

**Data-Driven Genocide: How The Israeli Regime Leverages Data-Integration AI
Technology Against Palestinian Victims**

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The scale of destruction in the Gaza Strip over the last two years has signaled a major paradigm shift in the traditional history of state-sponsored violence: the transition from human-centered warfare to a “target-rich” environment mediated by predatory algorithms run by state-sponsored artificial intelligence defense contractors (Fatafta, 2024). While the vast majority of the international community has long scrutinized the physical weaponry of the Israeli regime, a far more insidious digital force operates within the occupation (Zureik, 2016). Crucially, the integration of AI-driven systems including Lavender, The Gospel, and Where’s Daddy?, has birthed a new era of data-driven genocide where the systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestinian life is no longer a byproduct of physical human actions, but the intended output of a high-speed data machine (Abraham, 2024). The core force behind the Israeli Defense Force’s (IDF) use of AI-driven military stems lies in the datafication of targets, whereby synthesizing vast streams of civilian surveillance, the IDF transformed the entire Palestinian population into a permanent dataset for lethal processing (Oringa & Ananor, 2026). But these AI-systems cannot be deemed “precision warfare” as marketed by the IDF and the respective AI companies, but rather an automated logic of elimination that uses the mathematical veneer of objectivity to justify unprecedented civilian “collateral damage” (Suchman, 2020). Therefore, by analyzing how these technologies bypass meaningful human oversight and moral intuition, I seek to understand how the integration of AI into the Israeli military apparatus represents a totalizing evolution of its Greater Israel colonial project.

The Evolution of Data Colonialism Applied in the Palestinian Context

Current research on how data shapes modern warfare has largely operated within the "Data Colonialism" framework proposed by Couldry and Mejias (2019), which posits that human life is being annexed as a new raw material for capital extraction. This is foundational for situating the Israeli regime's appropriation of Palestinian social data. However, as the offensive Israeli siege in Gaza has progressed, a glaring question about the theory's lethality gap has emerged within this discourse. While Couldry and Mejias (2019) focus on the economic commodification of the human subject, the current reality necessitates an urgent expansion of this theory to account for the complete killing of the subject. In the Palestinian context, the ultimate value of data has shifted from market capital to the automated go-ahead for a high-speed kill-chain, where the extraction is no longer just of information, but of life itself (Abraham, 2024). This shift represents a major departure from the digital occupation mapped by Elia Zureik (2016), who had meticulously documented the panoptic infrastructure of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, yet described a world where data was used primarily for social sorting, movement restriction, and static control. While more recent scholarship on algorithmic warfare begins to address the dehumanizing nature of automated systems, it remains largely confined to the biases of domestic policing or border tech (Andersen, 2024). There is therefore a profound lack of synthesis regarding how data integration that's synthesized from metadata, social links, and movement patterns, is being used to intentionally bypass the moral friction of human judgment in active genocide. This creates what could be deemed as a form of statistical determinism, where an individual's right to exist is superseded by a probabilistic score generated by an opaque model (Fatafta & Leufer, 2024).

Furthermore, the veneer of objectivity provided by these algorithms has created what Shehabi and Lubin (2024) characterize as an "epistemic vacuum" that current International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is ill-equipped to fill. Traditional legal frameworks rely on the "reasonable commander" standard, yet this becomes obsolete when commanders offload moral agency onto probabilistic outputs like Lavender's algorithmic system (Mhajne, 2025). As Abraham (2024) reveals, the integration of these technologies relies on a normalized error rate of roughly ten percent, effectively redefining military precision as mathematical throughput rather than the protection of life. The scope of my paper enters here by trying to bridge the gap between Zureik's (2016) surveillance theory and the emerging "algorithmic death-worlds" described by Fathallah (2026). The case study of the IDF's heinous use of AI military targeting platforms challenges the prevailing tech-optimist narrative that datafication leads to "smarter" or "cleaner" wars made by major big-tech defense contractors like Palantir (Silverman, 2026). Instead, by centering the datafication of the target, this study argues that AI integration is the terminal phase of a colonial project designed to render an entire population as redundant data points to be filtered out through systematic, automated violence, identifying the fundamental existential risk of not recognizing how data integration acts as a force multiplier for genocidal intent (Fathallah, 2026)

