

August 13, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our grave concern regarding the preventable humanitarian catastrophe and mass starvation in the occupied Gaza Strip. We urge you to use all available tools, including the suspension of U.S. security assistance in compliance with section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act, in order to secure an immediate surge in humanitarian assistance and an end to the ongoing atrocities. As many of our organizations [argued](#) previously, continued U.S. security assistance to Israel despite Israel's near total siege and restrictions on humanitarian aid is a violation of U.S. law. We urge you to take swift action to comply with the law and end U.S. support for the catastrophic suffering Israel has imposed on Palestinians in Gaza.

As the [United Nations](#) and [humanitarian organizations](#) have been warning, starvation and the humanitarian crisis are rapidly worsening throughout Gaza. The humanitarian system is being deliberately and systematically dismantled by the Israeli government's blockade and restrictions. Alarming, the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) [warned](#) on July 29 that the worst-case scenario—famine—is currently unfolding in Gaza. In addition, the IPC states that “humanitarian aid remains extremely restricted due to requests for humanitarian access being repeatedly denied and frequent security incidents. Despite the easing of the blockade on 19 May, only a trickle of humanitarian assistance, mainly food, has entered the Gaza Strip.” Food assistance, however, requires extraordinary risks to access. According to the UN Human Rights Office, the Israeli military has killed more than [400](#) Palestinians and injured more than 3,000 since May 27 while trying to access aid.

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli government has dramatically tightened restrictions on U.S. humanitarian assistance into the Gaza Strip. The government has [fully blocked](#) the entry of humanitarian aid at various times, most recently between March and May of this year; conducted military strikes on humanitarian workers and sites; destroyed critical infrastructure essential to the survival of the civilian population; implemented a deadly new aid distribution mechanism that reduces the number of distribution sites across Gaza; and repeatedly killed civilians seeking assistance.

Such restrictions and attacks have been documented repeatedly throughout the war and therefore cannot be seen as isolated instances, but the policy of the government of Israel. Human Rights Watch [determined](#) that the Israeli government was committing a war crime by using starvation of civilians as a weapon of war in the Gaza Strip; and [Oxfam](#) documented war crimes committed by the Israeli government due to its destruction and weaponization of water in Gaza.

Meanwhile, the United States continues to provide Israel with unconditional arms transfers and other military support. Congress has appropriated more than [\\$21 billion](#) in security assistance

for Israel since October 7, 2023. In part to fulfill that assistance appropriated by Congress, the Biden and Trump administrations have announced more than [\\$30 billion](#) in potential arms sales, including a sale two months ago for munition guidance kits that have been documented to have been used [unlawfully](#) in Gaza.

Israel's restrictions on humanitarian aid are not only morally indefensible, they also violate both international and U.S. law. Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. § 2378–1) prohibits the United States from providing security assistance or arms sales to any country that “prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance.”

Unconditional U.S. security assistance in violation of the law and continued support for the Israeli government as it restricts aid with impunity has resulted in an engineered humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. We urge you to take all actions at your disposal to end U.S. support for these horrors, enforce U.S. compliance with the law, and use your leverage to bring about an immediate and permanent end to the atrocities, the release of hostages and unlawfully detained prisoners, and access to life-saving humanitarian assistance.

Sincerely,

National and International Organizations

A New Policy

Action Corps

American Friends Service Committee

Amnesty International USA

Arms Control Association

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)

Center for International Policy Advocacy

Center for Jewish Nonviolence

Church World Service

Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA)

CODEPINK Women for Peace

Community Alliance for Peace and Justice (CAPJ)

DAWN

Demand Progress

Disciples Palestine Israel Network

Doctors Against Genocide

Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières USA

Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Justice Network

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Foreign Policy for America

Freedom Forward

Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
Healthcareworkers for Palestine
Historians for Peace and Democracy
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project
Just Foreign Policy
MADRE
MedGlobal
Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)
MPower Change Action Fund
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Our Revolution
Oxfam America
Pax Christi USA
Peace Action
Refugees International
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
The Episcopal Church
The Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Unitarian Universalist Peace Ministry Network
United Church of Christ
United Church of Christ Movement for Palestinian Solidarity (UCC MPS)
Women for Weapons Trade Transparency
Win Without War

State and Local Organizations

Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace
Brooklyn For Peace
California Palestine Solidarity Coalition
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights
East Brunswick, NJ for Ceasefire
Evanston Ceasefire
Genesee Valley Citizens of Peace
Global Justice Committee, New York Progressive Action Network
McKean County Green Party
Progressive Democrats of America - Central New Mexico
Maine Coalition for Palestine
MARUF CT (Muslim Advocacy for Rights, Unity and Fairness)
Massachusetts Peace Action

MO Utopia Project
Minnesota Peace Project
News and Letters Committees
NJ Peace Action
NH Peace Action
North Carolina Dems for Palestinian Lives
North Carolina Peace Action
NY8 Neighbors for a Gaza Ceasefire
Pax Christi New York State
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!
Peace Action of San Mateo County
Peace Action Maine
Peace Action New York State
Peace & Social Justice Committee of the 15th Street Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince Georges County MD
Plymouth for Palestine
Raising Luminaries
SE MA Coalition for a Free Palestine
Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ) Bay Area
Southern Oregon Peace Vets
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.