

# Israel Uses White Phosphorus In Gaza Human Rights Watch Takes A Serious Note

## Why In The News?

- Video Filmed On Wednesday Of An Israeli Strike On Gaza City Port Appears To Show The **Use Of White Phosphorus**, According To An Analysis By Human Rights Watch. The Controversial Munition, Which Is Commonly Used To Create Smoke To Mark Targets, **Can Cause Severe Harm When Used Against Civilians**.
- The Video, Shows Two Artillery Shells Fired In Quick Succession Toward The Target. When **The Artillery-fired Munition Explodes**, The White Phosphorus Automatically Ignites In The Air, Creating White Lines Followed By A Thick Smoke.



## What Do We Know?

- **Human Rights Watch Confirmed** In A Statement Released Thursday That **White Phosphorus Was Used Over The Gaza City Port** On Wednesday, After Interviewing Two Witnesses Who Noted The Stifling Smell Of White Phosphorus.
- The Organization Also Analyzed Video Of The Event And Identified **Airburst 155mm White Phosphorus Artillery Projectiles** Were Used In The Strike. They

Condemned The Use Of The Chemical, Which Can Severely Burn People And Set Fire To Civilian Structures, In Such A Densely Populated Area.

- The Israel Defense Forces Said They “Are Currently Not Aware Of The Use Of Weapons Containing White Phosphorous In Gaza.” **International Humanitarian Law** Requires Parties To Take All Feasible Precautions To Prevent Harm To Civilians That Can Result From Military Operations.

# Israel: White Phosphorus Used in Gaza, Lebanon

Use in Populated Areas Poses Grave Risks to Civilians



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- While There Are **Legitimate Uses Of White Phosphorus**, Using The Munition, Against Any Military Objective Within Concentrations Of Civilians Is Prohibited Unless The Military Objective Is Clearly Separated From The Civilians.
- **Israel Repeatedly Used White Phosphorus** During It's 22-day Long Campaign In Gaza That Spanned From The End Of 2008 To Early 2009, Including Overpopulated Areas, Killing And Injuring Civilians, And Violating International Humanitarian Law, A 2009 Report From Human Rights Watch Found.
- Palestinian Officials Said More Than **1,500 People In Gaza**, Which Is One Of The Most Densely Populated Places In The World, Have Been Killed And **Some 6,600 Injured** As A Result Of Israeli Strikes That Came In Response To Hamas's Oct. 7 Attack.