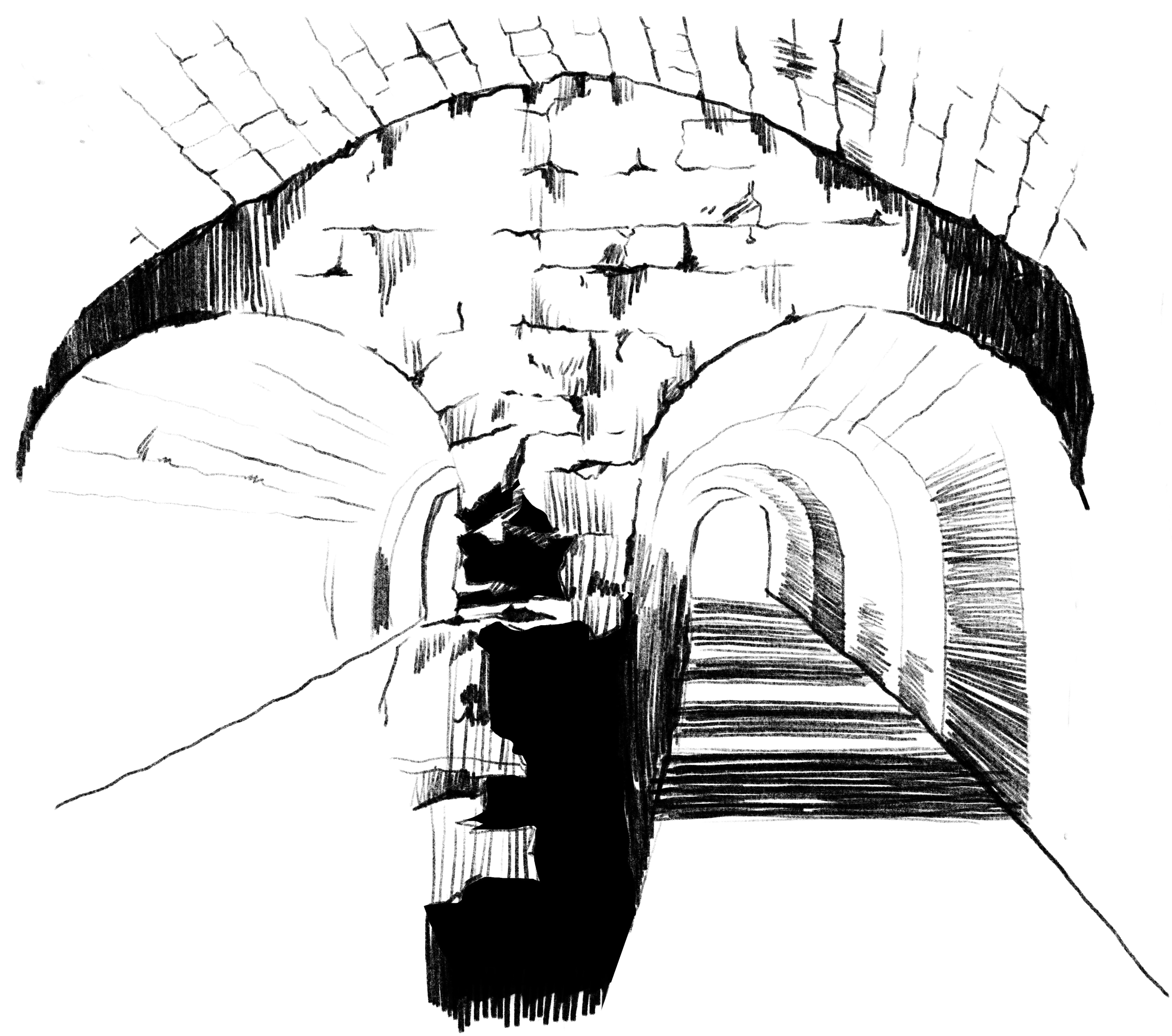
