

Starving 1.5 million Gazans will *not* bring security, justice or peace to Israelis, Palestinians or Jews anywhere

Gaza remains under occupation

Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison. Except for the Rafah gate to Egypt, Israel controls all land access to the Gaza Strip, plus its airspace and coastal waters; the flow of goods, food, and fuel; freedom of movement; and access to healthcare.

Four months ago, in violation of international law, Israel reduced imports into Gaza to a trickle of essential food and medicines. The drinking water is polluted by oil and sewage, yet Israel bars delivery of water filters. In January, Gaza's only electrical plant shut down, plunging 800,000 people into darkness. People with urgent medical needs cannot leave, and many have died. Children, who comprise half of Gaza's population, are suffering the most.

In February, the top UN humanitarian affairs official, John Holmes, said he was "shocked by the miserable things" he had seen in Gaza, blaming the blockade for the near collapse of the economy which has left 80% of Gazans dependent on food aid.

Israel does have a choice

A few miles from Gaza, 20,000 people in the working class Israeli town of Sderot live in constant fear from Qassam rockets fired by Palestinian militants in Gaza. These rockets, which are deliberately fired on civilians, violate international law. Eleven have died since 2000, and many more have been injured.

Israel says that collective punishment, including rocket attacks on crowded neighborhoods, and limiting supplies of electricity and safe drinking water, will turn the people of Gaza against the Qassam launchers – but the opposite is true.

Israel's history of violating the human rights of Gazans, including demolishing thousands of homes, long predates the rocket attacks. Over 2,680 Gazans have been killed since 2000 alone. This only fuels support for Qassams.

*Hamas has repeatedly offered a ceasefire,
and each time Israel has ignored the offer.
Now, Israel is threatening a full-scale invasion.*

A lasting and just peace between Israelis and Palestinians is possible

The answer starts with the United States, which provides Israel with the economic, military and diplomatic support that makes much of this possible.

Join Jewish Voice for Peace in our call upon the U.S government to use its influence with Israel to stop the collective punishment of Gaza, to work with the international community towards a joint ceasefire, and to take action to end the ongoing occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Join Palestinians and Israelis in their call for an immediate joint ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza!

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