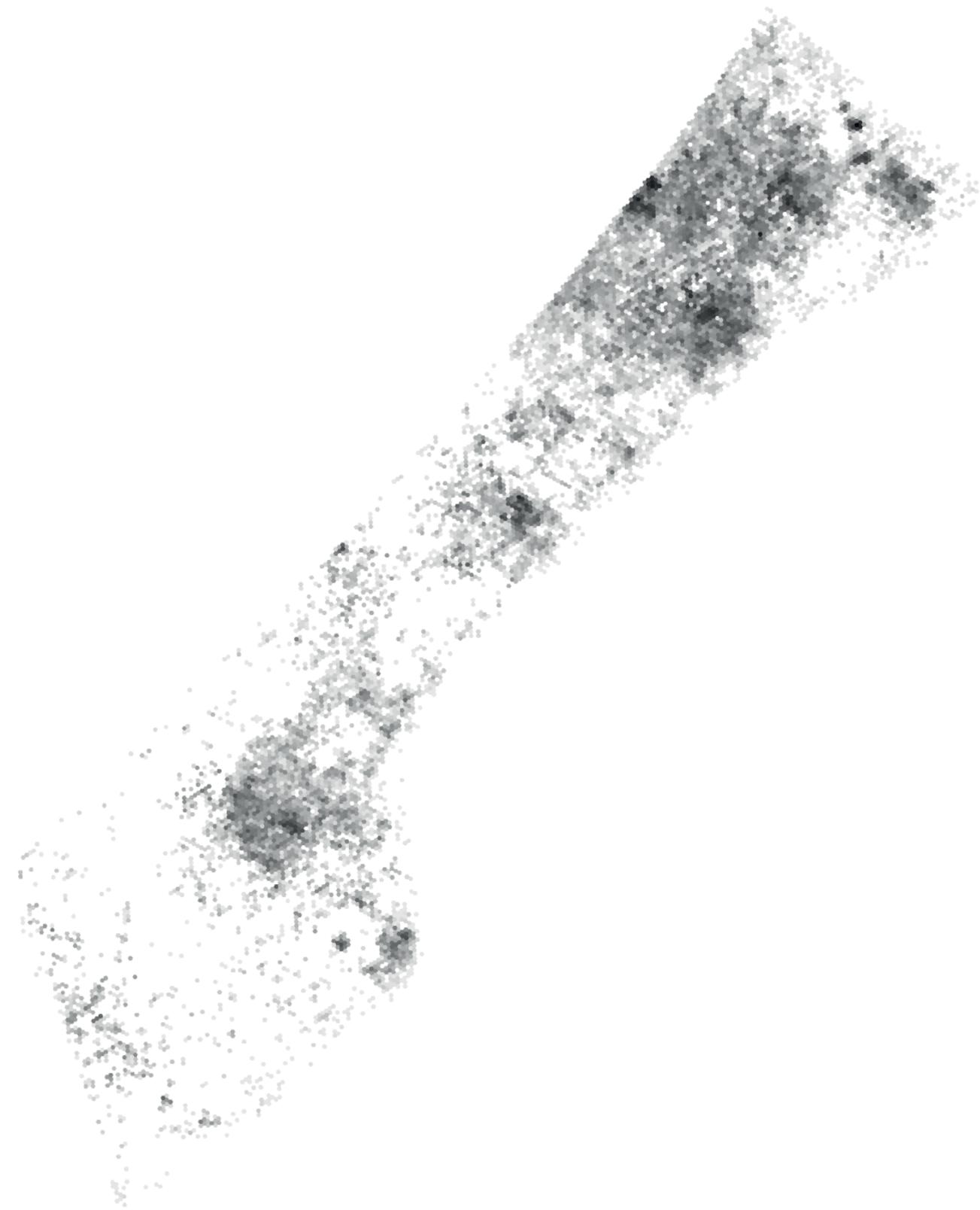
INCIDENTS: AID

Each video coming out of Gaza was a historical document, a molecular unit in a genocide unfolding. The numbers of testimonies, videos and audio files grew from one week to the next: from hundreds, to thousands, to tens of thousands. We gathered, analyzed, and verified as many as we could, assigning them ID numbers, geolocating and chronolocating them, and tagging them according to the types and subtypes of violence depicted. Once entered into our database and plotted within our evolving digital map, they became minute buttresses in an evidentiary framework demonstrating the destruction of life in Gaza according to different overlapping categories.

For example, at the same time as Israel's "evacuation orders" pushed people into overcrowded areas where water sources had been contaminated and local agricultural land razed, aid infrastructure was also destroyed and restricted, limiting the capacity of international humanitarian actors to mitigate the loss of local food sources. Meanwhile, the destruction of medical infrastructure drastically curtailed the capacity of Palestinian civil society to ameliorate the effects of the resulting "engineered famine." The incidents represented here are some of the many that directly informed our report "The Architecture of Genocidal Starvation in Gaza, March–August 2025," excerpted above.—FA