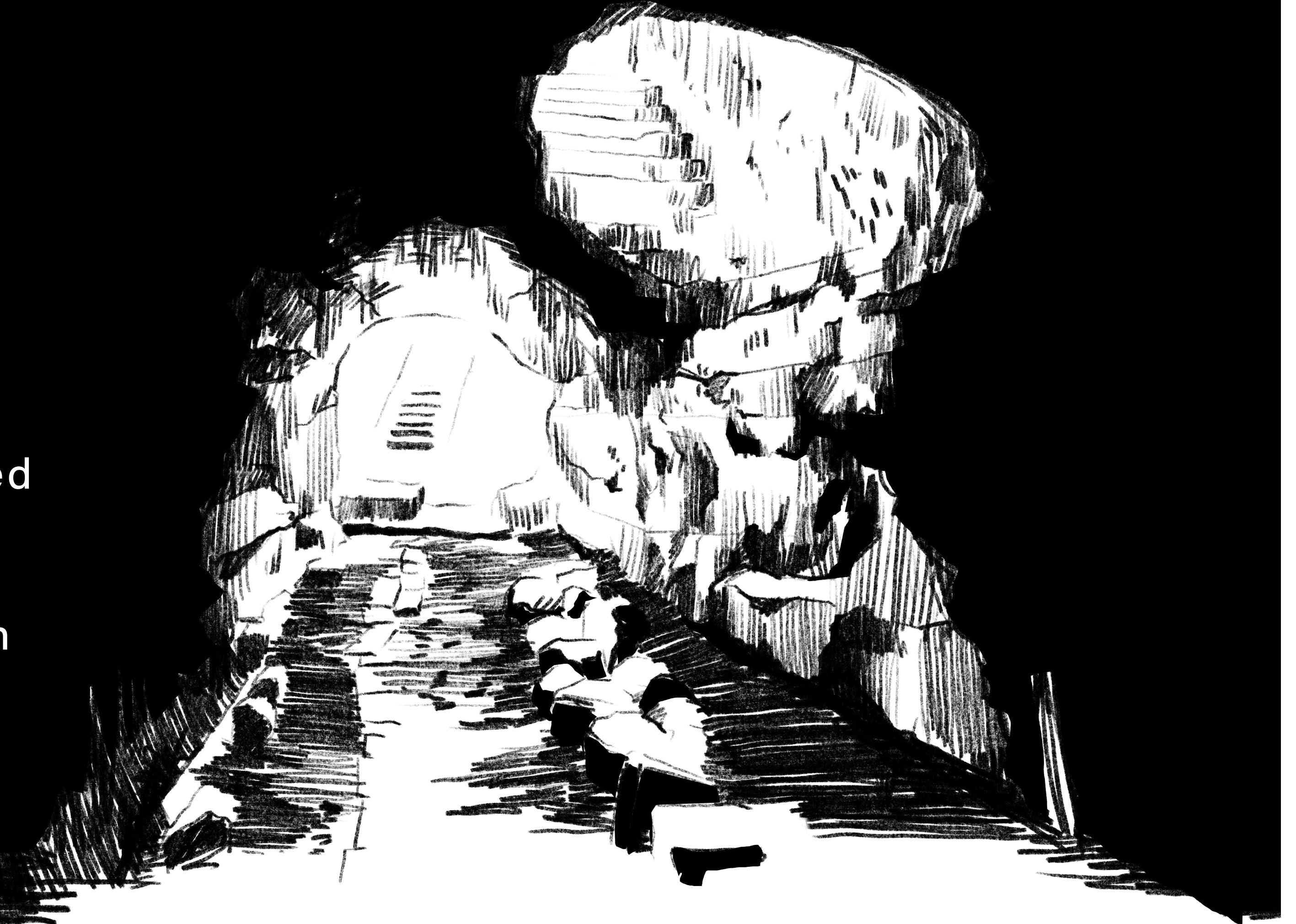


