

# Israel's Genocidal Forced Starvation of Gaza

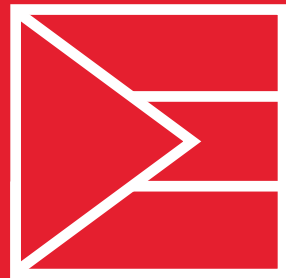
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# At A Glance

Due to Israel's genocidal crime of forced starvation in Gaza, which amounts to the war crime of using starvation as a weapon of war:

**1 in 5**

Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing forced starvation<sup>124</sup>

**70k**

Palestinian children have been hospitalised due to severe malnutrition<sup>3</sup>

**35k**

Palestinian children under the age of 5 face imminent death<sup>1</sup>

**60k**

Palestinian children require urgent treatment for severe malnutrition<sup>2</sup>

**90%**

of Gaza's population faces acute levels of food insecurity<sup>6</sup>

**1.1 million**

Palestinian children lack the minimum nutritional requirements for their survival<sup>4</sup>

**2 million**

Palestinians are dependent on food assistance for survival<sup>7</sup>

The price of food in Gaza has risen over

**500%**

since October 2023 <sup>5</sup>

The price of flour has increased

**3000%**

since February 2025 <sup>125</sup>

**“The world buries its head in the sand, waiting for ‘ceasefire negotiations,’ forgetting that humanitarian aid is a non-negotiable right and that no justification can excuse starvation.”**

**Lima Bustami**

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor's  
Legal Department Director.<sup>8</sup>



01

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# Israel's Forced Aid Dependency of Gaza before October 2023



© UNRWA Photo by Shareef Sarhan

01

# Israel's Forced Aid Dependency of Gaza before October 2023

Prior to Israel's genocide of Gaza, Israel's blockade of the besieged Gaza Strip since 2007 had severely weakened Gaza's economy, forcing 80 percent of Palestinians in Gaza to be dependent on some form of international aid.<sup>9</sup>

Israel's blockade on construction materials entering the Gaza Strip meant 95 percent of water was unsafe for consumption.<sup>10</sup>

Israel also frequently prevented important food items from entering the Gaza Strip, including at times blocking the entry of lentils, pasta, tomato paste, juice, dry food, ginger, chocolate, and electrical appliances such as fridges.<sup>11</sup> These shortages further increased food scarcity in Gaza prior to October 2023 and diminished vital stores of critical foods.<sup>12</sup>

Before October 2023, Israel's blockade had forced over 66 percent of Gaza's population to be living in poverty and caused Gaza's unemployment rate to reach 45 percent – particularly impacting young people, for whom unemployment reached 63 percent.<sup>13</sup>

From 2006 to pre-October 2023, living standards for Palestinians in Gaza had dropped by 27 percent due to Israel's blockade.<sup>14</sup>

Israel's decades-long blockade of the Gaza Strip was an intentional policy to undermine Gaza's self-sufficiency, and therefore resilience, in the event of Israeli operations cutting Gaza off from the rest of the world.<sup>15</sup>

The blockade set the stage for Israel's forced starvation of Gaza by creating conditions through which Palestinians in Gaza were far more reliant upon the humanitarian aid sector and the flow of goods through the border with Egypt than the average population.<sup>16</sup>

Furthermore, Israel's restrictions on Palestinians in Gaza's freedom of movement – essentially creating an open-air concentration camp – meant that the population density of Gaza also made it more susceptible to forced starvation.<sup>17</sup>

**“The demand for bread is far greater than our current capacity, but we remain committed to do as much as we can for the people of Gaza until this crisis comes to an end.”**

**Shadi**

head of the World Central Kitchen's operations in Gaza.<sup>18</sup>





02

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# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Bakeries



© Majdi Fathi, NurPhoto



02

# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Bakeries

In October 2023 alone, one fifth of UNWRA bakeries were bombed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).<sup>20</sup>

Between October 2023 and September 2024, the IOF conducted 17 attacks on Gaza's bakeries whilst they were carrying out aid distribution.<sup>21</sup>

As of 2 April 2025, all UN-supported bakeries in Gaza have been forced to close due to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip.<sup>22</sup>

The bakeries had been supplying bread to 800,000 Palestinians before they were forced to shut.<sup>23</sup>

From 16 April 2025 to 20 May 2025 there was only been one functioning bakery in the entire Gaza Strip, a mobile bakery run by the World Central Kitchen that was forced by repeated Israeli evacuation orders to keep moving location.<sup>24</sup>

