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# Aid as ambush: The horrifying new face of Israel's Gaza war

## The IDF has shut out the UN, installing its own group to hand out food to the starving Palestinians... except it distributes death instead



By **Eva Bartlett**, a Canadian independent journalist. She has spent years on the ground covering conflict zones in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Palestine (where she lived for nearly four years).

[@evakbartlett](#)



Charitable organizations distribute hot meals to Palestinians in Al-Mawasi area of

For nearly 630 days, the world has watched the Israeli slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza, primarily by bombing, sniping, and starvation. Off-camera, we've read about the rape and torture of Palestinian hostages, including the torturing to death of three doctors from the enclave.

For the last 100 days, Israel has reinforced a full blockade on Gaza, depriving starving Palestinians of food, drinking water, medicines, and fuel –

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Khan Yunis, Gaza on May 12, 2025 © Abed Rahim Khatib/Anadolu via Getty Images

strip, which has lasted [over 17 years](#).

Since late May, we've been seeing horrific [video footage](#) of skeletal Palestinians lined up hoping for food aid being gunned down by US mercenaries and Israeli soldiers.

Israel has endlessly bombed Palestinians, destroyed hospitals and [abducted doctors](#) and patients. It has bombed churches, schools, UN centres and tents housing displaced Palestinians – in supposed “safe zones” where they were ordered by the Israeli army to flee to. It has killed [over 200 journalists](#) and [deliberately targeted medics](#). To those only paying attention recently, these crimes go back decades, and extend to the Israeli army and [illegal colonists' crimes](#) against Palestinian civilians, including children, in the West Bank. Add to this the Israeli bombardment of civilian areas of Lebanon and Syria over the years, and now Israel's recent unprovoked bombings of Iran.

Suffice it to say that when Israel came under the barrage of Iranian retaliatory missiles, reports of some 30 Israeli civilians suffering [panic attacks](#) garnered [little sympathy](#).

Again, those who have been paying attention for longer than two years would also recall previous Israeli wars on Gaza, like in 2014, when [Israelis gathered](#) with drinks and snacks on hillsides to rejoice in the bombing of the enclave, or [the 2009 t-shirts](#) celebrating snipers killing pregnant women with the phrase “one shot, two kills”.

In 2010, when [writing about](#) a traumatized 10 year old I'd met who could no longer walk normally nor speak after the terror of having Israeli tanks shelling his home, I cited a study by the [Gaza Community Mental Health Programme](#) which stated that “91.4 percent of children in Gaza displayed symptoms of moderate to very severe PTSD.” That was fifteen years and numerous Israeli wars on Gaza ago.

### The US-Israeli “humanitarian” death traps

The killing of Palestinians in Gaza didn't stop when Israel attacked Iran. The most insidious new invention is the recently-created [US-Israeli “aid” group](#), the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). The Israeli authorities accuse Hamas of stealing aid, and based on

meaning ambulances cannot function. This is following [prior blockades](#) last year, and the overall blockade of the



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this unproven accusation, have deemed that long-established UN aid agencies could no longer operate in Gaza, insisting instead that a group staffed with armed combat veterans (mercenaries is a better word) is better equipped to ensure that food reaches famished Palestinians.

It is outrageous that in spite of some media coverage, Israel has been allowed to for months ([over a year](#), really) block the entrance of thousands of aid trucks amassed outside of Gaza, only to then dictate that hired gunmen would be in charge of *“distributing aid.”*

The massive irony and duplicity is that even Israeli and Western media [have reported](#) on the actual thieves of aid in Gaza: not Hamas, but an ISIS-linked group under the protection of the Israeli army.

As the independent media outlet The Cradle [reported](#), the group's leader, Yasser Abu Shabab, *“is a known leader of armed gangs linked to ISIS and involved in looting aid under Israeli protection... Multiple reports, including from Haaretz and The Washington Post, confirm that these gangs have been seen looting in full view of Israeli forces, who neither intervene nor prevent the theft.”*

In a subsequent post, The Cradle [cited](#) the Israeli Army Radio as reporting: *“Israel has transferred weapons to members of the militia... The militia operates mainly in the Rafah area, which the Israeli army has occupied and cleared. The militia's tasks include preventing humanitarian aid from entering Gaza and fighting Hamas.”*



**Read more:** How Christian Zionism distorts scripture to serve empire

*these systems that we've established and that we know work. We could reach every family in Gaza, as we have in the past, but we're prevented from doing so at every turn.”*

More recently, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres echoed Whittall, saying: *“Any operation that channels desperate civilians into militarized zones is inherently unsafe. It is killing people.. People are*

What is apparently happening is that starved Palestinians, after walking many kilometres to the distribution sites, are then corralled into tight enclosures and [fired upon](#) by the *“aid”* mercenaries.