Conceptual Framework:

The conceptual framework of this study aims to trace the theoretical logic which has guided the IDF's transformation of living Palestinian subjects into arbitrary lethal data points. To achieve this, the study draws upon the theories of Chouldry and Mejias (2019) Data Colonialism, Andersen's (2024) description of Algorithmic Violence, and the emerging concept of Automated

Death-Worlds as articulated by Fathallah (2026). Each consecutive theory builds upon each other chronologically mapping out how the data-driven strategies of historical occupation are transformed into the active digital currents of a data-driven genocide.

Drawing on Couldry and Mejias's (2019) theory of Data Colonialism in order to identify the foundational stage of the occupation as the systemic annexation of human conduct and minute aspects of behaviour for extraction. In the Palestinian context, the colonial resource is the metadata available that could trace any aspects of existence. Every biometric checkpoint, intercepted cellular signal, and WhatsApp group membership is treated as a raw resource for a state-owned dataset. Unlike commercial data colonialism, which seeks consumer profit, this extractive relationship mirrors historical land grabs by asserting sovereign control over the digital footprint of the occupied population, converting their sociality into lethal intelligence.

Johan Galtung's (1969) foundational concept of Structural Violence is also highly important to understand how this raw data is utilized by the IDF to then make military strike assessments. Galtung argued that harm is often built into the fabric of social systems, operating silently to deny life. This study argues that the static structures of the physical checkpoints and permits of the physical occupation have been modernized into what Christoffer Andersen coined as Algorithmic Violence (Andersen, 2024). Through systems like *Lavender*, the violence manifests as the probabilistic scoring of an entire population. Human complexity is collapsed into binary variables; if a Palestinian's metadata correlations cross a statistical threshold, the algorithm strips them of their civilian status. This creates a veneer of objectivity designed to bypass the moral friction of human judgment, turning the act of elimination into a technical

optimization problem, and the violence is found in the software's refusal to see the individual as a civilian, instead reducing them to a "potential threat" based on a statistical correlation.

The terminal, killing phase of this logic is best understood through Fathallah's (2026) concept of the Automated Death-World. This theory extends Achille Mbembe's (2003) necropolitics into the age of artificial intelligence, describing a state where the sovereign right to dictate who lives and who dies is offloaded to a computational grid. In the Palestinian automated death-world, systems like *Where's Daddy?* redefine the domestic sphere as a killing zone. By integrating geospatial tracking with residential data, the system deliberately calculates the moment of maximal presence where an identified target is around the greatest proportion of civilians as the most efficient time to strike, essentially transforming the entire geography of Gaza into a grid of pre-calculated "kill zones."

Research Objectives & Questions:

The primary aim of this research is to perform a sociotechnical deconstruction of the AI models utilized in the Gaza offensive, exposing the colonial and immoral logics embedded in their empirical design. The project follows a logical sequence of the following specific objectives:

- 1) To perform an empirical audit of the Lavender and The Gospel logic, specifically unpacking how error rates and structural target-generation thresholds are mathematically designed to facilitate mass liquidation.
- 2) To deconstruct the colonialist metadata-weighting process within the Lavender system, investigating how the algorithm transforms mundane Palestinian social behaviors into empirical evidence of military guilt.

- 3) How does the technical design of Where's Daddy? adopt the necropolitical logic of domestic liquidation into a functional geospatial algorithm that systematically targets the family residence as a primary kill zone?
- 4) To critically analyze the sociotechnical "black box" nature of these systems, evaluating the how technical complexity of Lavender, The Gospel, and Where's Daddy? is used by state actors to shield immoral targeting protocols from legal and ethical auditing.