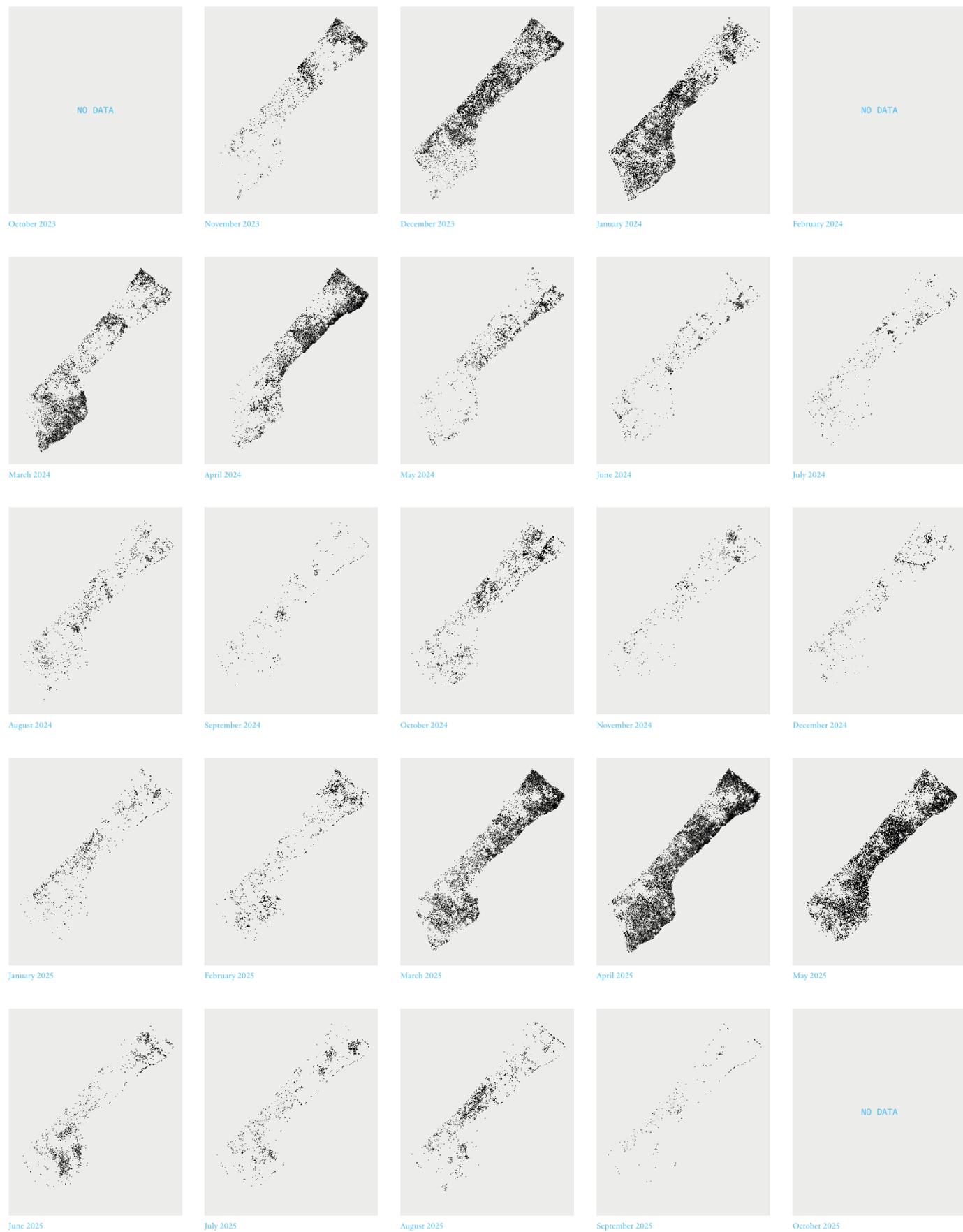
0 2 km



URBAN DESTRUCTION

By the end of October 2023, the Israeli army had dropped over 25,000 tons of munitions on Gaza's cities and camps, the majority targeting Gaza City. The first 10,000 dead were reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Each time Israel began to run low on munitions, the US stepped in to replenish them, in the first year alone sending over 14,000 of the 2,000-pound MK-84 bombs capable of ripping through thick concrete and metal. Residential and commercial tower blocks, shopping centres, schools, mosques, bakeries, banks, the beach promenade, hospitals, the legislative council, bookshops, publishing houses, libraries, hundreds of educational facilities, universities, food warehouses, restaurants, Gaza's supreme, administrative and constitutional courts were gone. Hundreds of heritage and archaeological sites were destroyed or damaged. Gaza City's Central Archive, containing thousands of current and important historical documents dating back over a hundred years, was demolished. The bombing unhoused hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and destroyed the infrastructure essential for their survival.—FA

0 100



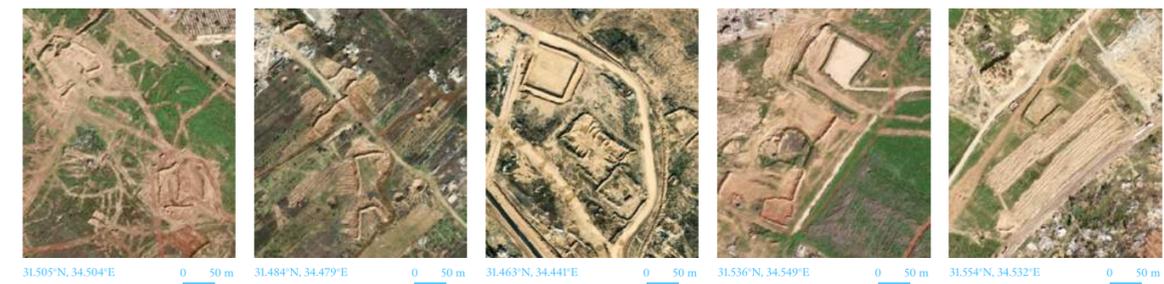
■ Destroyed Agriculture
 ● Greenhouses
 ● Water Facilities