The demand for bread was so high that the bakery was running double shifts for 19 hours per day, producing 59,000 loaves of bread per day.<sup>25</sup> This was only one third of the bakery's total capacity, but its production was limited by the severe shortage of flour within the Gaza Strip.<sup>26</sup>

From 22 and 24 May 2025, following the entry of a limited amount of flour into Gaza, five of Gaza's 25 UN-supported bakeries briefly resumed operations, before aid distribution was taken over by the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).<sup>129</sup>

**“We’re exhausted. We can no longer find things to eat like tomatoes, sugar or oil. They’re not available. I can barely find one meal a day. Now, there are no charity food handouts. I only have one grandchild; he was born during the war. He’s three months old and we can’t find milk or nappies for him.”**

**Um Ali Hamad**

a displaced Palestinian woman from Beit Lahia, currently taking shelter in Gaza City.<sup>27</sup>



03

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# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Fishing Industry



© EPA

## 03

# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Fishing Industry

Since the 1990s, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have made a concerted effort to restrict Palestinian access to and use of the Mediterranean Sea, most significantly along Gaza's coastline.<sup>28</sup>

Prior to October 2023, Israel had arbitrarily restricted the distance Palestinian fishermen are permitted to fish off the coast of Gaza, prevented fishing ropes from entering the Strip, and Israeli naval vessels have repeatedly attacked and killed Palestinian fishermen.<sup>29</sup> This blockade on Gaza's sea has effectively suffocated Gaza's fishing industry.<sup>30</sup>

In the first weeks of Israel's genocide in Gaza, the IOF repeatedly bombed the Port of Gaza, starting from 11 October 2023.<sup>31</sup> The attacks prevented pedestrian access to large sections of the port and fishing boats docked there.<sup>32</sup>

In the first week of Israel's aerial bombardment of Gaza, the IOF rendered 40 percent of all fishing boats non-operational.<sup>33</sup>

As of 10 January 2024, all fishing boats in the port had been destroyed.<sup>34</sup>

As a result of the IOF's attacks on Palestinians' boats, many fishermen have been forced to fish from the shore, which only results in catching small fish which are not large enough to sustain entire families.<sup>35</sup>

Before the genocide, there were about 4,000 Palestinian fishermen in Gaza, whose work provided for about 50,000 dependents.<sup>36</sup>

Since the beginning of the genocide, Israeli attacks have caused the loss of more than 4,600 tonnes of fish production, with a value of over \$20 million.<sup>37</sup>

Between October 2023 and December 2024, the IOF also killed over 200 Palestinian fishermen in Gaza.<sup>38</sup>

**“I wish I could go back to how I used to be. I wish for my hair to grow long again and to be able to brush it. I wish to go back to school. I wish to be able to pray while standing. Now I pray while sitting.”**

**Rashaf**

a 12-year-old displaced Palestinian girl in Gaza suffering from acute starvation, pleading to be taken abroad for medical treatment.<sup>39</sup>





04

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# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Arable Land





04

# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Arable Land

Before Israel's genocide in Gaza, 41 percent of the Gaza's land was considered agricultural.<sup>41</sup>

In particular, agricultural lands along Gaza's eastern wall, on fertile loess soil (soil known for its high fertility), were critical for Gaza's food security, and the area was known locally as the 'food basket' of Gaza.<sup>42</sup>

**Between October 2023 and July 2024, the IOF destroyed:**



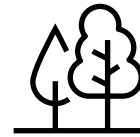
**83%**

of all plant  
life in Gaza



**70%**

of Gaza's  
agricultural  
land



**69%**

of Gaza's fields  
and orchards



**45%**

of Gaza's  
greenhouses



**47%**

of Gaza's  
groundwater  
wells



**65%**

of Gaza's  
water tanks.<sup>40</sup>

## Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Arable Land continued...

