

#GazaUnderSiege: Messaging on Starvation and Militarized Aid

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*****This is a working document that will be updated regularly with messaging and guidance.*****

Since March 2025, Israel has blocked all food and lifesaving supplies from entering Gaza, intentionally causing hunger and death. Israel is attempting to end the life-saving work of humanitarian organizations in Gaza by seizing control of aid delivery and severely limiting who has access to food, medicine, and other lifesaving supplies. This is a man-made crisis, amounting to myriad war crimes under international law.

Updated Messaging Guidance: Netanyahu's Gaza Reoccupation Plans (8/7/25)

- 1. While Israel stokes one of the biggest mass starvation crises in modern history, Israel is now preparing to permanently displace at least one million Palestinians—a massive escalation in a war that has already killed tens of thousands.**

As the international community demands an end to the carnage and starvation in Gaza, Netanyahu is moving forward with a deadly plan to reoccupy the Gaza Strip. Escalating the war when tens of thousands of Palestinians are starving to death is just the latest ploy in Israel's campaign to completely wipe Palestinians from Gaza. It's no surprise that even Israeli rights groups are calling this what it is: genocide.

- 2. Palestinians need food, fuel, medicine, and water—not more bombs and gunfire.**

In spite of Israel's claims to the contrary, Palestinians have yet to receive sufficient humanitarian aid. Deadly airdrops and a handful of trucks are next to nothing when faced with a crisis of this magnitude. Palestinians need real humanitarian access, led by experienced, trusted, neutral actors—not political stunts, not military-run food handouts, and not more hunger disguised as help.

- 3. A permanent ceasefire—led by those most impacted—is the only way forward. The US and other actors must stop funding the ongoing violence in Gaza and instead support a permanent ceasefire.**

Only a permanent ceasefire and meaningful political solution can end the cycle of death and displacement. The international community must move beyond managing the crisis and take action to resolve its root causes: occupation, siege, and denial of Palestinian rights.

As we demand an end to this nearly two year nightmare, the international community must also consider how we can rebuild Gaza and ensure lasting stability and prosperity for the millions of Palestinians forever changed by a conflict they did not ask for.

Updated Messaging Guidance: Starvation Crisis, Aid Delivery, & Permanent Ceasefire (7/28/25)

1. Gaza is experiencing one of the biggest mass starvation crises in modern history. Palestinians don't need false promises, they need concrete, urgent action.

After months of siege, displacement, and bombardment, thousands of Palestinians face the impossible choice between death by starvation or death by airstrike. This is not a failure of aid delivery—it is a deliberate policy of deprivation.

Thousands of Palestinians are on the brink of death, and Netanyahu still refuses to acknowledge the starvation crisis created by his government.

It's no surprise that even Israeli rights groups are calling this what it is: [genocide](#). The scale of destruction and suffering will be felt for generations. **The "time to act" was long ago — now Israel must be forced to end the siege, implement an immediate, permanent ceasefire, and allow vital aid into Gaza.**

2. Airdrops are not a solution—they're a deadly distraction. Palestinians need unimpeded, UN-led humanitarian access and a permanent ceasefire and peace deal.

Airdrops are a dangerous, insufficient method of getting aid to people who are on the verge of death. Military planes cannot replace humanitarian supply trucks, which include the medicine, water, fuel, and the fortified nutrition starving children need to survive. Gaza needs more than haphazard gimmicks: it needs trucks, not planes. Full, safe, unimpeded access across land routes is possible, but only if Israel allows it.

3. We urgently need skilled, neutral aid delivery to happen at scale. The only entity able to coordinate this is the UN, in partnership with humanitarian aid partners.