TUNNELS IN PALESTINE

A VITAL ELEMENT OF ITS HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

The historical Balama Water Tunnel

in Jenin is one of the oldest historical sites and is 115 meters long and dates to 1300 BC. It is mentioned in ancient Egyptian relics telling the story of the inhabitants of Khirbet Balama who used the tunnel to access a water spring located inside the tunnel in times of war.

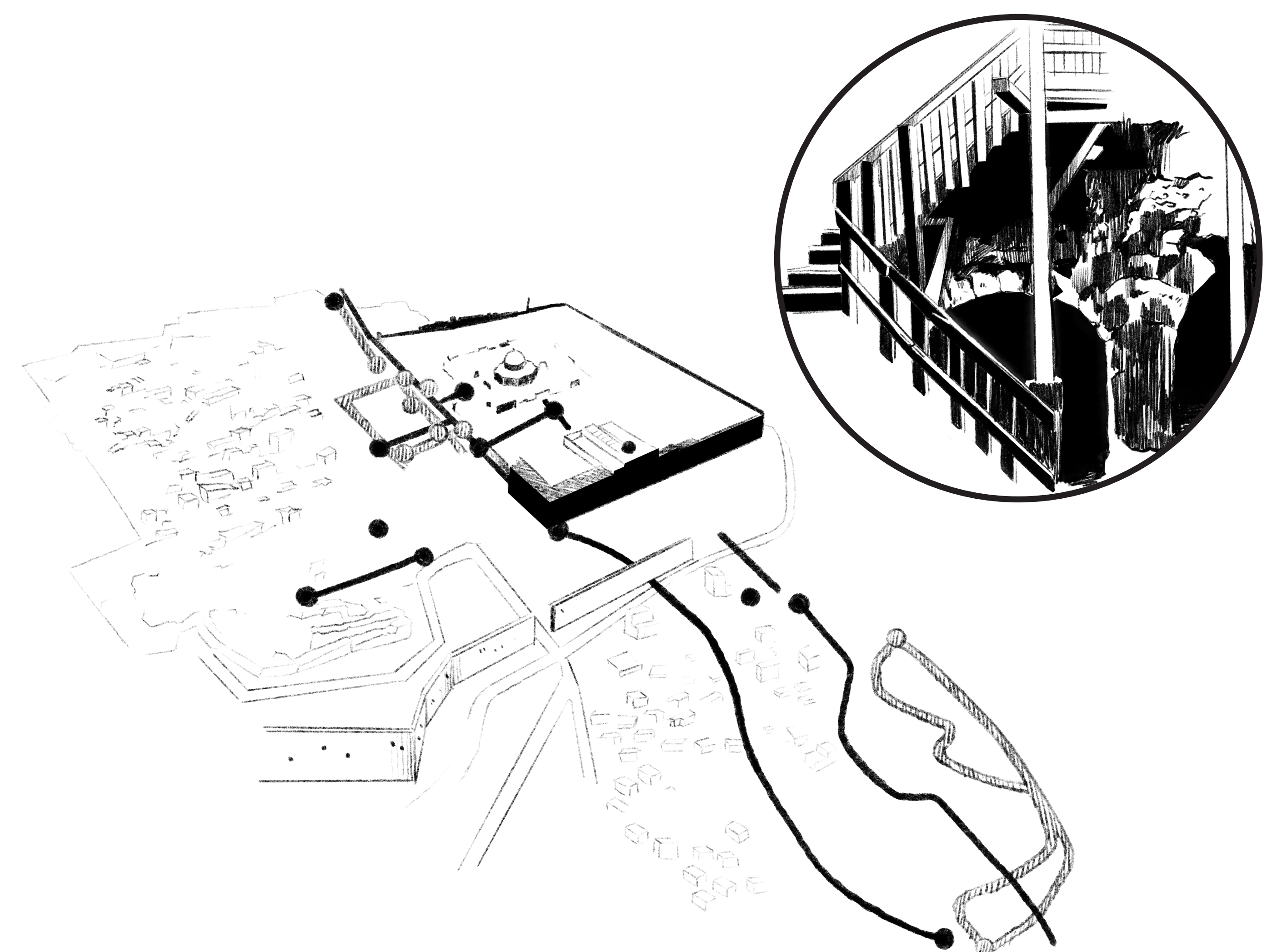


They tell tales of the continuous colonization throughout history

The Templars tunnel in Akka, a 150 meters long tunnel, used as a strategic passage to link the Templars fortress with the city's port. It was constructed during the Crusades, after the Templars left their headquarters in Jerusalem, in what they call "Temple mount", claiming that the Temple of Solomon was under Al-Aqsa mosque. In the 19th century, some passages were found under the Old City of Jerusalem.