### Israel's destruction of Gaza's arable land from October 2023 to July 2024



Gaza's once fertile soil will continue to be contaminated by the bombs and weapons used in Israel's genocide for generations to come due to the materials used in explosives and the use of illegal phosphorus bombs.<sup>43</sup>

**“When she was born, she was beautiful despite the weakness visible on her features, but now she is unnaturally thin. Babies her age are supposed to weigh 6kg or more – not just 2-4kg. [...]”**

**Seeing my daughter in this state every day gives me insomnia. I’m constantly anxious and overthinking. Sometimes I can’t bear seeing her like this, and I start crying. I’m so afraid of losing her. Can’t the world open the crossings to allow in milk, food, and medicine? All I want is for my daughter Siwar to live like the rest of the children in the world.”**

**Najwa Aram**

mother of Siwar Ashour, a Palestinian child born during the genocide who has been hospitalised due to extreme forced starvation.<sup>78</sup>



05

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# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Drinking Water



© Anadolu, Getty

## 05

# Israel's Destruction of Gaza's Drinking Water

Israel is committing the war crime of using water as a weapon of war by cutting off Gaza's external water supply, deliberately obstructing the entry of clean drinking water, and systematically destroying Gaza's water facilities.<sup>46</sup>

Israeli attacks on Gaza's water and electricity infrastructure, coupled with restrictions on the entry of spare parts and fuel, caused Gaza's water production to drop by 84 percent by May 2024 in comparison to pre-October levels.<sup>47</sup>

The external supply of water that the Gaza Strip was receiving from Israel's national water company, Mekorot, also was cut by 78 percent from October 2023 to May 2024.<sup>48</sup> Most harmfully, the water lines supplying Khan Younis – where many displaced Palestinians were sheltering – were completely cut for 81 percent of the time, and the lines to Gaza City cut 95 percent of the time.<sup>49</sup>

These targeted attacks on Gaza's water reduced the amount of water available in Gaza by 94 percent by July 2024, to just 4.74 litres per person per day – equivalent to less than a single toilet flush.<sup>50</sup> This amounts to just one third of the recommended minimum water provisions for basic survival.<sup>51</sup>

Between October 2023 and July 2024, Israel damaged or destroyed five water and sanitation sites on average every three days.<sup>52</sup>

By July 2024, Israel had destroyed 70 percent of all sewage pumps, all of Gaza's wastewater treatment facilities, and the main water quality testing laboratories in Gaza.<sup>53</sup>

In Gaza City, Israel has destroyed 88 percent of water wells and all desalination plants.<sup>54</sup>

The contamination of Gaza's water supplies is believed to be a major factor behind the spread of preventable diseases in Gaza, because of which more than a quarter of Gaza's population have become severely sick since October 2023.<sup>55</sup>

Since 2 March 2025, when Israel cut all power entering the Gaza Strip, at least 600,000 Palestinians who had regained access to clean drinking water from desalination plants in November 2024 have been unable to access safe drinking water.<sup>56</sup> In particular, the water output from main desalination plant in Khan Younis reduced from 17 million to 2.5 million litres per day.<sup>57</sup>



**“We’ve already seen Israel’s use of collective punishment and its use of starvation as a weapon of war. Now we are witnessing its weaponising of water, which is already having deadly consequences.**

**But the deliberate restriction of access to water is not a new tactic. The Israeli government has been depriving Palestinians across the West Bank and Gaza of safe and sufficient water for many years.**

**The widespread destruction and significant restrictions on aid delivery in Gaza impacting access to water and other essentials for survival, underscores the urgent need for the international community to take decisive action to prevent further suffering by upholding justice and human rights, including those enshrined in the Geneva and Genocide Conventions.”**

**Lama Abdul Samad**

Oxfam Water and Sanitation Specialist at Oxfam’s office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.<sup>58</sup>





06

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# Israel's Targeted Attacks on Aid Distribution Centres



© Reuters, Mohammed Salem, File Photo

## 06

# Israel's Targeted Attacks on Aid Distribution Centres

Between October 2023 and September 2024, the IOF committed:

- 73 attacks on shelters for displaced Palestinians where food aid was being received and distributed
- 60 attacks on aid workers distributing aid
- 50 attacks on Palestinians seeking aid at distribution centres
- 78 attacks on aid infrastructure, including warehouses and water treatment facilities
- 22 attacks on convoys of aid trucks transporting aid throughout Gaza, which had been coordinated by humanitarian aid organisations
- 6 attacks on aid convoys transporting aid to Gaza through other areas of occupied Palestine
- 16 attacks on markets where Palestinians were obtaining aid
- 17 attacks on aid distribution operations that has been officially coordinated with Israel and in so-called 'safe zones'.<sup>59</sup>

Of these attacks, 39 targeted UNWRA operations, with the IOF killing over 195 UNWRA personnel, and abducting another 40 UNWRA staff members.<sup>60</sup>

