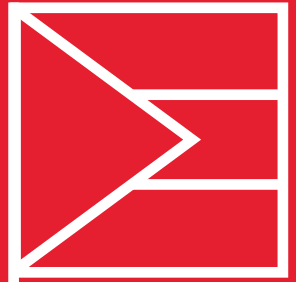


The US- Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation: A Death Trap for Starving Palestinians

June 2025



London | Washington



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**“I’m in northern Gaza.
I would rather starve
than take GHF aid.
No amount of hunger
would push me to seek
aid wrapped in blood
and humiliation.”**

Eman Hillis

Gaza-based fact-checker.¹



01

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Israel's Destruction of Aid Operations in Gaza



© Al Jazeera

01

Israel's Destruction of Aid Operations in Gaza

Since October 2023, the Israeli government has repeatedly lied about aid organisations operating in Gaza in an attempt to undermine their legitimacy and falsely criminalise humanitarian workers, to prevent their lifesaving operations in Gaza.²

On 26 January 2024, the Israeli government falsely accused 19 members of UNWRA's staff in Gaza of participating in Palestinian resistance operations on 7 October 2023.³

The accusations led several countries to pull their funding from UNWRA, harming its operations in the besieged Gaza Strip, as well as the occupied West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.⁴

The US – the largest funder of UNWRA – has still not reinstated its funding, despite other countries later reversing the decision as Israel's false accusations and enactment of genocide through forced starvation became apparent.⁵

This criminalisation and defunding of UNWRA laid the foundations for Israel to undermine independent humanitarian organisations and harm the ability of existing organisations working in Gaza that are staffed by Palestinians, such as UNWRA, from being able to operate in the Strip.⁶

Simultaneously, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have repeatedly targeted humanitarian distribution centres and humanitarian staff working in the Gaza Strip in order to prevent the delivery of aid.⁷

Some of the gravest massacres of humanitarian staff include the IOF's World Central Kitchen massacre on 1 April 2024, and the Palestinian Paramedic Massacre on 23 March 2025, which intentionally assassinated seven and 15 humanitarian workers respectively.⁸

These repeated attacks on humanitarian operations led many aid organisations to pull their foreign staff from Gaza, and many Palestinian staff members have been massacred, displaced, injured, or abducted, and have therefore been significantly limited by the IOF in providing aid – even before Israel's total blockade of all aid from entering the Gaza Strip in March 2025.⁹

“The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation restricts aid to only one part of Gaza while leaving other dire needs unmet. It makes aid conditional on political and military aims. It makes starvation a bargaining chip. It is cynical sideshow. A deliberate distraction. A fig leaf for further violence and displacement.”

Tom Fletcher

UN Humanitarian Chief.¹⁰



02

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Background to the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)



© Eyad Baba - AFP

02

Background to the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)

The so-called ‘Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’ (GHF) is a US-Israeli organisation that was established in February 2025 to provide cover for Israel to pursue its genocide in Gaza.¹¹

The GHF has not publicly disclosed its funding sources, only stating that it has secured \$100m in commitments without providing any concrete details.¹⁰⁸

Israel had been in discussions with US mercenaries since as early as December 2023, largely with Philip Reilly, a former CIA operative.¹² Reilly was a senior vice president at a US company that committed a massacre in Iraq in 2007.¹³

Reilly then established the Israeli company called Safe Reach Solutions (SRS) in January 2025, which began taking control over securing food distribution sites in Gaza.¹⁴

Until 25 May 2025, the executive director was Jake Wood, a US military veteran who had previously operated as a sniper in the US’ colonial occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.¹⁵

On 4 June 2025, the GHF appointed its new director, Johnnie Moore, an evangelical leader and former adviser to US President Donald Trump who has denied reports of massacres at GHF distribution sites as “fictional massacres”.¹⁶

GHF came into operation at the end of May 2025, blocking alternative humanitarian aid distribution, despite other organisations already having the experience, manpower, and supplies to effectively distribute aid in the Gaza Strip if Israel lifted the blockade on Gaza.¹⁷