In order to address the research objectives stated above, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How does the internal logic of the Lavender model, specifically its 10-percent error margin and weighting of social metadata, function as a mechanism for mass dehumanization of Palestinians?
2. In what ways does the automated targeting architecture of The Gospel facilitate a model of statistical elimination by prioritizing the speed of structural output over civilian safety?
3. How does the technical design of Where's Daddy? translate the immoral logic of necropolitics into a functional geospatial algorithm that specifically targets the family home as a primary kill zone?
4. To what extent does the black box nature of these three integrated systems serve in shielding state actors from the moral and legal consequences of a data-driven genocide?

Methodology:

This study uses a qualitative case-study approach to investigate the role of three AI models used by the IDF (Lavender, The Gospel, and Where's Daddy?) in the attacks on Gaza

and Palestinian civilians post October 7, 2023. The approach is divided into two stages first involving a technical audit of the models' operational logic and afterwards a forensic analysis of their application through specific case studies. Because the scope of this research involves a critical analysis of what are, in many ways, secret military technologies and therefore there exists major gaps in reporting and existing literature on the specificity of the models' processes and their applications, secondary forensic has been deemed the greatest ethical and practical way to conduct an empirical analysis for my research purposes. By triangulating these secondary sources, the study builds an original, primary argument regarding the colonial and immoral biases embedded in the models' code. The first step is to outline the internal logic as to how Lavender, The Gospel, and Where's Daddy? operate by having identified empirical parameters such as scoring thresholds and authorized error rates. This was done through synthesizing primary whistleblower testimony reports from Israeli intelligence personnel documented by investigative journalist Yuval Abraham (Abraham, 2023, 2024). The second stage involved conducting an analysis which cross-references military logic with the real-world outcomes of what happened at each case study. The case studies examine strikes on private family residences at night, utilizing OCHA fatality reports (2024) to prove how Where's Daddy? targets individuals specifically when they enter their homes, the systematic leveling of residential neighborhoods using Reuters satellite imagery (2023) to document how The Gospel facilitates mass urban destruction, and the targeting of non-combatants (children and elderly Palestinian civilians) by cross-referencing OCHA casualty lists with whistleblower accounts of Lavender's 10-percent error margin. By matching the timing and scale of these events with known AI parameters, the research's findings prove the black box logic translates into a systematic death-world.

Analysis & Discussion:**Case-study 1: The Gospel**

One of the most significant findings of this research is the role of The Gospel in fundamentally altering the scale of urban destruction. Existing literature on AI in warfare often posits that "algorithmic precision" is the ultimate humanitarian goal, theoretically reducing collateral damage. However, analysis of structural leveling reveals a contradictory reality. The Gospel functions as a "mass target-generation factory," prioritized not for its accuracy, but for its velocity of output which jumped from approximately 50 targets per year in previous conflicts to over 100 targets per day (The Guardian, 2023). This shift facilitates the elimination of meaningful human deliberation. When this "factory" logic is cross-referenced with Reuters satellite imagery (2023) of the northern city of Beit Hanoun, a clear pattern emerges. Beit Hanoun was strategically targeted as a frontline urban center; the "target factory" logic resulted in the near-total erasure of its residential blocks and public utilities, effectively rendering the city uninhabitable before ground troops even entered.

Figure 1. Reuters satellite imagery of Beit Hanoun neighborhood before (October 10, 2023) and after (October 21, 2023)