0 2 km



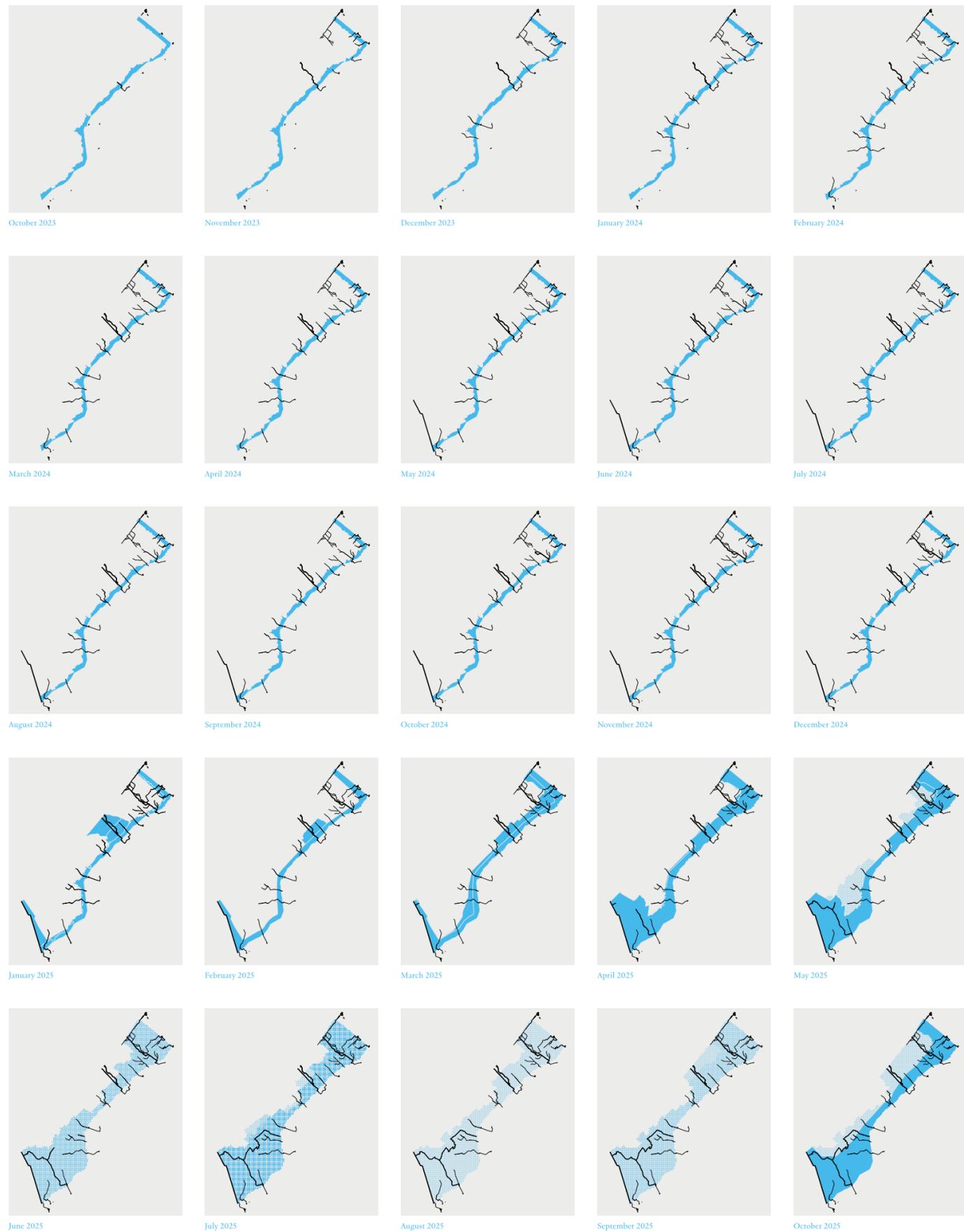
AGRICULTURAL DESTRUCTION

The Genocide Convention's prohibition against "deliberately inflicting on [a] group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction" is the place where starvation and environmental destruction are most closely interlinked. The engineering of starvation began with the ungrounding of the Strip's agricultural fields in the buffer zone along Gaza's eastern perimeter, where fertile loess and clay-based soils can be found. This was compounded by the army's simultaneous erosion of Gaza's extensive fishing economy along the western coastline. The sinking of fishing boats and the destruction of agricultural land, greenhouses, wells, and other water infrastructure shattered Gaza's food sovereignty, and with it, Palestinians' ability to mitigate imposed conditions of famine. Food and water could only come from outside through Israeli checkpoints, which were opened and closed at whim. Alex de Waal of the World Peace Foundation wrote that the combined effect was mass starvation that was "minutely engineered, closely monitored, [and] precisely designed."—FA