GHF is a US-Israeli plan to replace all UN and independent aid operations in the Gaza Strip, rendering aid distribution as a mechanism for genocide through IOF massacres at aid distribution sites and the collection of data of starving Palestinians for the IOF as a prerequisite to receiving aid.¹⁸

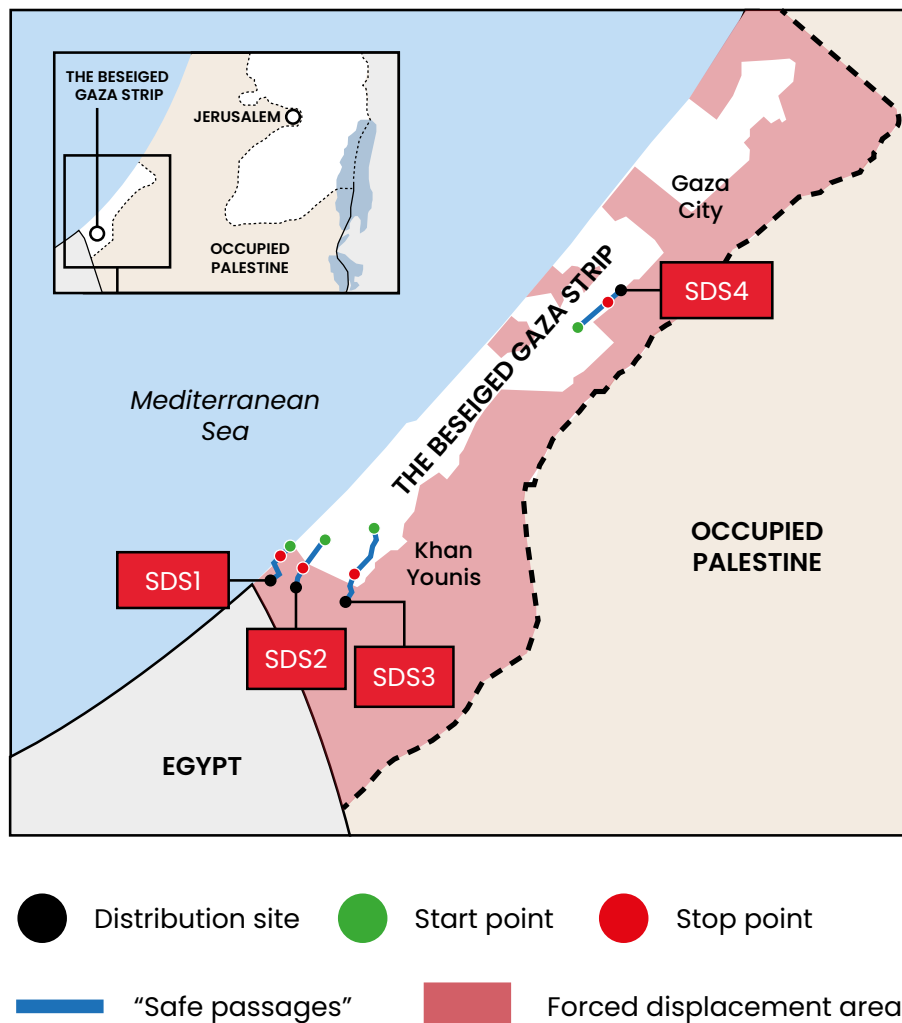
International aid organisations and the UN have refused to work with the GHF, saying it violates basic humanitarian principles by coordinating delivery with Israeli troops backed by privately hired and armed US security personnel.²⁰

A former UNWRA spokesperson has described the initiative as “aid washing” - a strategy meant to obscure the reality that “people are being starved into submission”.²¹

Under the GHF proposal, all of Gaza’s more than two million residents are forced to collect food from one of just four distribution sites.²² None of the sites are in northern Gaza - a region that Israel has attacked and occupied to ethnically cleanse - meaning those still living there will be forced to flee south to access life-saving aid.²³

Background to the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) continued...