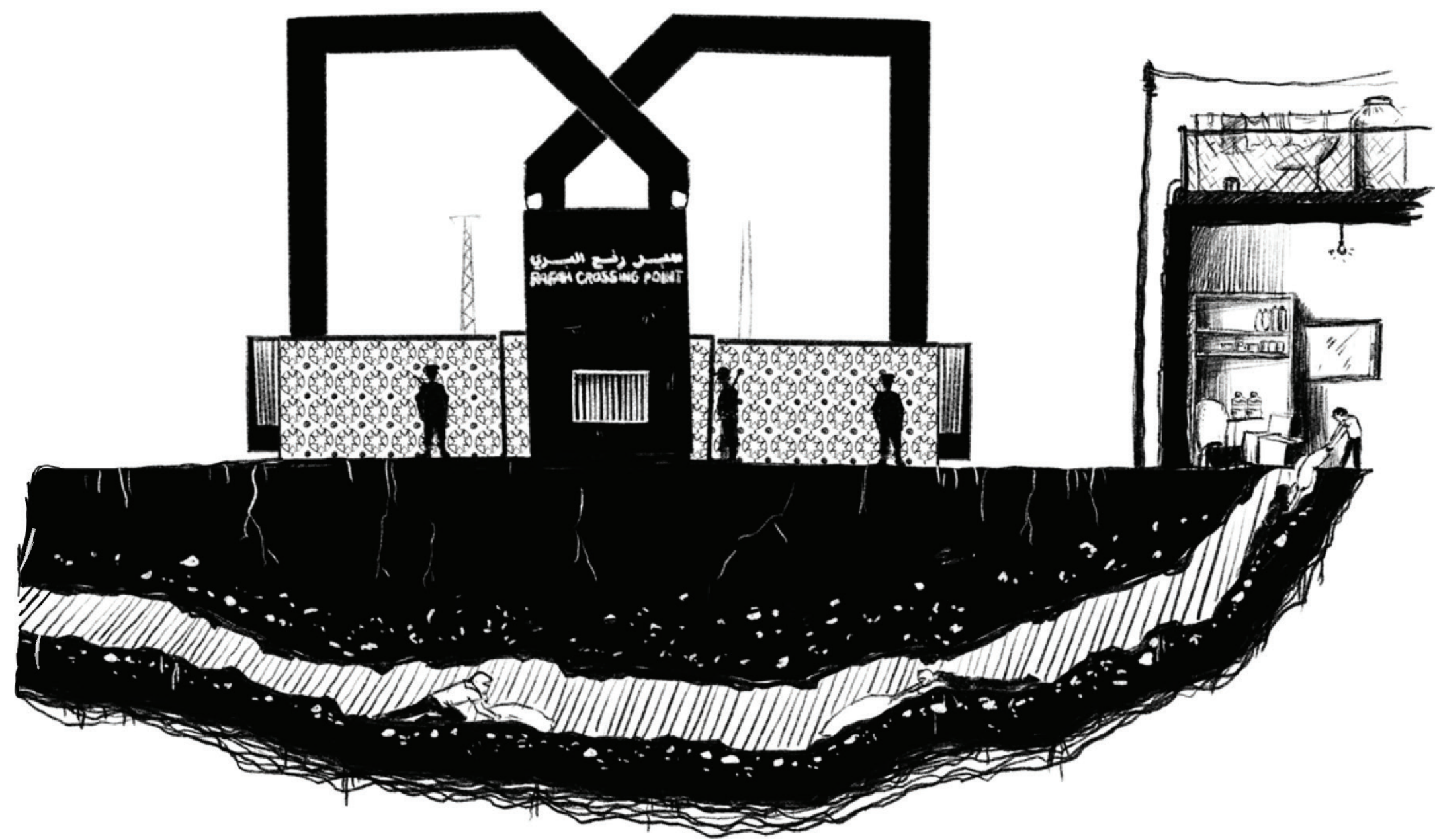
Tunnels in Palestine are omnipresent, repeatedly sparking clashes

The Israeli army dug tunnels underneath the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1996. More recently, in May 2023, the Israeli government held an official meeting in one of the tunnels underneath the Old City of Jerusalem in a symbolic gesture of conquest.