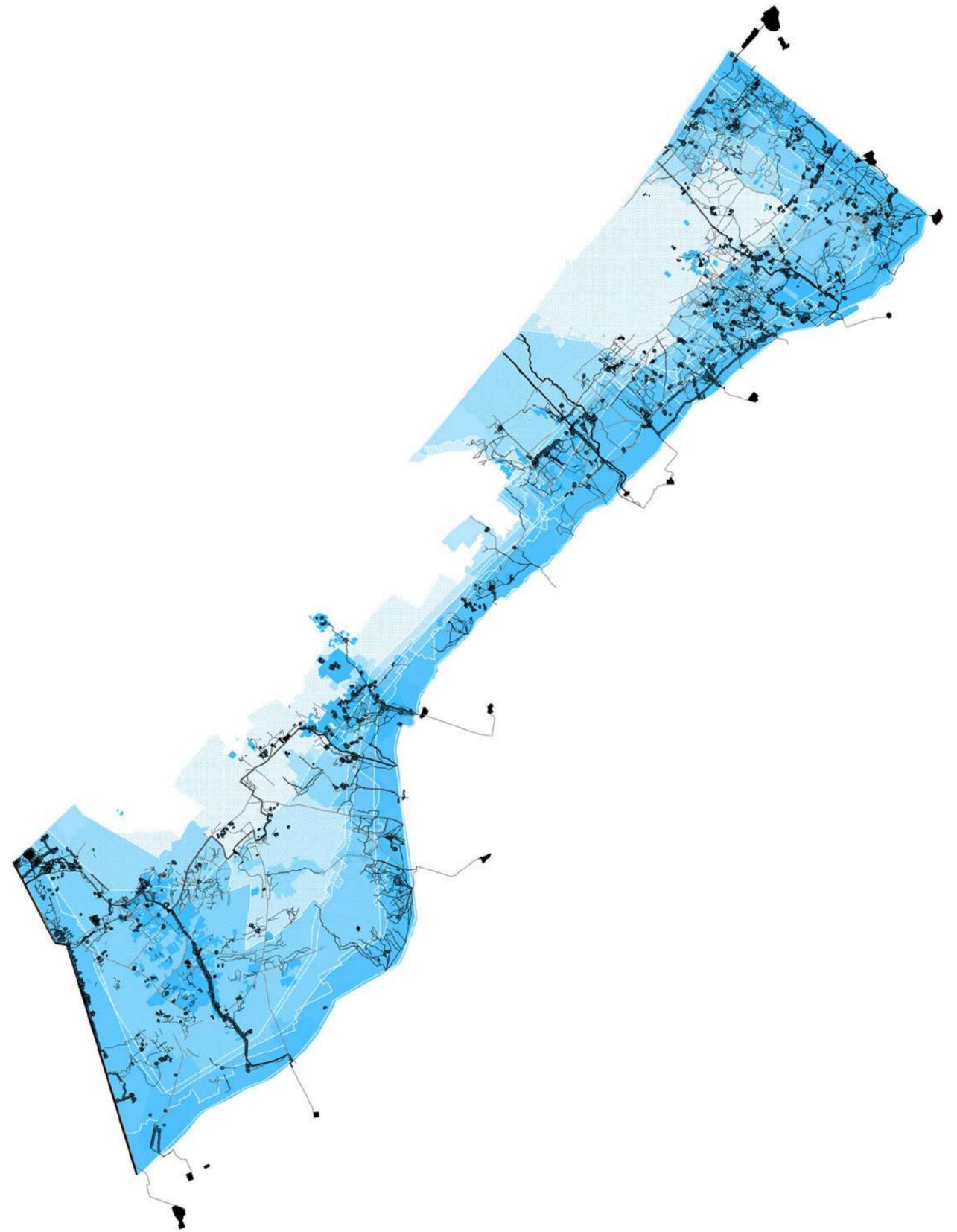


EARTH BERMS

Bulldozers have long been a notorious tool of the occupation, a means of burying crimes and rewriting the land to make it conform to Israeli military aims. As the built environment of Gaza has been progressively decimated, the military has used bulldozers to execute a new master plan of spatial control, carving through the pulverized rubble to make new roads—or military routes—doubling as barriers and slicing Gaza into fragmented sections. Along these routes, the bulldozers have piled up mounds in various configurations, also known as earth berms, to enclose fortified compounds, military outposts, and detention facilities where Palestinians have been interrogated and tortured. The rubble, a composite of countless elements of life in Gaza, has become the architectural material of its re-composition as a landscape shaped by Israeli military presence.—FA



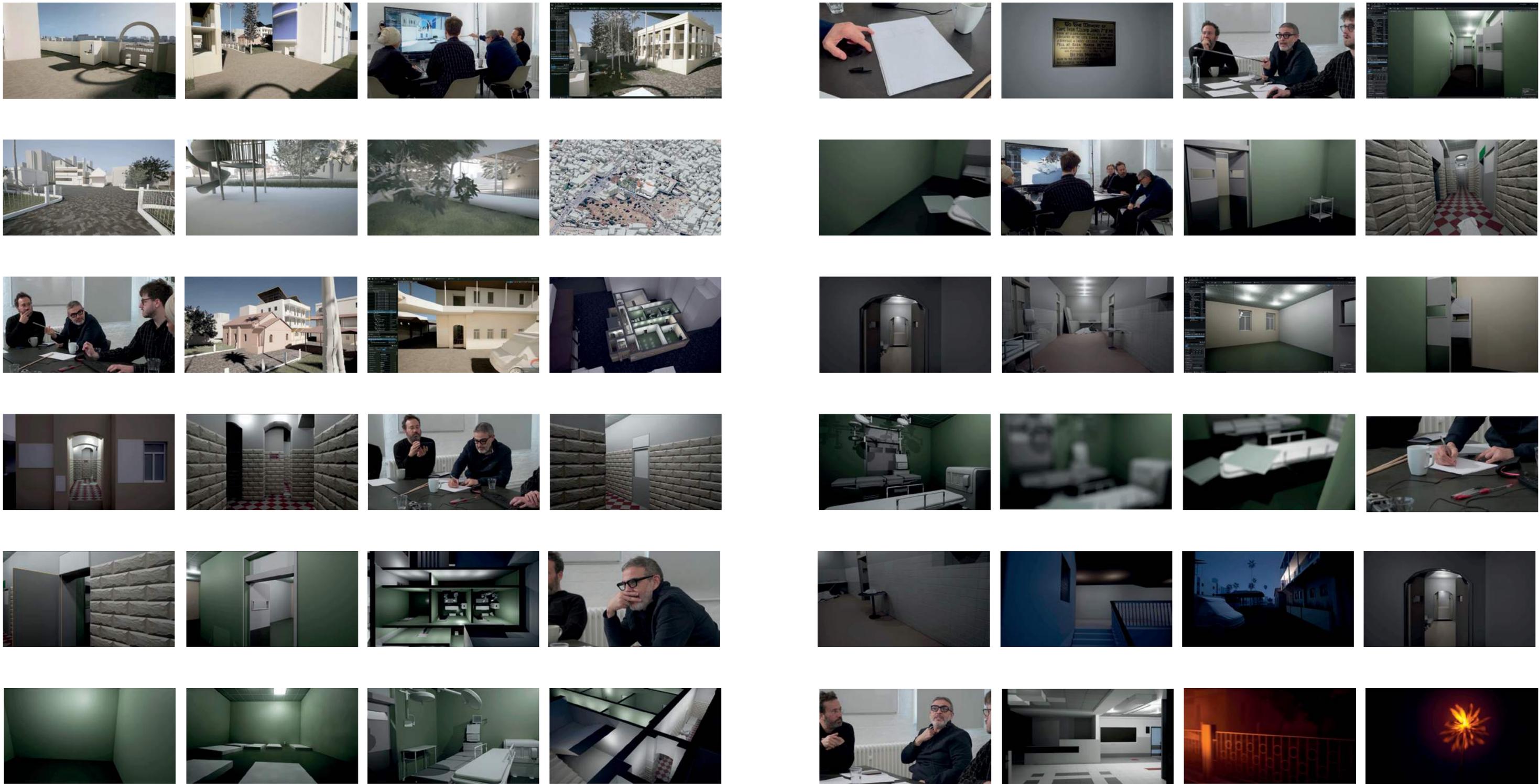
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CORRIDORS + BUFFER ZONES