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution sites and checkpoints



Source: Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and Al Jazeera

The GHF has only aimed to provide Palestinians arriving to these distribution centres with 1,750 calories per person – far below the World Food Programme’s goal of 2,100 calories per person.²⁴

A typical GHF box contains just 4kg of flour, a couple of bags of pasta, two cans of fava beans, a pack of tea bags and a few biscuits. Some parcels include lentils and small portions of soup mix, but quantities are minimal.¹⁰⁹

The parcels distributed by the GHF appear to contain only dry goods, distributed to displaced Palestinians who lack the clean water and fuel needed for cooking.²⁵ Other than poor quality food rations, the GHF provides no healthcare, shelter or other aid essential for Palestinians’ survival.²⁶

The deprivation of aid as a mechanism to forcibly transfer a population is recognised as a crime against humanity.²⁷

Background to the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) continued...

GHF's aid distribution collapsed on its first day of operation, exposing a severe yet predictable lack of planning, coordination, and understanding of the humanitarian crisis on the ground.²⁸ GHF mercenaries abandoned the sites after being unable to cope with the scale of starving Palestinians.²⁹ Their abject failure to manage the desperate crowds underscored the GHF's unpreparedness and disregard for the basic needs and safety of Palestinians.³⁰

The centres function on a first-come, first-served basis, causing mass chaos amidst an already forcibly

starved population of Palestinians. The distribution sites also operate irregularly, sometimes opening for just an hour. In one instance, a site announced its opening on Facebook, only to post eight minutes later that supplies had already run out.¹¹⁰

GHF operations have sought to further dehumanise Palestinians by forcing them into fenced corridors, packed tightly as they waited for their restricted, calorie-limited weekly aid, highlighting the militarisation and sub-human treatment of starving Palestinian civilians.³¹

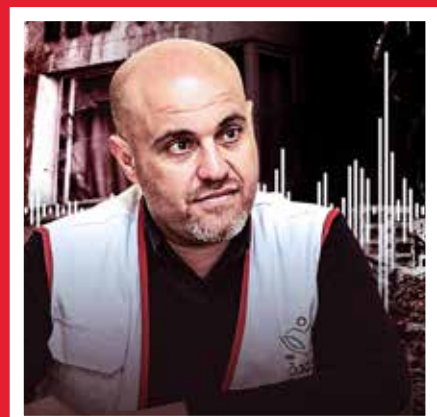


Source: Al Jazeera

On 27 June 2025, despite the well documented massacres of hundreds of Palestinians at GHF aid distribution sites, the US government announced \$30 million in direct funding for GHF.³²

“Every day we have been receiving injured people and martyrs from what’s called ‘the humanitarian area’ where humanitarian aid is distributed. It’s not a humanitarian aid distribution area; it’s the area where people are killed. It’s a trap for people, to be killed, to die there.”

Dr Mohammed Salha
Acting Director at Al-Awda Hospital.³³



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Israel's Funding of Daesh-Affiliated Groups in Gaza



© X

Israel's Funding of Daesh-Affiliated Groups in Gaza

Israel has also funded Daesh-affiliated crime groups in Gaza, who have been working alongside GHF mercenaries, in an attempt to weaken Hamas' control over the besieged Strip.³⁴ The group evolved from a loosely organised criminal gang into an extremist militia inspired by the so-called Islamic State group.³⁵

The group operates under the names 'The Popular Forces' and 'The Anti-Terrorism Unit' and has been accused by Palestinians of looting aid trucks, collaborating with the Israeli army, and spreading lawlessness under the guise of fighting Hamas.³⁶

Israel has provided these groups with weapons and allowed them to loot aid and food warehouses in Gaza operated by the GHF. The Israeli army was offering them "weapons, money and shelter" in exchange for destabilising Hamas-controlled areas.³⁷

The leader of the largest militia group is known as Yasser Abu Shabab.³⁸ Abu Shabab heads an armed group that controls some territory in eastern Rafah and has posted photos of himself holding an AK-47 rifle with UN vehicles behind him.³⁹