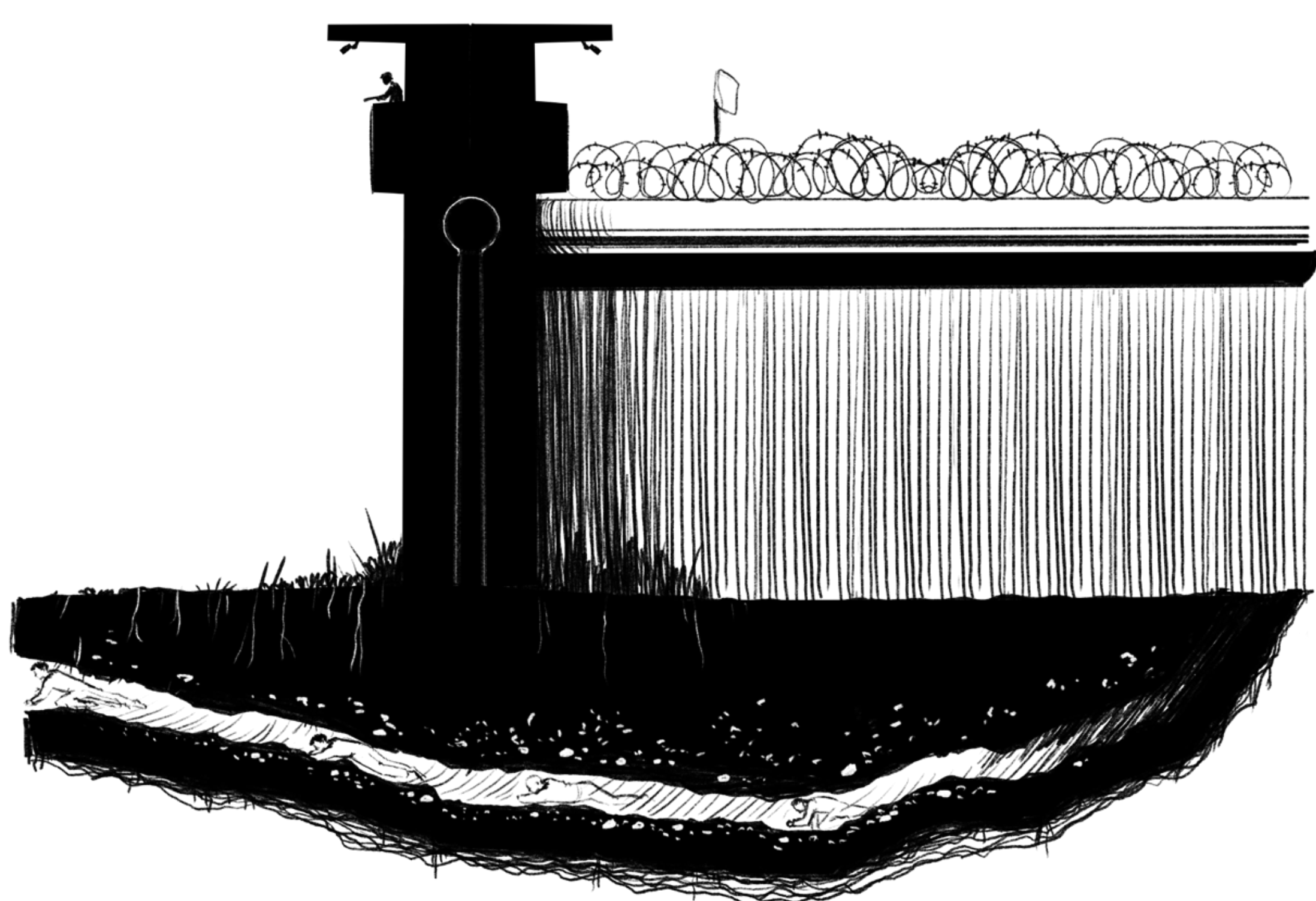
THE QUEST TO COLONIZE PALESTINE RUNS DEEP