The times when Israel has increased its targeting of aid distribution centres and operations directly coincide with the periods when Israel increased aid flow into the Gaza Strip (late December 2023, late March and early April 2024, early May 2024).<sup>61</sup>

In one 48-hour period alone from 13 to 15 March 2024, the IOF committed five separate massacres at aid distribution centres, killing 56 Palestinians and injuring over 300.<sup>62</sup>

**“We’re seeing severe cases. Malnutrition appears in children in a horrifying and extremely visible way. We have nothing to offer them. They need proteins, but there are none. We try to provide a little milk, perhaps powdered milk, but we can’t offer anything more.**

**On top of that, the severe overcrowding in hospitals leads to increased disease transmission among children. [...]**

**We are helpless in the face of their needs – we cannot provide food, supplements, medication, or vitamins appropriate for their conditions. I studied malnutrition in medical school textbooks. I used to think that study would remain theoretical, something we’d never see in real life. But now, those textbook descriptions have come to life before our eyes in Gaza.**

**I call on the world to see us as human beings – we were created just like everyone else.”**

**Dr Ahmed al-Farah**

the director of the children’s and maternity building at the Nasser medical complex, where between five and ten new malnutrition cases have been recorded daily in May 2025.<sup>63</sup>





07

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# Israel's Prevention of Aid Entering Gaza



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## 07

# Israel's Prevention of Aid Entering Gaza

Israel has repeatedly blocked aid from entering Gaza since October 2023, escalating on 2 March 2025 with the complete blockade of all humanitarian aid entering Gaza.<sup>64</sup>

Even when aid trucks have been permitted to enter, they have been significantly reduced in number, despite Gaza's population requiring 500 aid trucks per day to maintain their previous standard of living.<sup>65</sup> Palestinians' quality of life in Gaza was already significantly below average even with the entry of 500 trucks per day, with Gaza already predicted to be "unliveable" by 2020.<sup>66</sup>

## 7-21 October 2023

On 9 October, Israel announced a "total blockade" on the entry of food, water, medicine, fuel, and electricity entering the Gaza Strip.<sup>67</sup>

## 21 October 2023 – 23 January 2024

Although some humanitarian aid was permitted to enter the Gaza Strip, this was significantly below the level of humanitarian aid required.<sup>68</sup>

The humanitarian aid that was able to enter the Strip was not able to be distributed to those in need.<sup>69</sup> For example, in January 2024, the IOF blocked 56 percent of humanitarian aid to northern Gaza, which was worst impacted by Israel's genocidal military operations and restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement.<sup>70</sup>

## 24 January 2024 – 28 February 2024

Israeli extremists known as the Tsav 9 movement repeatedly organised blockades of humanitarian aid trucks from entering Gaza.<sup>71</sup> The group blockaded multiple land crossings into the besieged Gaza Strip, including Kerem Shalom and Nitzana, and blockaded ports where aid supplies arrived for aid trucks, such as Ashdod port.<sup>72</sup>

Israel also imposed financial and political restrictions on UNWRA, preventing their shipments from entering the Gaza Strip, with Israeli customs authorities "ordering [contractors] not to process any UNWRA goods".<sup>73</sup>

On 9 February, the UN reported that the restrictions forced one convoy of food, containing over 1,049 shipping containers of food – enough to sustain 1.1 million people for one month – to remain stuck in Ashdod port for weeks.<sup>74</sup>

## Israel's Prevention of Aid Entering Gaza continued...

### 29 February 2024: The First Flour Massacre

The IOF massacred over 112 Palestinians and injured over 750 by opening fire on Palestinians waiting for food aid near Gaza City.<sup>75</sup>

### 1 April 2024: The World Central Kitchen Massacre

The IOF conducted drone strikes on an aid convoy of the World Central Kitchen (WCK), killing all seven humanitarians, and forcing the WCK to halt its humanitarian operations in the Gaza Strip.<sup>76</sup>

### 7 May 2024

The IOF seized control of the Gaza Strip's Rafah border crossing with Egypt, preventing aid trucks from entering the Gaza Strip.<sup>77</sup> The IOF has controlled the border crossing and therefore the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza through Egypt ever since.<sup>78</sup>

### 1 – 31 August 2024

In August 2024, the number of aid trucks entering the besieged Gaza Strip reached a new low of just 69 per day on average, and more than 1 million Palestinians did not receive any food rations in central and southern Gaza.<sup>79</sup>