Before becoming part of this militia, Abu Shabab and his men were involved in drug and arms trafficking, often crossing the border between Gaza and Egypt's Sinai region, where IS-affiliated groups have operated for years.⁴⁰

In a statement, the Abu Shabab tribe disowned Yasser, declaring their "total rejection of so-called Yasser Abu Shabab, considering him out of the approach of the national and ethical family, and that neither he nor some of the young family who work with him have any connection with our authentic family, which has served and is still doing so in the way of [the cause of] Palestine. [...] We will not accept the return of Yasser to the family unless he declares his complete and outright repentance to the Palestinian people, and surrenders himself to the elders of the family so that he will be held accountable to the family's acquaintances and take what is necessary steps that return to the family its dignity instead of the scandal that it has suffered from behind his head and his deeds. [...] what happened does not represent the Abu Shabab family, who were and still at the heart of the national stance and resistance."¹¹¹

On 2 May 2025, a police officer in Gaza was killed by IOF forces after pursuing armed looters collaborating with the IOF.⁴¹

One offshoot of this militia has established a "military-like compound" in an area of the Strip controlled by the IOF.⁴²

“Whilst the world’s gaze shifts toward the escalating conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran, Gaza is being forgotten. People in desperate need of food are walking long distances and forced to enter heavily militarised zones where they are met with violence. This is not a humanitarian operation. This is a death trap. The people of Gaza need aid, not crossfire.”

Riham Jafari

Advocacy and Communications
Coordinator at ActionAid Palestine.⁴³



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GHF's Massacres of Palestinians



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04

GHF's Massacres of Palestinians

By 27 June 2025, over 600 Palestinians had been massacred, and more than 4,000 injured, at GHF aid distribution sites by IOF personnel and US mercenaries.⁴⁴

Since the GHF began its operations on 26 May 2025, Israel has committed targeted attacks on starving Palestinians seeking aid on an almost daily basis.⁴⁵

These massacres are not only intentional, but seem to be a sadistic re-enactment of the “red light, green light” killing game from the TV series *Squid Games*, with the operation being named after the Israeli version of this game.¹¹²

IOF soldiers are operating with such a level of impunity that they have openly admitted to firing upon unarmed, starving Palestinians, with soldiers giving testimonies stating:

*“There’s no danger to the forces [...] I’m not aware of a single instance of return fire. There’s no enemy, no weapons.”*¹¹³

*“I can say with certainty that the people [killed] were not close to the forces and did not endanger them. It was pointless – they were just killed, for nothing. This thing called killing innocent people – it’s been normalised.”*¹¹⁴

GHF's Massacres of Palestinians continued...

*“Firing shells has just become standard practice. Every time we fire, there are casualties and deaths, and when someone asks why a shell is necessary, there’s never a good answer [...] Gaza doesn’t interest anyone anymore ... It’s become a place with its own set of rules. The loss of human life means nothing. It’s not even an ‘unfortunate incident,’ like they used to say.”*¹¹⁵

*“No one stops to ask why dozens of civilians looking for food are being killed every day [...] Why have we reached a point where a teenager is willing to sacrifice his life just to pull a sack of rice off a truck? And that’s who we’re firing artillery at?”*¹¹⁶

GHF's Massacres of Palestinians continued...

Timeline of massacres at GHF aid distribution sites

27 May

IOF soldiers opened fire on thousands of Palestinians urgently seeking aid at the GHF distribution centre in Rafah's Tal al-Sultan neighbourhood, an area under complete Israeli military control, injuring at least 48 Palestinians⁵⁶ and killing three.⁴⁶

28 May

IOF forces and US mercenaries killed a further six Palestinians seeking aid.⁴⁷ Two Palestinians were killed by IOF soldiers at an aid warehouse in central Gaza, and another two were killed by a crowd crush due to poorly managed aid distribution sites.