WHOEVER OWNS THE UNDERGROUND, OWNS THE LAND **PALESTINIANS ARE BORN FROM THE LAND, BREAKING:**



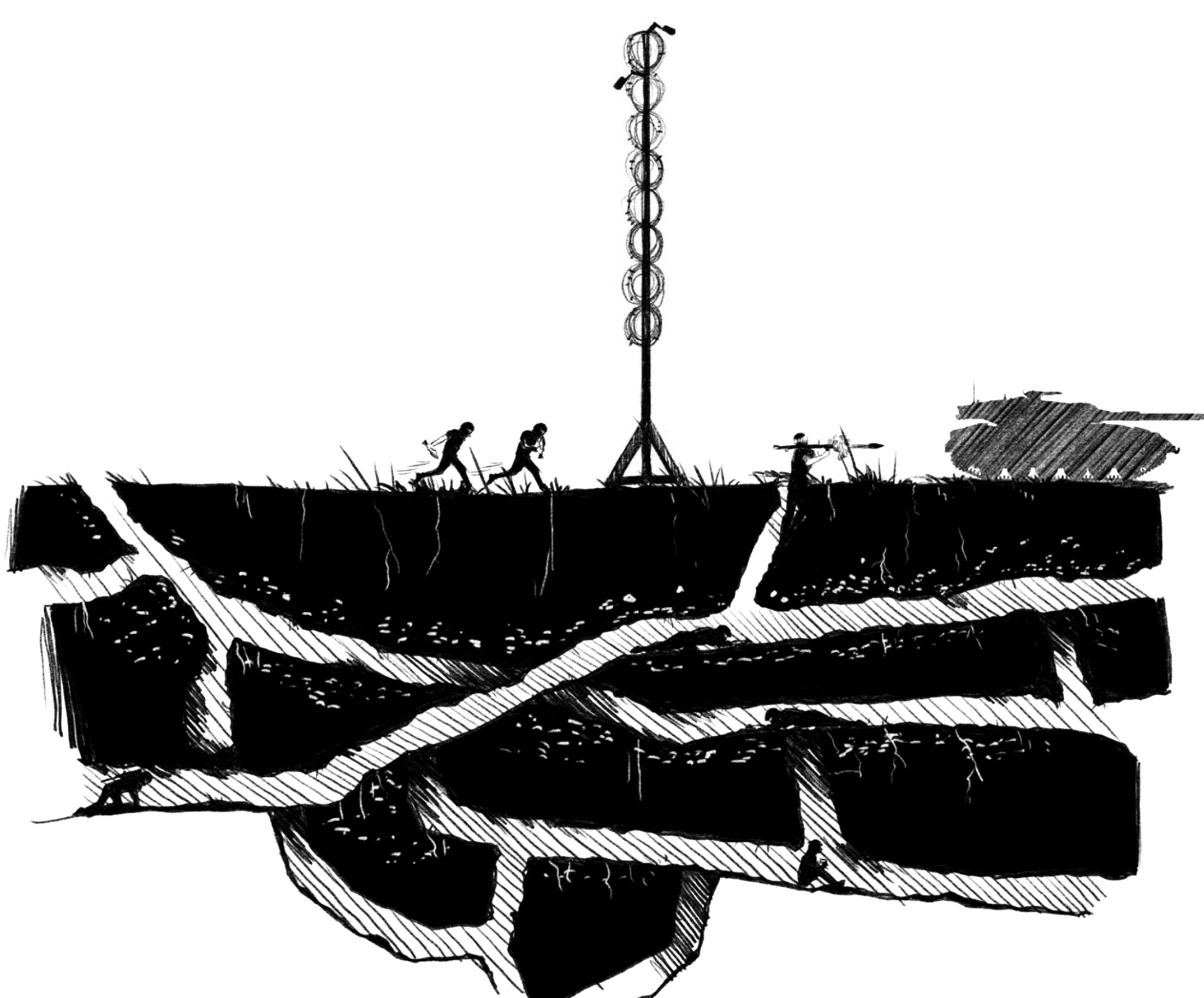
the seige

In 2005, when Israel replaced the occupation with the total siege enforced until today, Gaza became entrapped from all sides. This prompted the Gazans to dig tunnels underneath the Palestinian-Egyptian borders to ensure that the Gazan population bring in basic goods to cover their needs. The Egyptian government drowned these tunnels.



the imprisonment

In September 2021 six political prisoners escaped captivity from Gilboa Prison, which is a high-security facility known as "the Safe". Similar attempts and escapes from Israeli prisons by digging tunnels were recorded in the Shatta Prison, Ofer Prison, Kfar Yona and Ashklon.