By the summer of 2025, five of the fifteen routes carved by the Israeli military through Gaza became what the army called "corridors"—wide routes bisecting the Strip east to west, from the perimeter fences to the shoreline, indicative of a wider Israeli strategy to entrench their military presence permanently in the Strip.

Before October 2023, the buffer zone surrounding Gaza had been a few hundred metres wide. Within it, the army destroyed every structure and uprooted every plant. Two weeks after the start of the genocide, on October 21, 2023, the Israeli army announced the expansion of the buffer zone to 1,000 meters. From that point on, it rolled into Gaza like a tide. Any Palestinians found approaching it or inadvertently inside it were shot on sight. By late March 2025, it had expanded to over half of Gaza's territory, and by late April, it was occupying 70 percent of the Strip. The buffer zone would end up defining the ceasefire line—or "yellow line"—established in October 2025 that has also continued to encroach on supposedly "safe" Palestinian territory, in direct violation of the ceasefire agreement.—FA



DR. GHASSAN ABU-SITTAH SITUATED TESTIMONY INTERVIEW + MODEL

At 6:59 pm on October 17, 2023, an explosion took place in the courtyard of al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. At the time, the courtyard and surrounding lawns were full of displaced families, taking shelter at what they understood to be a legally protected site. Gaza's Ministry of Health reported the death of 471 people in the blast. Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, a British-Palestinian plastic and reconstructive surgeon, was working in the hospital at the time of the blast, and witnessed first-hand the unfolding horror as he rushed to try to treat the mounting numbers of injured people. For Dr. Abu-Sittah, the carnage was clear.

The Israeli army issued an official denial, alleging that the blast had been caused by a rocket fired by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Media analysis of the event took the army's statement at face value, without consulting any Palestinian witnesses and survivors. We were in close contact with Dr. Abu-Sittah who had returned to London after five weeks of treating patients in Gaza, and together decided to reconstruct the events of the night of October 17, 2023 as he experienced them using our "situated testimony" interviewing practice. Through available photographs, we prepared a 3D model of the hospital, which then was refined over the course of Dr. Abu-Sittah's testimony to locate the people inside, the ambulances, the beds, the medical instruments—each object a testament to the relation between medical staff and patients, each room and corridor a portal to specific remembered scenes.—FA