29 May

In just 48 hours, IOF soldiers killed nine Palestinians and injured over 60 at GHF aid distribution centres in Rafah.⁴⁸

GHF mercenaries also launched a projectile and fired shots at Palestinians seeking aid that detonated with a loud bang, accompanied by a flash and smoke.⁴⁹

30 May

US mercenaries opened fire on Palestinians at a GHF aid distribution site, injuring at least 20 Palestinians.⁵⁰

31 May

IOF forces killed four Palestinians near the GHF aid distribution centre, west of Rafah City.⁵¹

1 June

IOF forces killed over 32 Palestinians as they attempted to access food at a GHF aid distribution site in Rafah City and injured over 250.⁵² In another GHF aid distribution centre, IOF forces injured another 14 Palestinians.⁵³

The International Committee of the Red Cross stated that this was “the highest number of weapon-related injuries from a single incident” that its field hospital in Rafah has received since it was established over a year ago.⁵⁴

Medical staff reported that every patient admitted had a single bullet wound to the head or chest, strongly indicating deliberate, targeted killings, likely by professional snipers.⁵⁵

2 June

IOF forces opened fire on Palestinians travelling to a food distribution centre in the southern region, killing at least three individuals and wounding dozens.⁵⁷ The IOF attempted to justify its war crime of targeting of Palestinians seeking aid by stating it had fired warning shots at “suspects” who came close to its troops.⁵⁸

3 June

IOF forces massacred at least 27 Palestinians,⁵⁹ and injured over 200 others, approaching an aid distribution site in Rafah.⁶⁰

GHF's Massacres of Palestinians continued...

4 June

The GHF closed its aid distribution sites, with the IOF declaring that routes leading to the sites were “combat zones”, legitimising the killing of starving Palestinians travelling to the sites.⁶¹

6 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries killed at least eight Palestinians and injured more than 61 others at an aid distribution centre in Rafah.⁶²

8 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries massacred at least 13 Palestinians and injured at least 173 more at an aid distribution centre in Rafah.⁶³

9 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries killed over 14 Palestinians and injured more than 99 at aid distribution sites in Rafah and Tal al-Sultan.⁶⁴

10 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries massacred at least 36 Palestinians and injured over 207 near an aid distribution site.⁶⁵

11 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries massacred more than 60 Palestinians,⁶⁶ and injured 200 others when they opened fire on starving Palestinians waiting to access a food distribution centre.⁶⁷

12 June

IOF forces killed at least 26 Palestinians,⁶⁸ and injured 294, whilst they were attempting to reach a GHF food distribution centre.⁶⁹

13 - 14 June

IOF forces killed at least 29 Palestinians seeking aid and injured more than 380 near aid distribution centres.⁷⁰

15 June

IOF forces killed at least five Palestinians and injured dozens more at two Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid sites in the Netzarim Corridor and Rafah.⁷¹

16 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries killed at least 34 Palestinians on Monday in a series of shootings near food distribution centres in Rafah and central Gaza.⁷²

17 June

IOF forces and US mercenaries massacred over 70 Palestinians and injured over 221 others at an aid distribution centre in Khan Younis.⁷³

18 June

IOF forces killed over 11 Palestinians seeking aid and injured 72 more.⁷⁴

19 June

IOF forces killed at least 12 Palestinians waiting at a GHF aid distribution site in central Gaza and injured 60 others.⁷⁵

GHF's Massacres of Palestinians continued...

20 June

IOF forces killed at least 23 Palestinians at aid distribution sites, and injured more than 100.⁷⁶

22 June

IOF forces shot dead six Palestinians and injured dozens of others whilst they waited for aid in Rafah.⁷⁷

24 June

IOF forces killed at least 40 Palestinians waiting for aid when it opened fire on a crowd.⁷⁸

26 June

IOF forces killed at least three Palestinians and injured several others whilst they waited for aid at a distribution site near the Netzarim Crossing.⁷⁹

27 June

IOF forces killed at least six Palestinians seeking aid in southern Gaza.⁸⁰

29 June

IOF forces killed at least five Palestinians at a GHF distribution site north of Rafah.⁸¹

“I have no flour, no oil, no sugar, no food. I collect mouldy bread and feed it to my children. I want to get a bag of flour for my children. I want to eat. I’m hungry.”