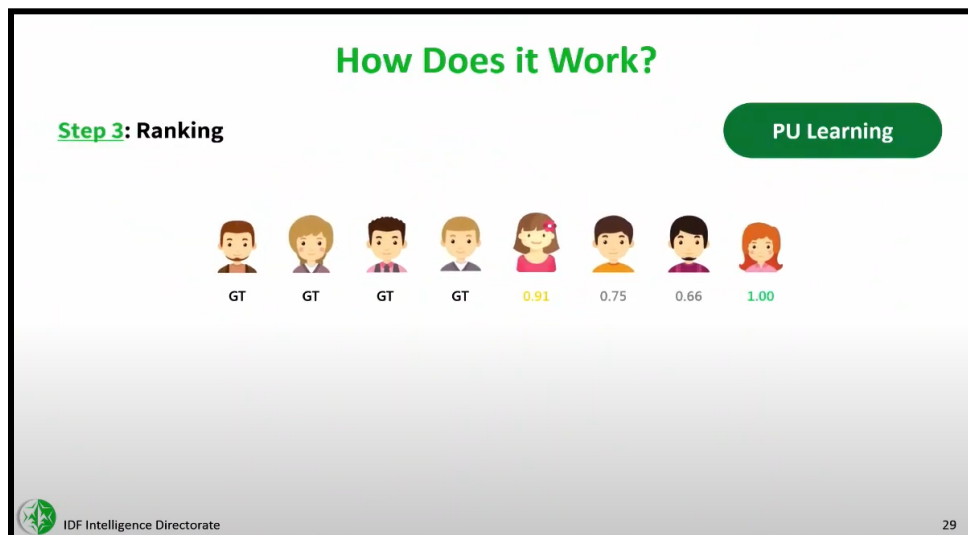
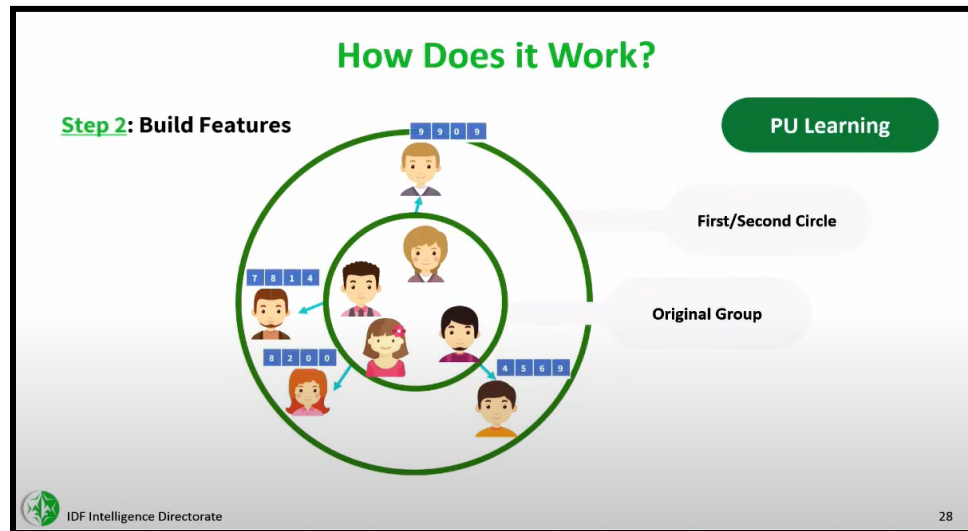
By using The Gospel to categorize the residential density of Beit Hanoun as a series of power targets the state utilizes AI to justify the destruction of the economic and social foundations of Palestinian life. The purpose of geographic targeting systems like Gospel reveals

how the IDF's AI is not only trained to find legitimate militant threats, but it is being instructed to identify large-scale civilian infrastructure like neighborhoods, hospitals, and universities as legitimate targets to erode social morale and livability. This harsh reality exposes a fundamental contradiction in the state's narrative of "surgical warfare." As noted by Richard Moyes, a researcher heading Article 36 in an interview with The Guardian, "Look at the physical landscape of Gaza... We're seeing the widespread flattening of an urban area with heavy explosive weapons, so to claim there's precision and narrowness of force being exerted is not borne out by the facts" (The Guardian, 2023).

Case-study 2: Lavender

Deconstructing Lavender's AI processes provides empirical evidence for the coloniality of data. The system operates through a 1-to-100 scoring logic that shows that the algorithm treats mundane Palestinian social behaviors as "militant indicators." This is a profound shift from individual surveillance to probabilistic profiling.