On average 83 percent of the required food to feed Gaza's population did not enter Gaza.<sup>80</sup>

### 6 October 2024

The IOF conducted a massive siege of northern Gaza, preventing the entry of humanitarian aid to the north of the Strip.<sup>81</sup>

### 19 January 2025 – 2 March 2025

Although during the so-called “ceasefire” – which Israel repeatedly broke – more humanitarian aid was permitted to enter Gaza, this still did not meet the quantity or quality of aid required.<sup>82</sup>

Palestinians bore witness that many of the trucks permitted to enter were carrying commercial goods rather than aid, and that the aid trucks were carrying non-essential items like cigarettes and chocolate, rather than necessities for survival.<sup>83</sup>

### 2 March 2025 – 19 May 2025

Israel enacted a complete blockade of all humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip for over two months.<sup>84</sup>

As a result, all 25 bakeries run by the UN World Food Programme were forced to close in early April due to running out of supplies, and the price of flour has increased 3000% since February to between \$235-\$520 for 25 kilograms.<sup>85</sup>

At least 57 Palestinian children were killed by forced starvation during this blockade.<sup>86</sup>

The entire 2.1 million population of Gaza is experiencing prolonged food shortages, with nearly half a million Palestinians in a catastrophic situation of hunger, acute malnutrition, starvation, illness and death.<sup>87</sup>

As of 12 May 2025, the World Health Organisation only had enough supplies remaining to treat 500 children with acute malnutrition – a tiny percentage of the urgent need.<sup>88</sup>



## Israel's Prevention of Aid Entering Gaza continued...

### 19 May 2025 – 26 May 2025

After the IOF subjected Gaza to over 78 days of total blockade, from 20 May a small number of aid trucks were permitted to enter the Gaza Strip, but far below the quantity needed to meet the needs of the starving Palestinian population in Gaza – all of whom were dependent on aid for survival – and nowhere near the 500 aid trucks a day entering Gaza before October 2023.<sup>126</sup>

On 21 May, the UN delivered enough baby food for 24,223 infant and young children for one month, just 25 percent of the total monthly need.<sup>127</sup> The World Food Programme delivered enough nutritional supplements for 61,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women for one month – only amounting to 15-20 percent of the estimated monthly requirement.<sup>128</sup>

From 21 May to 22 May alone, at least 29 Palestinian children and elderly people were killed by the IOF's genocidal starvation of the Gaza Strip.<sup>137</sup>

Between 22 and 24 May, following the entry of a limited amount of wheat flour into Gaza, five of Gaza's 25 UN-supported bakeries briefly resumed operations in central Gaza.<sup>129</sup>

### 27 May 2025 – ongoing

On 27 May 2025, the US-Israeli organisation, with the misnomer the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) has taken over most of the aid distribution in the Gaza Strip.<sup>130</sup> GHF staff include Israeli occupation soldiers, foreign military contractors, and US personnel.<sup>131</sup> GHF has repeatedly corralled starving Palestinians into metal cages as a prerequisite to receiving aid, and has collaborated with the IOF and Daesh-affiliated militias to open fire on starving Palestinians.<sup>132</sup>

By 17 June, IOF-affiliated aid distribution groups had massacred hundreds of Palestinians at multiple aid distributions sites and injured thousands more, including killing over 70 Palestinians on 17 June alone.<sup>133</sup> The death toll is expected to rise as many of the hundreds injured are in a critical condition, without access to medical facilities.<sup>134</sup>

The scale of the massacres has resulted in many Palestinians not going to aid distribution sites, despite their starvation, as there are no guarantees that they will return from what have been termed "death traps" and "execution sites".<sup>135</sup>

UN and other aid agencies with the supplies and experience capable of delivering the scale of aid needed in Gaza have refused to work with GHF due to its massacres of Palestinians and ties with the occupation forces and Daesh-linked groups.<sup>136</sup>

**“It is not too late to reclaim the political obligations attached to these terms. The imminent onset of famine demands collective action. Starvation can’t be reversed with food aid alone. Those who starve others must be held accountable for their crimes.**

**It is not too late to protect Palestinians in Gaza from those who continue to orchestrate and celebrate Israel’s depraved policy of extermination by starvation.”**

**Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah**

a Palestinian-British surgeon who worked in Gaza’s al-Shifa and Al-Ahli hospitals during the genocide.<sup>89</sup>



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# Israel's Forced Starvation of Palestinian Children