A Palestinian in Gaza
interviewed by Al Jazeera.⁸²



05

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The Exclusion of Humanitarian Organisations from Providing Aid



© Reuters, Mohamed Abd El Ghany

05

The Exclusion of Humanitarian Organisations from Providing Aid

Although the UN, the World Food Programme, and other aid organisations have the expertise, resources, and manpower to distribute aid in Gaza, they have been restricted by the IOF, upon whom they are reliant to facilitate their missions.⁸³

Even before the establishment of GHF, Israeli restrictions limited the World Food Programme (WFP) to delivering fewer than 1,600 calories per person daily, far below its 2,100-calorie target, from July 2024 until January 2025.⁸⁴

Since 27 May, the GHF has largely been the only group permitted by the IOF to distribute aid in large areas of Gaza.⁸⁵

Since 26 June, the IOF blocked UN teams from accessing the Zikim Crossing in northern Gaza to collect aid assistance, closing the most direct route for humanitarian aid to reach Palestinians in Gaza.⁸⁶

As of 30 June, the GHF remains the only source of food for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip due to severe restrictions on the entry of supplies by all other aid organisations.⁸⁷

In particular, UNRWA has not been allowed to bring any humanitarian aid including medicines and medical supplies for nearly four months, since 2 March 2025.⁸⁸

“No flour, no food, no bread, we have nothing at home. Every time I go to get aid, I hold a box and hundreds of people crowd over me. Earlier, UNRWA used to send me a message, [and] I would go and get aid. Now there’s nothing. If you are strong, you get aid. If you are not, you leave empty-handed.”

Abdel Qader Radie

a displaced Palestinian in the Gaza Strip.⁸⁹



© AP Photo, Abed Khaled, File

06

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Palestinians in Gaza Choose Between Execution Sites and Starvation



© Yousef Zaanoun, ActiveStills

Palestinians in Gaza Choose Between Execution Sites and Starvation

Palestinians have been left with no choice – to either starve to death or be killed by foreign soldiers whilst seeking the very little food that is offered in the distribution centres run by the GHF.⁹⁰

Palestinian children are most at risk of being killed by forced starvation, with Israel’s genocidal forced starvation of the Gaza Strip having killed at least 66 Palestinian children.⁹¹

In May 2025 alone, over 5,119 Palestinian children under the age of five were admitted to hospital for treatment for acute malnutrition.⁹² This represents a 50 percent increase compared to April 2025, and a 150 percent increase from February 2025.⁹³

At least 112 Palestinian infants in Gaza are being diagnosed with starvation-related diseases every day in the Gaza Strip.⁹⁴

This genocidal policy of trapping Palestinians between forced starvation and IOF massacres is celebrated by Israeli officials.⁹⁵ Ukrainian-Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has said that starving Gaza’s residents “to death” would be “just and moral”, whilst Kurdish-Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has said “the only aid entering Gaza should be to aid voluntary emigration”, insisting that “the enemy” should get “no food, no electricity and no other aid”.⁹⁶

“This is aid being used ... to push people out from the north into militarised zones ... and it’s about humiliating people, and it’s about controlling the population. This has nothing to do with stopping starvation.”