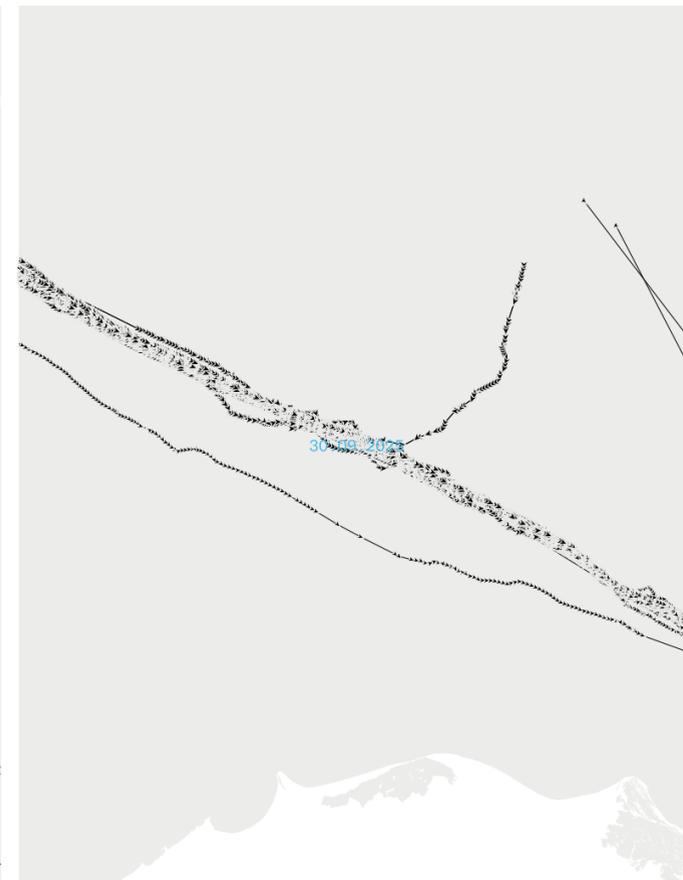
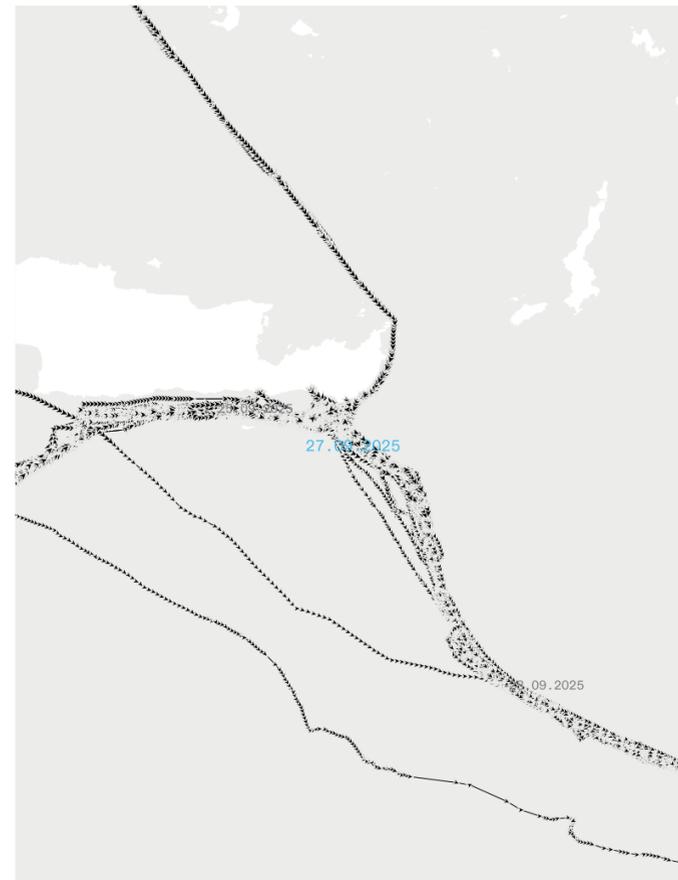
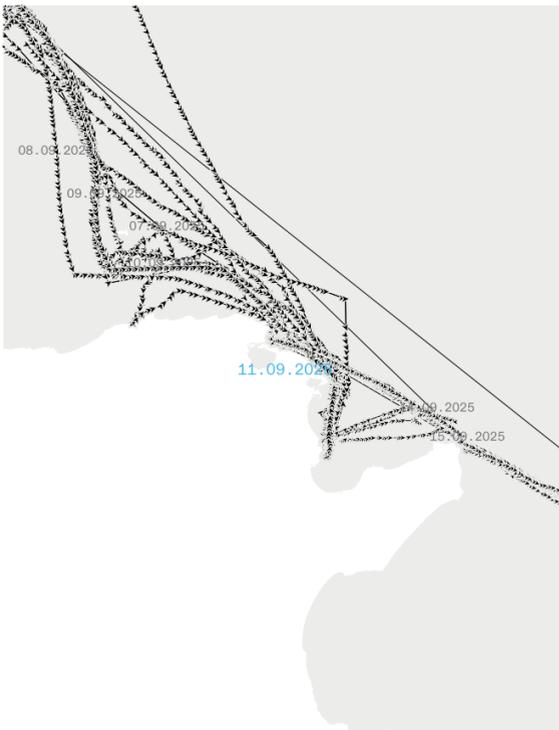
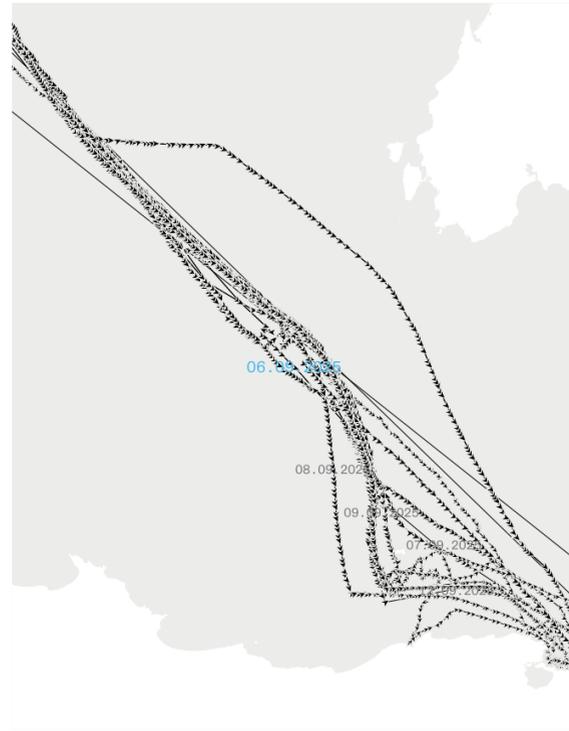


