

# 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 The 400 aid distribution points operating during the temporary ceasefire across Gaza have now been replaced by just four military-controlled distribution sites, forcing two million people into overcrowded, militarized zones where they face daily gunfire and mass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. Amicares
15. Amnesty International
16. Amos Trust
17. Anera
18. Anti-Slavery International
19. Arab Educational Institute - Pax Christi Bethlehem

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

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

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

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

163. Pax Christi England and Wales
164. Pax Christi Flanders
165. Pax Christi International
166. Pax Christi Italy
167. pax christi Munich
168. Pax Christi Scotland
169. Pax Christi USA
170. Peace Direct
171. Peace Watch Switzerland
172. Penny Appeal Canada
173. Physicians for Human Rights Israel
174. Plan International
175. Plataforma de Solidaridad con Palestina de Sevilla
176. Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
177. Polish-Palestinian Justice Initiative KAKTUS
178. Première Urgence Internationale
179. Presbyterian Church (USA)
180. Quixote Center
181. Refugees International
182. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary - NGO
183. ReThinking Foreign Policy
184. Right to Movement
185. Rumbo a Gaza-Freedom Flotilla
186. Saferworld
187. Saskatoon Chapter of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East
188. Save the Children
189. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
190. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
191. Solsoc
192. Stichting Heimat International Foundation
193. STOPAIDS
194. Støtteforeningen Det Danske Hus i Palæstina
195. Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)
196. Terre des Hommes Germany
197. Terre des Hommes International Federation
198. Terre des Hommes Lausanne
199. Terres des Hommes Italia



- 200. The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)
- 201. The Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church USA Bay Area
- 202. The Rights Forum
- 203. Union of Agricultural Work Committees-UAWC
- 204. United Against Inhumanity (UAI)
- 205. United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
- 206. United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)
- 207. Universities Allied for Essential Medicines UK
- 208. US-Lutheran Palestine Israel Justice Network
- 209. Vento di Terra
- 210. War Child Alliance
- 211. War on Want
- 212. Welthungerhilfe
- 213. Yesh Din