Five months into this deadly blockade, the Trump administration now says that it will open "food centers"—but it has provided no plan, no timeline, and no guarantees for safety or neutrality. We have seen what happens when aid is controlled by Israel. The "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation," backed by Israel and the US, has undermined true humanitarian aid efforts and killed hundreds of Palestinians. **Palestinians need real humanitarian access, led by experienced, trusted, neutral actors—not political stunts, not military-run food handouts, and not more hunger disguised as help.**

Guidance for Spokespeople on Rebutting Israeli Talking Points (7/28/25)

Q: Israel says the UN is failing to distribute aid that's already inside Gaza. Can you comment on this?

A:

- That's an outrageous deflection.
- Let's be clear: **Israel deliberately created this starvation campaign and is now blaming those trying to feed the survivors of their genocide.**

- Israel controls the border crossings, bombs the roads and infrastructure needed to distribute aid, and limits fuel and medical supplies. **Aid isn't stuck because of the UN—it's stuck because of Israel's policies.**
- Our staff are working under siege, facing hunger, attacks, and access restrictions. We have the knowhow and staff power to distribute aid, but Israel has made it impossible for us to do our jobs.
- Israel cannot claim to support aid delivery while bombing warehouses, blocking convoys, and smearing humanitarian workers.

Q: Will Israel's airdrops help relieve starvation in Gaza?

A:

- No. **Airdrops are not a solution—they're a deadly distraction.**
- People have been killed trying to reach them, and they don't reach the most vulnerable: malnourished children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.
- Real aid needs to go in by land, in volume, and be delivered by experienced, neutral humanitarian organizations—not scattered from the sky.
- Airdrops are chaotic and often deadly. It has landed in active fire zones, pallets can crush people, and buildings have collapsed on people scrambling to retrieve food.
 - In March 2024 alone, at least 23 Palestinians died trying to reach aid dropped from planes—crushed by pallets, drowned in the sea, or trampled in stampedes.
- Starving children need urgent medical care and supplies—not energy bars dropped from the sky.
- This isn't humanitarianism—it's a distraction from the real solution: **end the siege, reach an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and let trusted humanitarian workers do our jobs.**

Q: Trump says he'll open U.S.-funded food centers in Gaza. Will that help?

Full comment: "We're going to set up food centers, and we're going to do it in conjunction with some very good people, and we're going to supply funds, and we just took in trillions of dollars, we got a lot of money, and we're going to spend a little money on some food, and other nations are joining us," Trump said Monday. "So, we're going to set up food centers, and where the people can walk in and no boundaries, we're not going to have fences."

A:

- Announcements are not action. Five months into this blockade, the Trump administration now says it will open "food centers"—but has provided no plan, no timeline, and no guarantees for safety or neutrality.
- Food centers are no substitute for a functioning humanitarian system, which requires much more than just food—and certainly not if they're set up with Israel, the party responsible for this devastation.

- **We need food, yes—but access, protection, and a ceasefire are critical to getting people fed.**
- Any serious response must start by ending the siege, opening border crossings, and restoring full, safe access for professional, neutral aid groups—not foreign militaries or private contractors.

Q: Israel says it's implementing daily pauses in fighting to help get aid in. Have you seen improvements?

A:

- **These so-called “pauses” aren’t stopping the killing—and they aren’t ending the starvation.** Aid convoys are still under fire, staff are still being killed, and children are still dying from hunger.
- Our staff continue to face airstrikes, restrictions, and dangerous conditions.
- A few extra trucks a day doesn’t come close to what’s needed to address the scale of the humanitarian disaster.
- We need an **immediate and permanent ceasefire**, full access across Gaza, and a real, scaled-up humanitarian response—not PR gestures while the siege continues.

Q: What do you say to claims that children aren’t starving in Gaza? Or that children are simply “sick” or have “underlying conditions,” rather than are facing acute malnutrition?