Michael Fakhri

UN special rapporteur on the right to food.⁹⁷



07

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Israel's Smuggling of Drugs into Gaza Through Aid Supplies



07

Israel's Smuggling of Drugs into Gaza Through Aid Supplies

On 26 June 2025, a doctor from Gaza reported a noticeable spread of the illegal drug Oxycodone which had been smuggled by Israel into Gaza in flour sacks being distributed as humanitarian aid, which has been a cause of aid being stolen due to the drugs hidden in them.⁹⁸

The drug has not only been hidden inside flour bags but directly mixed with the flour, leading those eating the flour to potentially not realise.⁹⁹

Oxycodone is an opioid used to treat severe pain, especially after surgeries or in cancer patients.¹⁰⁰ The drug acts on certain receptors in the brain and causes the release of large amounts of dopamine, which produces feelings of euphoria and comfort.¹⁰¹

This feeling of euphoria and comfort makes the drug highly addictive.¹⁰² Over time, the previous dose becomes ineffective, leading users to increase their dosage to achieve the same effect.¹⁰³

On 27 June, the Gaza Media Office released a statement saying: “We have so far documented four testimonies from citizens who found these pills inside flour bags. More serious is the possibility that some of these narcotic substances were deliberately ground or dissolved in the flour itself, which raises the scope of the crime and transforms it into a serious attack directly targeting public health.”¹⁰⁵

The deliberate mixing of flour with drugs is a form of bio-chemical terrorism intended to severely harm Palestinians, and sow fear amongst the population about receiving aid supplies vital to their survival.¹¹²

This is not the first time the IOF have been engaged in bio-chemical terrorism, with the IOF previously distributing poisoned food to starving Palestinians and booby-trapping food in order to kill starving civilians.¹¹⁷ On 28 June 2025, the GHF aid packs had also distributed lentils mixed with sand and dirt to starving Palestinians.¹¹⁸

Complications of Oxycodone include:

- Severe respiratory depression, where the respiratory system stops functioning, which can lead directly to death.
- Confusion and hallucinations, along with decreased awareness and cognitive function.
- Severe drop in blood pressure, leading to reduced blood supply to many vital organs, potentially causing failure in organs like the liver and kidneys.¹⁰⁴

“A lot of people here are trying to stay away from the GHF’s centres because of the danger involved in going to them, because of the ongoing and deliberate shootings of aid seekers there. But again, staying away is not an answer, because if there are no food parcels, it means that children are going to go to bed hungry.”

Hani Mahmoud

Al Jazeera correspondent in Gaza City.¹⁰⁶



08

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Western Media Bias

© Sky News

sky news

**ISRAEL DEFENDS
CONTROVERSIAL
UNRWA BAN**

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR



08

Western Media Bias

Western media has continued to undermine the legitimacy of aid organisations to justify the US-Israeli GHF despite its massacres of starving Palestinians seeking aid.

Repeating Israeli lies criminalising UNWRA

Western media created the conditions for the IOF to undermine UNWRA's position in distributing aid in the Gaza Strip by repeating Israeli lies suggesting that UNWRA employees participated in the 7 October resistance operation, treating these claims as credible despite Israel's complete absence of evidence. These lies laid the foundation for the US and Israel to take over aid operations in the Gaza Strip.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Intelligence Reveals Details of U.N. Agency Staff's Links to Oct. 7 Attack

The Telegraph

The UN aid agency that can't shake its terror links

BBC NEWS

UNRWA claims: UK halts aid to UN agency over allegation staff helped Hamas attack

The Telegraph

UNRWA cannot operate without Hamas – no wonder it has a neutrality problem

Western Media Bias continued...

Undermining the massacres of Palestinians at GHF aid distribution sites and failing to blame the GHF

Western media not only cast doubt on clear evidence of IOF and US mercenaries' massacres at GHF aid distribution sites, but also refused to blame the US-Israeli GHF for these deaths in their reporting, instead leaving the perpetrator ambiguous.

sky news

UN data on Gaza deaths 'disinformation', claims head of controversial aid group

FT FINANCIAL
TIMES

“Desperate Gazans overwhelm aid hub run by US-backed group”

BBC NEWS

A month into Gaza's new aid system - killings, gunfire and chaos are routine

“There was gunfire from all directions [at the GHF aid distribution site]. We’d rather die than deal with this. Death is more dignified than what’s happening to us.”

Rasha al-Nahal

a Palestinian witness of the US-Israeli massacres at a GHF aid distribution site on 4 June 2025.¹⁰⁷



Endnotes

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