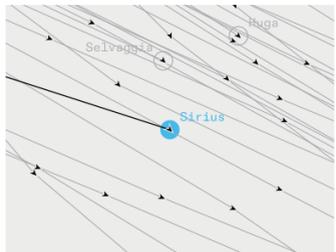


GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA

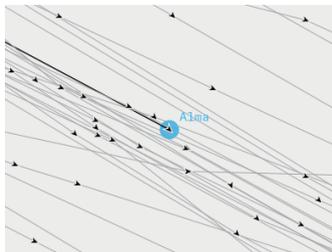
Between late April and October 2025, a series of individual vessels and flotilla convoys carrying humanitarian aid departed for Gaza from ports across the Mediterranean, the latest iterations of a movement that has sought to challenge Israel's longstanding blockade of the Gaza Strip since its implementation in 2009. The Freedom Flotilla Coalition behind this grassroots movement defines itself as a coalition of everyday people—organizers, humanitarians, doctors, artists, clergy, lawyers, and seafarers—who believe in human dignity and the power of nonviolent collective action.

Over the course of the recent flotilla campaigns, Israel launched drone attacks on several individual vessels as they awaited departure; the rest were illegally intercepted by its naval forces after reaching international waters, extending Israel's apartheid geography into the high seas. In anticipation of the likelihood of interception or attack, FA partnered with the flotilla organizers, providing live support and building a custom platform, in collaboration with design and development studio Rectangle, to track the vessels' progress and ensure maximum visibility as their journeys toward Gaza progressed. This historic maritime movement gained an extraordinary global following as it grew in size and ambition, culminating in the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF)—the largest civilian-led initiative of its kind in history, composed of forty-two vessels carrying 462 activists from forty-four countries. Between October 1–2, 2025, FA's tracker had over 3.5 million visits from individuals around the world monitoring live as the Israeli interception of the GSF unfolded. It also showed as the Mikeno became the only vessel from the flotilla to successfully enter Palestinian waters, and the first civilian ship in sixteen years to break the Israeli blockade.—FA





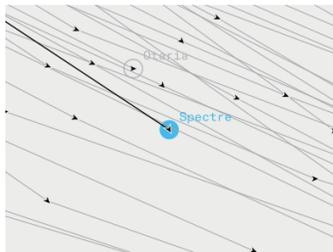
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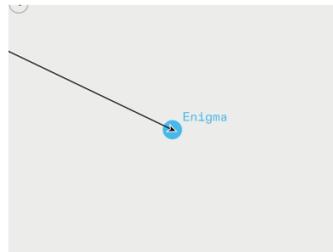
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October 1, 7:06 PM



October 2, 1:06 AM



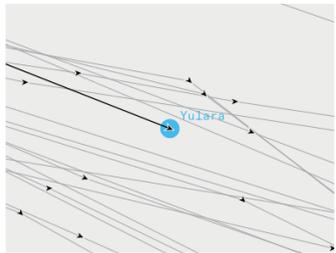
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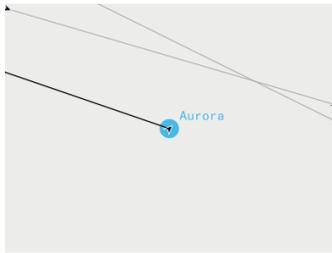
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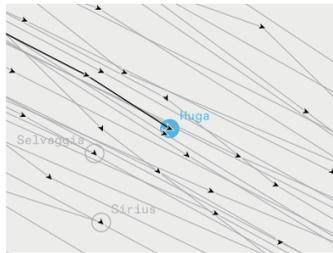
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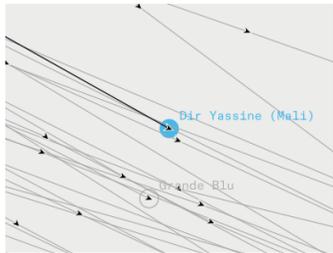
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October 1, 7:50 PM



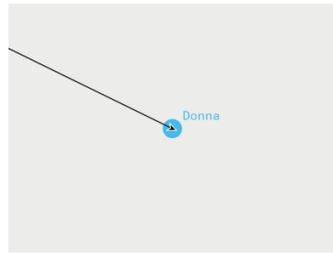
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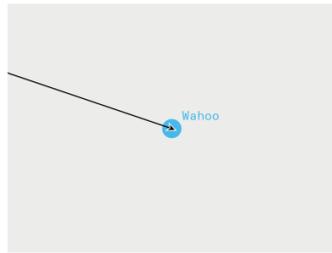
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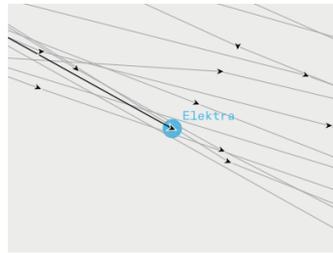
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October 2, 2:20 AM



October 2, 2:24 AM



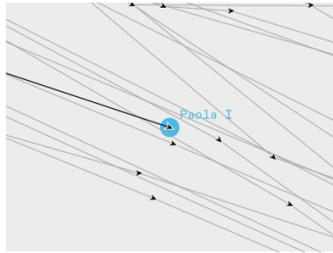
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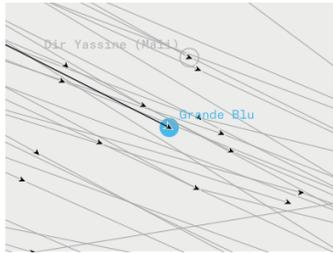
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October 1, 9:24 PM