A:

- **This isn’t a debate—this is what humanitarians on the ground are witnessing every day.** There is no food. There is no clean water. The starvation crisis in Gaza is real and worsening. Children are dying because their bodies have been systematically deprived of nutrients.
- Illness and malnutrition go hand in hand: when a child is denied calories, their immune system collapses. Diarrhea becomes deadly. Fevers become fatal. These are **preventable deaths**, caused not by underlying conditions, but by an intentional policy of mass deprivation.
- **Let’s be clear: denying the starvation crisis is not a good-faith argument—it’s a propaganda tactic.** Supporters of this genocide will try to spin child deaths as coincidental or unrelated to hunger. But the truth is: children are dying because **Israel is blocking the food and medicine that would keep them alive.** That’s not a side effect of war—it’s a war crime.

Messaging on Militarized Aid and Israel’s Starvation Campaign (7/16/25)

1. Aid under military control is not humanitarian aid—it’s a weapon of war.

Israel is forcing thousands of Palestinians in Gaza to choose between death by starvation or gunfire. They are weaponizing food, medicine, and basic supplies as tools of domination,

coercing civilians into militarized zones and camps under threat of starvation and gunfire. **Funding the so-called “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” undermines true humanitarian aid efforts—and risks facilitating war crimes by legitimizing forced displacement and collective punishment under the guise of relief.**

2. Israel is waging an intentional starvation campaign in Gaza. That’s a war crime, plain and simple.

Starvation, displacement, and death in Gaza are the result of deliberate political choices: siege, blockade, and denial of humanitarian access. Israel has shot and killed hundreds of Palestinians trying to access food and water, and forced even more to waste away from starvation. **The only solution is lifting the siege, restoring unimpeded UN-led humanitarian access, and reaching a permanent ceasefire to end the assault on Palestinian life and sovereignty.**

3. Fuel is essential to life in Gaza—and it’s being deliberately blocked by Israel.

Fuel powers every aspect of survival in Gaza. Hospitals, ambulances, water, food production, and communications services all rely on fuel. Since March 2025, Israel has blocked all fuel entry into Gaza, pushing vital services to the brink of total collapse.

4. A permanent ceasefire and peace deal—led by those most impacted—is the only way forward. The US and other actors must stop funding the ongoing violence in Gaza and instead support a permanent ceasefire.

Temporary aid cannot stop bombs or rebuild lives. Only a permanent ceasefire and a rights-based peace process—shaped by Palestinians—can end this crisis and build lasting safety, dignity, and justice for all. **True peace cannot be imposed from above. It must be built from the ground up—with the leadership of women, grassroots movements, and communities who have borne the brunt of war.**

Full Messaging Guide/Talking Points

Aid under military control is not humanitarian aid—it’s a weapon of war.

- Real humanitarian aid is supposed to be administered by a neutral party as a temporary measure in conflict and based only on need. Instead, Palestinians are being told: “If you want to eat, go to an area **we control, near military operations**, and **hope you don’t get shot.**”
- These so-called “aid hubs” are guarded by soldiers. Some even use facial recognition to screen who gets help. That’s not aid—it’s surveillance and control.
- Hundreds of people have already been killed while trying to reach these hubs, and thousands more maimed. Others are told to move to overcrowded, unsafe camps just to receive basic supplies.
- The situation is so dire that even aid workers are now risking their lives in the food lines.
- The world cannot call this “aid”—it’s a core part of a system that is displacing people, breaking families, and denying their rights.

Soundbites:

- “Aid shouldn’t come at the barrel of a gun.”
- “Hunger should never be a weapon.”
- “You don’t control people by starving them—and then call it humanitarian.”

Israel is waging an intentional starvation campaign in Gaza. That’s a war crime, plain and simple.

- For months, Israel has blocked food, medicine, fuel, and water from entering Gaza — while continuing military attacks.
- This isn’t an aid delivery problem — it’s a deliberate strategy to starve and displace people.
- Even when a little aid gets in, most people can’t reach it because of bombings, roadblocks, and forced evacuations.
- Since the beginning of July, there has been a severe rise in malnourished children seeking care. According to a July 22 [MedGlobal statement](#), five children starved to death in just 72 hours because they did not have enough medicine to revive them. These deaths are preventable and directly caused by Israel’s blockade.
- This is not how humanitarian aid works. It’s how Israel creates desperation and aims to break the Palestinian people.