Jonathan Whittall, the Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OCHA) described the situation as *“conditions created to kill, carnage, weaponized hunger, a death sentence for people just trying to survive.”*

In a [clip](#) posted on June 23, Whittall said, *“Israeli authorities are preventing us from distributing through these systems that we've established and that we know work. We could reach every family in Gaza, as we have in the past, but we're prevented from doing so at every turn.”*



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*being killed simply trying to feed themselves and their families. The search for food must never be a death sentence.*" The UN's own humanitarian efforts are being "strangled" by Israel, he said, and even the aid workers themselves are starving.

The aid-seeking civilians are reportedly being shot in the [head and chest](#), in what looks more like execution than "warning shots" or "crowd control".

The victims include an 18-month old girl whose X-ray shows a bullet lodged in her chest. According to [Ramy Abdu](#), Chairman of the non-profit Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, the girl was shot while in her mother's arms on the way to a GHF aid point.

As far back as last July, [an article](#) in The Lancet warning that the total number of Palestinian civilian deaths caused directly and indirectly by Israeli attacks since October 2023 could reach "up to 186,000 or even more." Other estimates were even more grim, include that of Norwegian Dr. Mads Gilbert, who has worked extensively from Gaza over the years, who said the number of those dead or soon to die could be over 500,000.

Fast forward to a recent [report](#) by Yaakov Garb of Ben-Gurion University, published via the Harvard Dataverse. It describes the false aid distribution design as, "all adjacent to Israeli military installations... manned by armed combat veterans backed by Israeli soldiers. The design creates a 'chokepoint' or 'fatal funnel' – a predictable movement path from a single entry to a single exit with no cover or concealment."

It is the graphic on page five which caught people's attention. From a population of 2.2 million before the genocide, the graph only accounts for 1.85 million, leaving many asking, where are the remaining 350,000 people? This makes the concerns voiced a year ago more valid.

In his report, Yaakov Garb wrote, "The Israeli military has an obligation, as the occupying power in Gaza, to supply the population with humanitarian relief... If an attacker cannot adequately and neutrally feed a starving population in the wake of a disaster it is ongoingly creating, it is obligated to allow other humanitarian agencies to do so."

But instead, every day we see new horrors of emaciated Palestinian civilians desperately braving death



**Read more:** Israel claims it killed Hamas co-founder linked to October 7 attack

in hopes of securing food for their families... and being gunned down by the Israeli army and the mercenaries it backs.

It seems, at least, that these actions are finally catching up with Israel, meaning a lack of support for or trust in the state or its representatives, and a global demand for justice for Palestinians.

To cite [Craig Mokhiber](#), a human rights lawyer and former senior UN Human Rights official, who [posted](#) recently on X:

*“The (Israeli) regime is on trial for genocide. Its leaders are indicted for crimes against humanity. Israel is isolated. The regime is now almost universally despised, just as the Nazi and apartheid regimes were despised. People across the world stand overwhelmingly with Palestine. You don’t come back from apartheid & genocide.”*

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OPINION

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**a** **abu kamoon** 7/4/2025 at 3:59 PM 0

This tactic of ambushing people seeking aid shows the true face of Zionism.

[Reply](#)

**A** **Antonio** 7/4/2025 at 2:19 PM 0

Zionazi israel is living evil . And I am ashamed that the majority of canadian political leaders support such an evil entity . They say «israel has a right to defend itself» which means «we encourage genocide of millions of christians and muslims in the West Asia .»

[Reply](#)

**D** **Don Tomson** 7/2/2025 at 9:59 PM -6

You guys are listening to absurd, preposterous HAMAS propaganda. Israel is not handing out food with one hand and shooting them with the other. With the Israeli's guarding the aid stations, HAMAS is upset they can't steal the food anymore, so HAMAS attacks the aid distribution statons, and lies about it for propaganda purposes.

[Reply](#)

**K** **Kieran DSouza** 7/3/2025 at 5:29 AM ↑ 4

HAMAS is just a fig leaf for Israel to continue genocide. HAMAS, PLO, Fatah are all created and supported by Israel to deny Palestinian Statehood. your lies don't fool anyone any longer

[Reply](#)

**K** **Karloz** 7/4/2025 at 1:09 PM ↑ 0

«Take the worst thing you can about Hamas multiplv it bv a thousand times and it still will not meet the

Israeli repression and mass killing and dispossession of Palestinians.» Gabor Maté, a Holocaust Survivor

[Reply](#)

**L** **Linguist** 7/4/2025 at 6:58 AM

1

I remember a concentration camp story about a Nazi who would offer Jewish children sweets, tell them to shut their eyes and open their mouths..... then shoot them in the back of the throat.