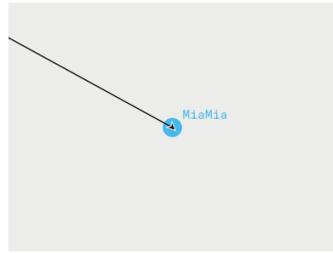
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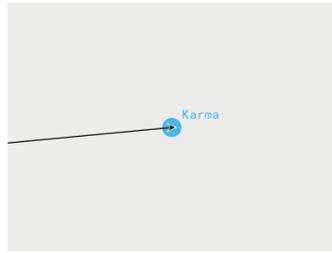
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October 2, 3:23 AM



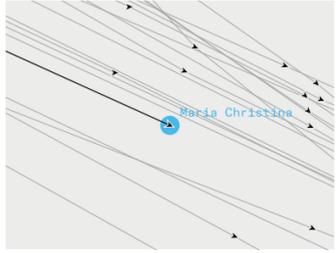
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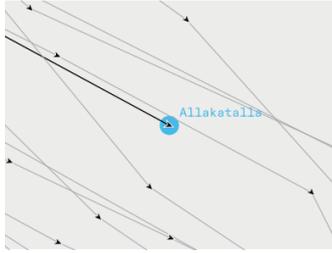
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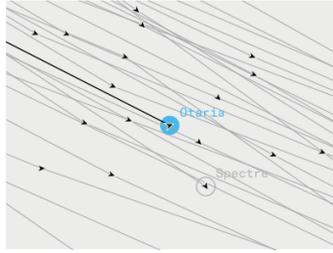
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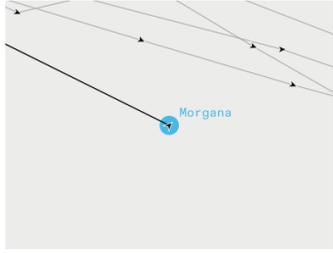
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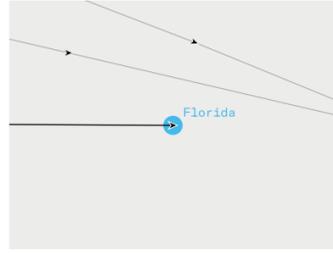
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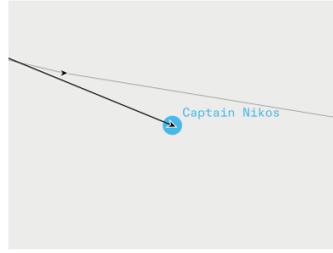
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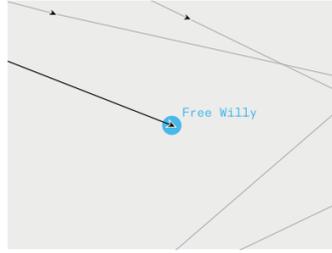
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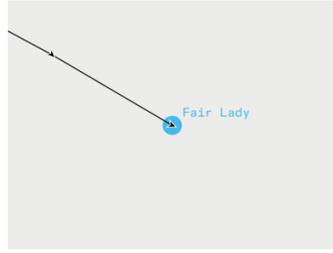
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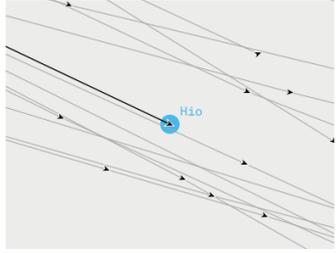
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October 2, 4:53 AM



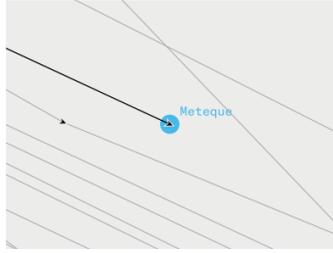
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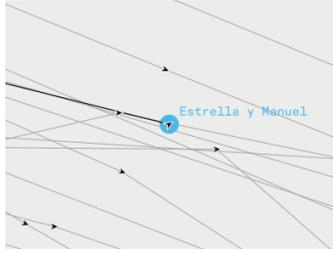
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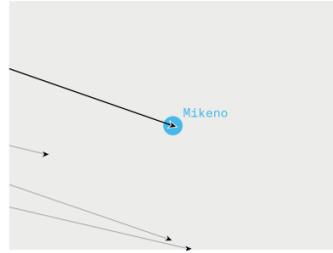
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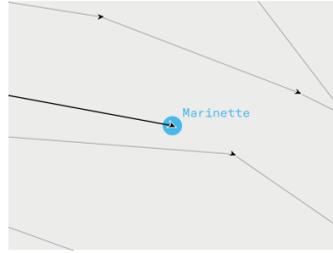
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October 2, 12:25 AM



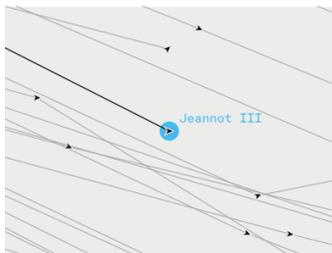
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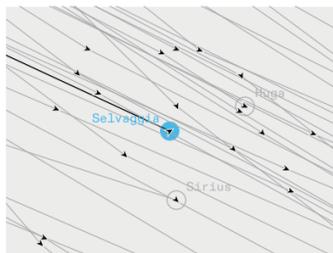
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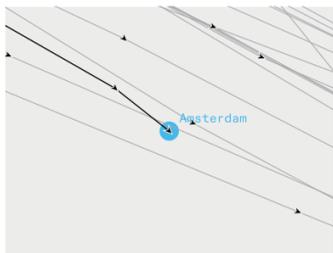
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October 2, 12:31 AM



October 2, 12:36 AM



October 2, 12:59 AM