

GAZA: Starvation or Gunfire - This is Not a Humanitarian Response

200+ NGOs call for immediate action to end the deadly Israeli distribution scheme (including the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation) in Gaza, revert to the existing UN-led coordination mechanisms, and lift the Israeli government's blockade on aid and commercial supplies. The 400 aid distribution points operating during the temporary ceasefire across Gaza have now been replaced by just four military-controlled distribution sites, forcing two million people into overcrowded, militarized zones where they face daily gunfire and mass casualties while trying to access food and are denied other life-saving supplies.

Today, Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot while trying desperately to reach food to feed their families. The weeks following the launch of the Israeli distribution scheme have been some of the deadliest and most violent since October 2023.

In less than four weeks, more than 500 Palestinians have been [killed](#) and almost 4,000 injured just trying to access or distribute food. Israeli forces and armed groups - some reportedly operating with [backing](#) from Israeli authorities - now routinely [open fire on desperate civilians](#) risking everything just to survive.

The humanitarian system is being deliberately and systematically dismantled by the Government of Israel's blockade and restrictions, a blockade now being used to justify shutting down nearly all other aid operations in favour of a deadly, military-controlled alternative that neither protects civilians nor meets basic needs. These measures are designed to sustain a cycle of desperation, danger, and death. Experienced humanitarian actors remain ready to deliver life-saving assistance at scale. Yet more than 100 days since Israeli authorities reimposed a near-total blockade on aid and commercial goods, Gaza's humanitarian conditions are collapsing faster than at any point in the past 20 months.

Under the Israeli government's new scheme, starved and weakened civilians are being forced to trek for hours through dangerous terrain and active conflict zones, only to face a violent, chaotic race to reach fenced, militarized distribution sites with a single entry point. There, thousands are released into chaotic enclosures to fight for limited food supplies. These areas have become sites of repeated [massacres](#) in blatant disregard for international humanitarian law. Orphaned children and caregivers are among the dead, with children harmed in over [half](#) of the attacks on civilians at these sites. With

Gaza's healthcare system in ruins, many of those shot are left to bleed out alone, beyond the [reach of ambulances](#) and denied lifesaving medical care.

Amidst severe hunger and famine-like conditions, many families tell us they are now too weak to compete for food rations. Those who do manage to obtain food often return with only a few basic items - nearly impossible to prepare without clean water or fuel to cook with. Fuel is nearly depleted, bringing critical lifesaving services – including bakeries, water systems, ambulances, and hospitals – to a standstill. Families are sheltering under plastic sheets, operating makeshift kitchens amid the rubble, without fuel, clean water, sanitation, or electricity.

This is not a humanitarian response.

Concentrating more than two million people into further confined areas for a chance to feed their families is not a plan to save lives. For 20 months, more than two million people have been subjected to relentless bombardment, the weaponization of food, water and other aid, repeated forced displacement, and systematic dehumanization - all under the watch of the international community. The Sphere Association, which sets minimum standards for quality humanitarian aid, has [warned](#) that the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation's approach does not adhere to core humanitarian standards and principles.

This normalization of suffering must not be allowed to stand. States must reject the false choice between deadly, military-controlled food distributions and total denial of aid. States must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, including prohibitions on forced displacement, indiscriminate attacks, and obstruction of humanitarian aid. States must ensure accountability for grave violations of international law.

We, the undersigned organizations, once again call on all third states to:

- Take concrete measures to end the suffocating siege and uphold the right of civilians in Gaza to safely access aid and receive protection.
- Urge donors not to fund militarized aid schemes that violate international law, do not adhere to humanitarian principles, deepen harm, and risk complicity in atrocities.
- Support the restoration of a unified, UN-led coordination mechanism—grounded in international humanitarian law and inclusive of UNRWA, Palestinian civil society, and the wider humanitarian community—to meet people's needs.

We reiterate our urgent calls for an immediate and sustained ceasefire, the release of all hostages and arbitrarily detained prisoners, full humanitarian access at scale, and an end to the pervasive impunity that enables these atrocities and denies Palestinians their basic dignity.

Editor's Note

- [On 15 June](#), the Red Cross field hospital in Al Mawasi received at least 170 patients injured while trying to reach a food distribution site. The following day, 16 June, more than 200 patients arrived at the same facility - the highest number recorded in a single mass casualty incident in Gaza. Of that number, 28 Palestinians were declared dead. A WHO official underscored the deadly pattern: "The recent food distribution initiatives by non-UN actors every time result in mass casualty incidents."
- These deaths add to the broader toll: since October 2023, over 56,000 Palestinians have [been killed](#) in Gaza, including at least 17,000 children.

Undersigned:

1. ABCD Bethlehem
2. Abriendo Fronteras Guadalajara
3. ACT Alliance
4. Act Church of Sweden
5. Action Against Hunger (ACF)
6. Action Corps
7. Action for Humanity
8. ActionAid
9. Age International
10. Agricultural Development Association - PARC
11. Al Ard for Agricultural Development
12. Al-Najd Developmental Forum
13. American Friends Service Committee
14. Amnesty International
15. Amos Trust
16. Anera
17. Anti-Slavery International
18. Arab Educational Institute - Pax Christi Bethlehem
19. Arbeitskreis Palästina Brühl-Battir

20. Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz
21. Asociación de Solidaridad Internacional UNADIKUM
22. Association for Civil Rights Israel (ACRI)
23. Association Switzerland Palestine
24. B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
25. BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
26. Beesan Charitable Association
27. Bimkom - Planning and Human Rights
28. Bisan Center for Research and Development
29. Botswana Watch Organisation
30. Breaking the Silence
31. Broederlijk Delen
32. CADUS e.V.
33. Campaign Against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs Information and the News (CAMPAIN)
34. CARE
35. Caritas Germany
36. Caritas International Belgium
37. Caritas Internationalis
38. Caritas Italiana
39. Caritas Jerusalem
40. Caritas Middle East and North Africa
41. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
42. Center of Jewish Nonviolence
43. CESIDA - Spanish Coordinator of HIV and AIDS.
44. Children Not Numbers
45. Choose Love
46. Christian Aid
47. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
48. CIDSE - International Family of Catholic Social Justice Organisations
49. CISS- Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud
50. CNCD-11.11.11
51. codepink
52. Coletivo Shireen Abu Akleh - Jornalistas Contra o Genocídio Shireen (Abu Akleh Collective - Journalists Against Genocide)
53. Combatants for Peace

54. Comité de Solidaridad con la Causa Árabe
55. Congregations of St Joseph
56. Cooperative Agricultural Association - Palestine
57. Coordination SUD
58. Cordaid
59. Council for Arab-British Understanding (Caabu)
60. Courage of Care Coalition
61. Coventry Friends of Palestine
62. Cultures of Resistance
63. DanChurchAid
64. Danish Refugee Council
65. DAWN
66. Diakonia
67. Doctors Against Genocide
68. Ekō
69. Embrace the Middle East
70. EMERGENCY - Life Support for Civilian War Victims
71. Emmaüs International
72. Entraide et Fraternité
73. Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Justice Network
74. EuroMed Rights
75. EyeWitnessGaza
76. FÓRUM DE POLÍTICA FEMINISTA
77. Franciscans international
78. Freedom Forward
79. Friends Committee on National Legislation
80. Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
81. Fund for Global Human Rights
82. Fundación Mundubat
83. Gaza Culture and Development Group (GCDG)
84. Gaza Society for Sustainable Agriculture and Friendly Environment (SAFE)
85. German Platform of Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO)
86. Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement
87. Glia
88. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
89. Global Justice Now
90. Greenpeace

91. HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual
92. Hands for Charity
93. Health Justice Initiative - South Africa
94. HEKS/EPER(Swiss Church Aid)
95. HelpAge International
96. Human Security Collective
97. Humanité Solidarité Médecine (HuSoMe ONG)
98. Humanitet
99. Humanity & Inclusion - Handicap International
100. Humanity Above All
101. Humanity Auxilium
102. Humanity First UK
103. INARA
104. Independent Catholic News
105. Indiana Center for Middle East Peace
106. Initiatives et Changement
107. Insecurity Insight
108. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
109. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
110. International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO)
111. INTERSOS
112. Ir Amim
113. Islamic Relief Worldwide
114. Israei Committee Against House Demolitions Germany
115. J'ai Rêvé foundation
116. Jahalin Solidarity
117. Jewish Network for Palestine
118. Jüdische Stimme für Demokratie und Gerechtigkeit in Israel/Palästina, JVJP
119. Just Foreign Policy
120. Just Treatment
121. Kairos Ireland
122. Kenya Human Rights Commission
123. Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
124. Machsomwatch
125. Mai Indifferenti
126. Martin Etxea Elkartea
127. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

128. Médecins du Monde International Network
129. Médecins Sans Frontières
130. MedGlobal
131. Medical Aid for Palestinians
132. Medico International
133. medico international schweiz
134. MENA Rights Group
135. Mennonite Central Committee
136. Middle East Children's Alliance
137. Migrant Roots Media
138. Mothers Manifesto
139. MPower Change Action Fund
140. Muslim Aid
141. Mwatana for Human Rights
142. National Justice and Peace Network E&W
143. Netzwerk Ökumenisches Begleitprogramm in Palästina und Israel in Deutschland e.V. (EAPPI Netzwerk))
144. Nonviolent Peaceforce
145. Norwegian Church Aid
146. Norwegian People's Aid
147. Norwegian Refugee Council
148. Oxfam International
149. Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)
150. Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
151. Palestinian American Medical Association (PAMA)
152. Palestinian Housing Council
153. Parents Against Child Detentions
154. Partners for Palestine
155. Partners for Progressive Israel
156. PAX
157. Pax Christi Australia
158. Pax Christi England and Wales
159. Pax Christi Flanders
160. Pax Christi International
161. Pax Christi Italy
162. pax christi Munich
163. Pax Christi Scotland

164. Pax Christi USA
165. Peace Direct
166. Peace Watch Switzerland
167. Penny Appeal Canada
168. Physicians for Human Rights Israel
169. Plan International
170. Plataforma de Solidaridad con Palestina de Sevilla
171. Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
172. Polish-Palestinian Justice Initiative KAKTUS
173. Première Urgence Internationale
174. Presbyterian Church (USA)
175. Quixote Center
176. Rahma Worldwide for aid and development
177. Refugees International
178. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary - NGO
179. ReThinking Foreign Policy
180. Right to Movement
181. Rumbo a Gaza-Freedom Flotilla
182. Saferworld
183. Saskatoon Chapter of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East
184. Save the Children
185. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
186. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
187. Solsoc
188. Stichting Heimat International Foundation
189. STOPAIDS
190. Støtteforeningen Det Danske Hus i Palæstina
191. Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
192. Terre des Hommes Germany
193. Terre des Hommes International Federation
194. Terre des Hommes Lausanne
195. Terres des Hommes Italia
196. The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)
197. The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD UK)
198. The Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church USA Bay Area
199. The Rights Forum
200. Union of Agricultural Work Committees-UAWC

- 201. United Against Inhumanity (UAI)
- 202. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
- 203. United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)
- 204. Universities Allied for Essential Medicines UK
- 205. US-Lutheran Palestine Israel Justice Network
- 206. Vento di Terra
- 207. War Child Alliance
- 208. War on Want
- 209. Welthungerhilfe
- 210. Yesh Din