Figure 3 & 4. Lecture slides obtained through +972 and Local Call presented by IDF Unit 8200 commander at Data Science and AI center at Tel Aviv University, 2023



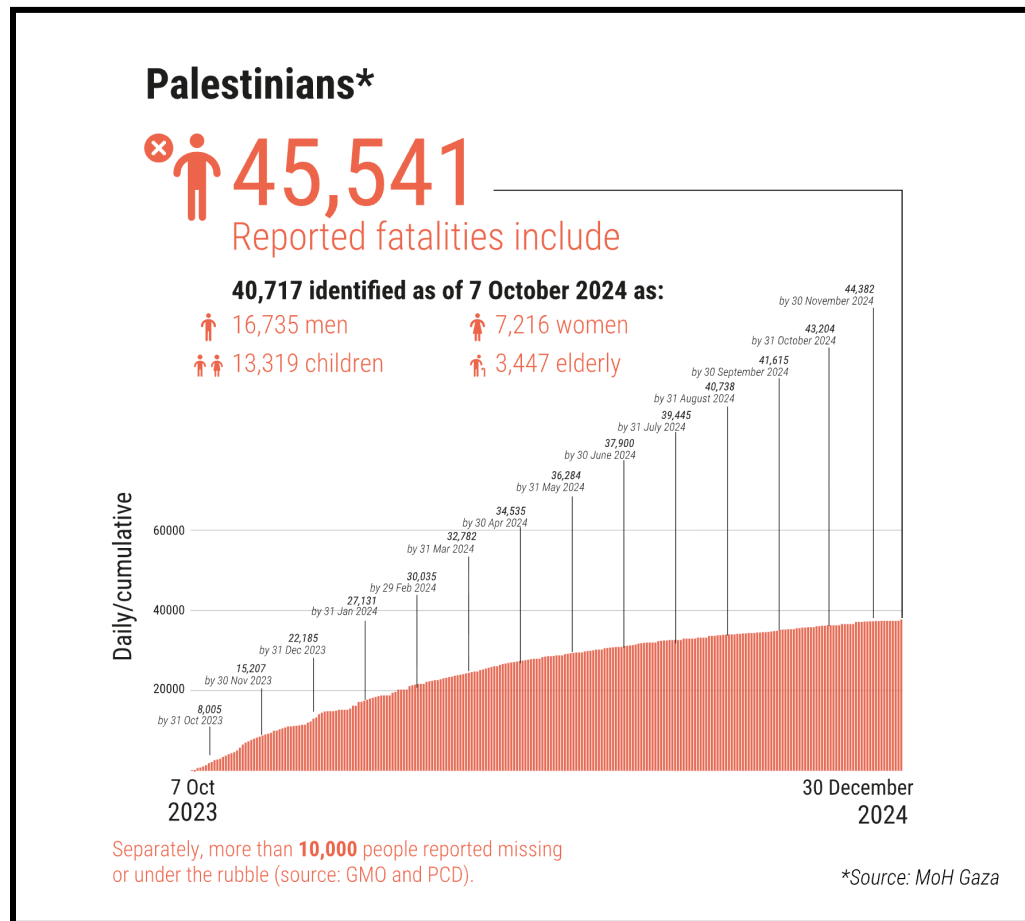
As revealed in internal Unit 8200 lectures, the machine is fed training data of known operatives to identify "features" among the general population. These features include social metadata such as being in a WhatsApp group with a "suspect," changing mobile devices frequently, or moving addresses. Figure 3 reveals that when Lavender's AI uses "likeness to known militants" as a feature, it creates a feedback loop where anyone living in a specific high-density area or following a specific social pattern is automatically criminalized. This essentially transforms the entire population of Gaza into its probabilistic pool of potential strike

targets. The Commander of Unit 8200 explicitly justifies this in his book manual, *The Human-Machine Team*, describing human personnel as a "bottleneck" that limits the army's capacity to produce enough targets (Sariel, 2021). By framing human empathy and deliberation as a technical "limit," the state uses Lavender to achieve a scale of lethality that bypasses the ethical barriers of traditional intelligence.

