# Violent Response of Israel to Gaza Protesters

## What is the issue?

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- A Peaceful protest in Gaza by the Palestinians has turned violent after the use of force by Israeli administration.
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- International communities must take action against the Israeli government to protect Gaza civilians.
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## What is the Gaza conflict?

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- Gaza is a densely populated strip of land that is mostly surrounded by Israel and peopled almost exclusively by Palestinians.
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- Israel used to have a military presence, but withdrew unilaterally in 2005.
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- But it is currently under Israeli blockade.
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- In recent years, Egypt has also joined the blockade, practically cutting off the strip from the rest of the world.
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- The flow of both goods and people into and out of Gaza is heavily restricted.
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- Life in Gaza has become increasingly miserable more than a decade of closures, with residents enduring daily power outages lasting for hours.
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## What are the recent happenings in Gaza?

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- Gaza has become a site of frequent border protests against a stifling blockade of the territory.
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- Hamas is an Islamist organization of Palestine which organizes the border protests in Gaza.
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- It recently announced that the protests would continue until May 15, the 70th anniversary of Israel’s creation.
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- Recently thousands of Palestinians marched near the border fence and violent protest continued.
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## What is the present concern?

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- Israel responded unlawfully by calling for the use of live fire against even peaceful Palestinian protesters who posed no imminent threat to life.
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- More than 750 Palestinians were wounded by Israeli fire.
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- It became the bloodiest attack in Gaza since the 2014 war between Israel and the Islamic militant group Hamas.
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- In the past, Israel has faced serious allegations of using force against Gaza civilians.
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- But Israel enjoys the privilege in the UN by the U.S. support.
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- US has already blocked move in the UN Security Council seeking any inquiry on Israel.
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- Despite international calls and repeated warnings by rights groups, Israel has not eased its restrictions on the strip.
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## What is Palestine's response?

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- It accused Israel of “intentionally, grossly and systematically” violating its legal obligation to protect civilians.
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- Recently the Palestinian authorities appealed to the U.N. Security Council for immediate international protection for Palestinian civilians, especially in Gaza.
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- There is also a call for an independent investigation of the killings.
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## What international measures need to be taken?

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- Joint efforts to mitigate the suffering of Gaza’s people need to be taken from both Israel and Palestine side.
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- International community needs to act responsibly when it comes to the grave rights violations.
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- There has to be an international probe into the latest violence.
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- World powers should urgently provide economic assistance to Gaza to save it from total collapse, and put incremental pressure on Israel to end the illegal blockade of the Gaza strip.
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**Source: Indian Express, the Hindu**

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