© Reuters

# Israel's Forced Starvation of Palestinian Children

In January 2024, malnutrition screenings by UN agencies in northern Gaza found that one in six children below the age of two was acutely malnourished, and three percent of those children were suffering from severe wasting requiring urgent treatment.<sup>90</sup>

In central Gaza, 11 percent of children admitted to humanitarian clinics in Deir al-Balah were suffering from malnutrition, whilst in southern Gaza, five percent of children in Rafah under the age of two were acutely malnourished.<sup>91</sup>

From January to March 2024, food delivery programmes in Gaza only met 25 percent of the nutritional needs for malnourished children and vulnerable mothers, leaving 375,000 individuals vulnerable to malnutrition.<sup>92</sup>

Over 90 per cent of children under the age of two and 95 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women were facing severe food poverty – meaning they have consumed two or less food groups in the previous day – and the food they do have access to is of the lowest nutritional value.<sup>93</sup>

As of May 2025, Israel's forced starvation of the Gaza Strip has caused 35,000 Palestinian children in Gaza below the age of 5 to face imminent death by starvation, and 70,000 Palestinian children to be hospitalised due to severe malnutrition since October 2023.<sup>94</sup> Of these children, 60,000 require urgent treatment for severe malnutrition.<sup>95</sup>

A further 16,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women require urgent healthcare for them and their children's survival.<sup>96</sup>

In the first five months of 2025 alone, over 9,000 Palestinian children were admitted to hospital for treatment for acute malnutrition.<sup>97</sup>

## The Long-Term Effects of Starvation on Children

In addition to being most vulnerable to death from acute starvation, the long-term effects from children suffering from acute malnutrition are also the most severe, with many never being able to fully recover.<sup>98</sup>

According to Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah, a Palestinian-British surgeon who worked in Gaza's al-Shifa and Al-Ahli hospitals during the genocide: "Studies on people who survived the second world war showed they are more likely to get NCDs [non-communicable diseases] if they had malnutrition as children. They're also more likely to become diabetics, more likely to have hypertension, more likely to have diabetes in old age. You don't recover".<sup>99</sup>

Likewise, Anuradha Narayan, a Senior Nutrition Adviser at Unicef, stated: "If a child is malnourished, particularly under two years of age, they are unable to cognitively catch up with other [children]. The brain is such a big part of caloric and nutrient consumption in a child's development".<sup>100</sup>

**“We don’t ask if food is nutritious or not, if it’s fresh or good; that’s a luxury, we just want to fill the stomachs of our children. I don’t want my child to die hungry.”**

A displaced Palestinian parent in the besieged Gaza Strip.<sup>101</sup>





09

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# Israel's War Crime of Using Starvation as a Weapon of War



© Mahmoud Issa, Anadolu via Getty Images



# Israel's War Crime of Using Starvation as a Weapon of War

The use of starvation as a weapon of war is determined as a specific war crime in the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>102</sup> UN Resolution 2417 also condemns both the “starvation of civilians as a method of warfare” and the practice of “depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival”.<sup>103</sup>

As the occupying power, Israel is obliged under international law to ensure the provision of food and medical care to the population and to facilitate the work of humanitarian organisations delivering aid.<sup>104</sup>

When the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Polish-Israeli Prime Minister and wanted war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, and Polish-Israeli Former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, the court found “reasonable grounds” to believe they had “intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival” and were responsible for forced starvation in Gaza.<sup>105</sup>

The scale of starvation in Gaza shows that Israel is clearly weaponising starvation to achieve its objective of ethnically cleansing the Strip: 2 million people, almost all of Gaza's population, are dependent on food assistance, and 90% of Gazans face acute levels of food insecurity.<sup>106</sup>

Israel has also used death by forced starvation as a tactic to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from specific areas of the Gaza Strip.<sup>107</sup> The targeting of aid distribution centres in northern Gaza occurred directly alongside forced evacuation orders ethnically cleansing Palestinians from northern Gaza.<sup>108</sup>

Restriction of aid was therefore used as a tool of displacement, and therefore a weapon to achieve Israel's objectives of occupying northern Gaza.<sup>109</sup>

**“The world has lost its compass. There’s just a feeling here that anything could happen, and it still wouldn’t be enough for the world to say, this is enough.”**

**Sam Rose**

UNWRA’s acting director in Gaza.<sup>110</sup>



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# Israel's Forced Starvation of Gaza as a Mechanism of Genocide