Case-study 3: Where's Daddy?

The most harrowing synthesis of these systems is the application of Where's Daddy? As analysis of its model's recommendation logic to specifically strike on private residences at night, triangulated with OCHA fatality reports (2024) exposes a deliberate geospatial strategy to target civilian family units. Standard military ethics prioritize the "principle of distinction," which dictates that combatants should be targeted away from civilian centers (Swiney, 2005). Where's Daddy? represents a total inversion of this principle. The algorithm is specifically designed to wait until the "target" enters a residential building before triggering a strike. This re-codes the family home into a primary kill zone.

Figure 5: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian graph illustration of reported Palestinian casualties (as of December 31, 2024).



The evidence of civilian family strikes indicated by the mass reported casualties of Palestinian children, women, and elderly, proves that AI targeting systems the IDF relies on is not to minimize collateral damage, but to maximize certainty of greatest Palestinian deaths. By waiting until the subject is at home, the system ensures a higher probability of hit, while accepting the liquidation of the entire nuclear family as a secondary effect.

The "black box" nature of these three integrated systems serves a vital empirical purpose of creating a major accountability gap that shields state actors from the legal consequences of genocide. This gap is evidenced by whistleblower testimonies from intelligence officers who operated the Lavender system, revealing that the "meaningful human control" required by

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) has been reduced to a mere 20-second window per target (Abraham, 2024). During this time, personnel often perform only a superficial gender check that the target identified is a male before authorizing a strike, effectively breaking the traditional military chain of command that relies on deliberate, informed judgment (Abraham, 2024). If the logic of the algorithm—governed by proprietary code and features such as membership in specific WhatsApp groups—is deemed "too complex" for a court to audit, then intent becomes increasingly difficult to prove. Under the Rome Statute, prosecution for war crimes requires proof of "intent and knowledge" (United Nations, 1998); however, the reliance on automated outputs allows commanders to utilize a black box defense, claiming they acted in good faith based on a technological recommendation they could not fully parse (Gordon, 2024; Ohlin, 2023). The 20-second human check thus reveals how it is not designed to prevent errors, but ensures the IDF's continuous ability to heinously evade scrutiny by ensuring that the specific logic of the kill-chain remains outside the reach of international legal bodies like the International Criminal Court (ICC) since by having a human officer authorize the target, the state can claim sufficient human oversight in court, while the 20-second timeframe ensures that the human cannot actually disagree with the machine.

Conclusion & Limitations:

This case-study analysis of AI data-integration companies used by the IDF, The Gospel, Lavender, and Where's Daddy? represents a fundamental rupture in the history of state violence towards automation which completely bypasses traditional notions of human and moral agency. By looking past the surface-level solutionist marketing of these systems, it becomes clear how these models were designed to systematically dismantle Palestinian civilization on a mass-scale.

It does through both achieving a scale of liquidation that human psychological and ethical limits would otherwise obstruct, while simultaneously constructing a black box that immunizes state actors against the intent requirements of international law. Admittedly, this study faced significant constraints due to the obvious enforced opacity of military-industrial algorithms. The inability to audit raw source code or the specific weighting of metadata features means this analysis must rely on the limited whistleblower testimonies and forensic outcomes. Furthermore, because this conflict is ongoing and adoption of AI in warfare remains a relatively new development, long-term ramifications are still coming into view within this specific emerging research field. Therefore, expanding research in this field is an urgent moral and legal imperative, as the case study of the IDF's algorithmic elimination of Gaza threatens to become the definitive blueprint for modern post-colonial state violence. Failure to intervene grants Israel greater ability to evade abiding by international human rights standards in its ongoing genocide against Palestinians, allowing the erasure of entire populations to be sanitized as a series of mathematical errors.

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