the aggression

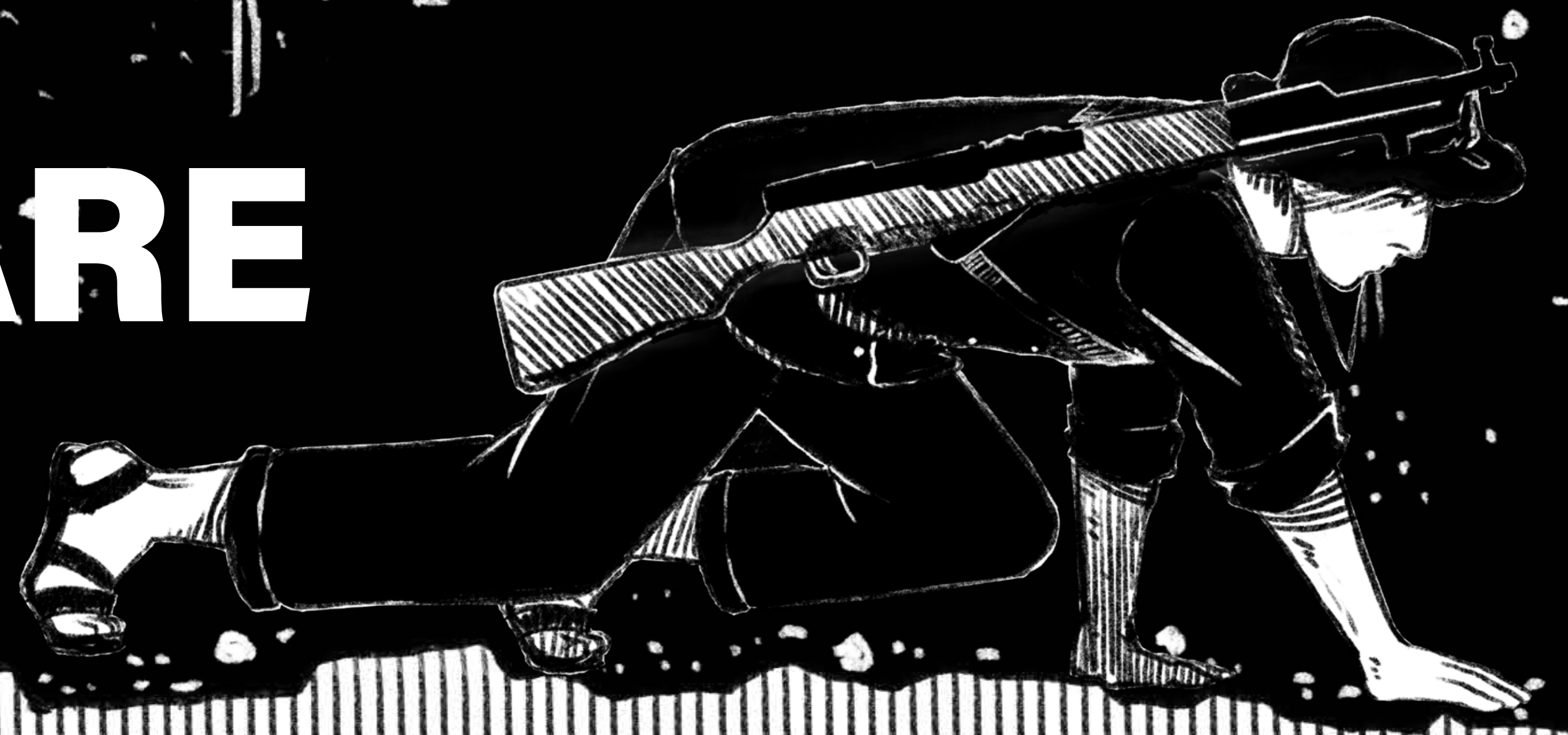
Within the wider context of Palestinian resistance, the employment of tunnels as a strategy has been known in Ailabun in 1964, in Jenin in 2022, Bethlehem in 2018 and 2023, and today, the tunnels in Gaza serve as a prison for captive Israeli soldiers.



"Today, what happened to the ones who dug the tunnel happened to me, they dug it, saw the light, then got caught."

- Waleed Daqqa, a writer in Israeli prisons, when he held his daughter for the first time

TUNNEL WARFARE



is not
a new form of resistance

It was used in liberation movements
throughout history and was prominent
in the **Vietnamese struggle.**

The **tunnels in Gaza** are expected to be more complex, due to
their mysterious nature, and constant modifications. It's more
like another Gaza is being constructed underground, mirroring
the persistent struggle.

The strategy works well because
Palestinians are native to their land, they
belong to it, as much as it belongs to them.



**THE TUNNELS IN
GAZA ARE ICONS OF
PALESTINIAN RESILIENCE**