Israel has clearly learned well from this Nazi; gather everyone in one place for food then bomb them!!

[Reply](#)

**H** **A** 7/4/2025 at 12:23 PM

2

Even nazi germany didn't daily air bombs the concentration camp

[Reply](#)

**L** **Linguist** 7/4/2025 at 1:09 PM

0

Exactly!

[Reply](#)

**b** **brenda lakios** 7/3/2025 at 10:26 PM

1

Israel is worse, then the old Nazi regime. They love to commit genocide. Its part of the Zionists agenda to control the entire World. The USA government and military are also deliberately committing Genocide. They are all scum of our earth. I will no longer vote, why vote at all? Politicians become monsters, they lie to the people, They consider themselves to be superior, They look down there noses at ordinary citizens, and give everyone a hard time. They do not care about nor follow our constitution. Trump is an egotistical blowhard, and liar. Fuck him and Israel. The whole stinking state of Israel, no longer believes in God. They lost God decades ago.

[Reply](#)

**A** **Allen Lee** 7/4/2025 at 4:12 AM

-4

I beg to disagree that Israel no longer believes in God. Remember the story of King Saul being condemned because he failed to follow God's instruction to exterminate the Amalekites down to their livestock. Israel ministers are openly referring the Palestinians to as Amalekites. Perhaps they are just following the Bible.

Israel at least doesn't seem to seek extermination of the Palestinian livestock.

[Reply](#)



**Karloz** 7/4/2025 at 1:04 PM ↑

0

"I tell the Israel Government not to kill Palestinians people under my name" Strephen Kapos a Holocaust Survivor

[Reply](#)



**Allen Lee** 7/4/2025 at 4:26 AM ↑

-3

No offense. Sounds like you're a Christian. Have you ever asked your pastor why God instructed Saul to commit genocide against the Amalekites?

[Reply](#)



**Karloz** 7/4/2025 at 1:04 PM ↑

0

"It is a genocide what is going on in Gaza" Aryeh Neier. Holocaust Survivor

[Reply](#)



**Darth Fester** 7/2/2025 at 11:28 AM

3

Sodom. Gomorrah. Tel Aviv.

The three evil cities that would eventually be consumed by Gods wrath. I'm not religious but I still silently pray for Israels utter **DESTRUCTION**.

[Reply](#)



**A** 7/4/2025 at 12:34 PM ↑

1

Every day has an end, nothing lasts forever.

[Reply](#)



**Pegon Zellschmidt** 7/3/2025 at 3:34 PM

-3

Why is it always 'starving'? It's never 'starved' as in death. At some point, starving people starve to death. But Gazans never seem to. Why no emaciated pics with so many cell phones, photogs? A real head scratcher.

[Reply](#)




**brenda lakios** 7/3/2025 at 10:44 PM ↑

1

Take a trip to GAZA.


[Reply](#)

 **A** 7/4/2025 at 12:29 PM ↕

1

Maybe he is already there, one of the mercenaries at the human slaughterhouses, starvation stations.


[Reply](#)

 **A** 7/4/2025 at 12:20 PM

0

The most democratic country who is occupying Palestine using aid/starvation stations as human slaughterhouses, killing fields.

[Reply](#)


 **Kicky** 7/4/2025 at 8:13 AM

1

They are not Aid Stations.  
They are Bait Stations.  
Lure 'em out.  
Mow 'em down.  
Save Palestine.




[Reply](#)

 **Tommy Beau** 6/30/2025 at 5:43 PM

41

At one level, I wish Iran had kept pounding Israel till there was nothing left of it. Without a doubt, Israel is the most wicked nation ever to have existed in human history.


[Reply](#)

 **Alfred** 6/30/2025 at 6:24 PM ↕

16

How about... on every level.


[Reply](#)

 **Tommy Beau** 6/30/2025 at 7:09 PM ↕

14

Yes, except for the U.S. getting drawn further in. And Israel's Samson option. Iran took its win, leaving Israel to collapse on its own.

[Reply](#)

 **Najjar** 6/30/2025 at 8:08 PM ↕

6

When choosing to be the mUSe of the Zionists, then there should be not a shred of concern per