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## 10

# Israel's Forced Starvation of Gaza as a Mechanism of Genocide

Israel's repeated restrictions and blockade of humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip demonstrates clear intent to make the Gaza Strip uninhabitable for Palestinians and create the conditions for their extermination.<sup>111</sup>

It is believed that the number of Palestinians killed by starvation and disease could be even higher than the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli military attacks.<sup>112</sup>

The conditions of forced starvation created by Israel have ensured that Israel's genocide will continue to massacre Palestinians without the need for bombs.<sup>113</sup>

Israeli officials have demonstrated clear intent to enact genocide through forced starvation.<sup>114</sup> Multiple high-ranking Israeli officials, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, and Energy Minister Israel Katz have made public statements expressing their desire to deprive civilians in Gaza of food, water and fuel – intent that has been enacted in a consistent policy since October 2023.<sup>115</sup>

In October 2023, Gallant ordered a “complete siege” of “human animals”, referring to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.<sup>116</sup> Similarly, in January 2024, Ben-Gvir called for the blockage of all humanitarian aid.<sup>117</sup>

In February 2024, another Knesset member, Zvi Sukot, also participated in Israeli demonstrators' blockade of Ashdod port to prevent aid supplies being loaded onto aid trucks.<sup>118</sup>

In June 2024, Itamar Ben-Gvir directly instructed his Deputy Commissioner Superintendent Avshalom Peled to refrain from providing security for the aid convoys to the Gaza Strip.<sup>119</sup>

In April 2024, Katz declared: “In the current reality, no one is going to allow any humanitarian aid into Gaza.”<sup>120</sup>

These repeated statements of intent to starve Gaza clearly demonstrate that forced starvation is an intentional mechanism of genocide by Israeli politicians.<sup>121</sup>

**“Finding a single meal has become an impossible quest. People here have witnessed one charity after another declaring they’re out of supplies, that they’re shutting down their operations because they’re in no position to ... offer the population the needed relief.**

**It’s frustrating and infuriating to have trucks piling up on the other side of the fence be denied entrance while the people, even children, are in dire conditions.”**

**Ahmad al-Najjar**

a displaced Palestinian in Gaza City.<sup>122</sup>





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# Western Media Bias

© BBC via YouTube



# Malnutrition in Gaza

**BBC NEWS**

07

# Western Media Bias

## Depiction of forced starvation as famine

Western media has repeatedly depicted Israel's forced starvation of Gaza as a natural disaster, hunger or a famine, failing to hold Israel responsible for its policy of intentionally starving Palestinians in Gaza.

The New York Times

*Desperation Grows in Gaza  
as U.N. Shuttters Bakeries*

**BBC NEWS**

**Entire Gaza population at critical  
risk of famine, UN-backed  
assessment says**

The New York Times

**Middle East Crisis  
Gaza Famine Warning Spurs Calls to  
Remove Restrictions on Food Shipments**

## Western Media Bias continued...

**The  
Guardian**

**One in five households in Gaza go whole days without food, draft UN report says**

*The Washington Post*

**‘Imminent’ famine likely in northern Gaza, experts warn in alert**

 **NBC NEWS**

**More than 40% of people in Gaza to face 'catastrophic' levels of hunger**

## Western Media Bias continued...

### Failure to describe Israel's use of starvation as a weapon of war as a war crime

Western media continues to report on aid restrictions on Gaza but fail to emphasise that Israel's intentional blockade on entering the Gaza Strip amounts to the war crime of using starvation as a weapon of war.

**The New York Times**

## Middle East Crisis Gaza Famine Warning Spurs Calls to Remove Restrictions on Food Shipments

**AP**

## Food security experts warn Gaza is at critical risk of famine if Israel doesn't end its blockade

**The Telegraph**

## Netanyahu arrest warrant relied on 'implausible' claims of famine in Gaza, report claims

**abc NEWS**

## 'Beyond horrific' conditions in northern Gaza as hunger soars and supplies dwindle, aid organizations warn

**“People are now in a state of confusion, they have forgotten the war, displacement, migration and bombing. Their main thoughts have become flour.**

**At the beginning of the war, people were still healthy and had the ability and energy to endure. Now they cannot endure again.**

**People here are not optimistic. They no longer care whether the war continues or ends, because all they care about is eating.”**

**Ahmed Dremly**  
a Palestinian journalist  
based in northern Gaza.<sup>123</sup>





# Endnotes

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