Fuel is essential to life in Gaza—and it’s being deliberately blocked by Israel.

- Israel has blocked fuel delivery into Gaza since March. That means no electricity, no water pumps, no hospital generators, no ambulances.
- Babies in incubators are at risk. Dialysis centers are shutting down. Emergency rooms are going dark. Rescue teams can’t reach the wounded.
- Water and sewage systems are breaking down. The risk of disease is skyrocketing. People can’t even call for help because communications are failing.
- The fuel crisis isn’t an accident—it’s part of a strategy to collapse Gaza’s entire humanitarian system.

Soundbites:

- “No fuel means no hospitals. No water. No rescue. No life.”
- “Fuel is not optional. It’s survival.”
- “This blockade is killing people silently—one outage, one child, one hospital at a time.”

A permanent ceasefire and peace deal—led by those most impacted—is the only way forward. The US and other actors must stop funding the ongoing violence in Gaza and instead support a permanent ceasefire.

- Humanitarian aid is urgent and necessary, but it's not a substitute for justice. Only a permanent ceasefire and meaningful political solution can end the cycle of death and displacement.
- Peace must not be dictated by those who bombed Gaza or funded its destruction—it must be shaped by Palestinians who survived it.
- Women and grassroots leaders are not side participants—they are essential to building a peace that lasts. Research and history show that peace processes that include women are more likely to succeed and endure.
- Long-term peace and recovery depend on centering the rights, voices, and expertise of those most impacted—especially communities in Gaza and those who were forced to flee during the conflict.
- The international community must move beyond managing the crisis and take action to resolve its root causes: occupation, siege, and denial of Palestinian rights.

Soundbites:

- “We don’t just need aid—we need the bombs to stop.”
- “A permanent ceasefire is the only path to real safety for everyone.”
- “Peace must be shaped by the people living through this—not by those dropping bombs.”
- “Peace can’t be dropped from the sky—it must rise from the ground.”
- “Lasting peace comes from those who’ve survived the worst—not those who caused it.”

Messaging to use if a temporary ceasefire is reached

1. A temporary ceasefire offers critical relief—but it’s not enough.

We welcome any pause in the violence. It is desperately needed to allow for aid delivery, medical care, and a moment of breath for people in Gaza who have endured months of relentless bombing, starvation, and displacement. But a temporary ceasefire is not a long-term solution. It is only a short break in an ongoing crisis that will return unless the root causes are addressed.

2. Real safety and security require a permanent ceasefire and a durable, just peace.

Palestinians deserve more than temporary relief—they deserve **freedom, safety, dignity, and justice**. A lasting peace must permanently end the blockade, halt displacement, and dismantle systems of apartheid and military occupation. This means **no return to a status quo defined by siege, surveillance, and separation—or to militarized aid schemes that**

serve political agendas. A permanent ceasefire, with neutrally-administered justice and accountability mechanisms, is the only real path forward.

3. Peace must be shaped by the people most impacted—including women, survivors, and the displaced.

Any future peace process must center the voices of those who have lost the most—especially **Palestinian women, survivors of violence, and displaced communities, including those in exile.** These are the people who know what justice looks like, what safety really means, and what kind of future must be built. Peace will only be durable if it is **inclusive, accountable, and grounded in justice.**

4. There can be no real peace without justice and accountability.

A permanent ceasefire must be paired with **independent investigations and justice for the crimes committed**—including the mass killing of civilians, forced displacement, and the deliberate denial and militarization of aid.

Those responsible for war crimes cannot be allowed to act with impunity. **The only real path forward is one that includes neutrally-administered accountability mechanisms under international law.** Justice is not optional: it is the foundation for any lasting peace.