# Israeli spokesperson’s denial of Gaza hunger clashes with mounting humanitarian crisis



For decades, Israel has positioned itself as a master of public diplomacy, deftly communicating its narrative on the global stage. However, the ongoing conflict in Gaza raises troubling questions about this image, particularly evident in a recent heated exchange between an Israeli government spokesperson and a BBC presenter. The spokesperson labeled Hamas a “genocidal death cult” that exploits civilians. This rhetoric, while inflammatory, distracts from a dire humanitarian crisis exacerbated by Israel's blockade of Gaza.

While the spokesperson insisted there was “no hunger in Gaza,” such claims seem increasingly disconnected from the distressing reality. Despite the sporadic availability of basic supplies in local markets, a staggering majority of the 2.3 million Palestinians in the enclave struggle to afford even essential items. Prices for basic goods have soared; a sack of flour now demands hundreds of dollars, while fresh produce has reached up to $15 per kilogram.

The blockade has ravaged essential services; free bakeries have shut down, and community kitchens that once provided for millions are closing due to lack of resources. Reports from international NGOs indicate that warehouses in Gaza are critically low on supplies. Despite official assurances of sufficient aid, the flow of necessary resources is hampered by bureaucratic hurdles, compounded by ongoing violence and infrastructure destruction. The government claims there is ample food and medicine waiting for delivery, contingent upon the reopening of borders, yet this presents a false hope for a population in distress.

Aid organizations contend that any recent supply influx during a ceasefire has been grossly insufficient to mitigate the overwhelming effects of the conflict. Agricultural collapse, impaired access to water, and compromised health services have led to alarming levels of food insecurity, with 244,000 individuals facing starvation and malnutrition.

Israeli officials refute claims that starvation is weaponized, arguing that limits on aid are necessary countermeasures against Hamas, which they accuse of misappropriating humanitarian resources for military purposes. Critics, however, argue that isolating the population only deepens the humanitarian crisis and that aid organizations are more capable of ensuring resources reach those in need than an Israeli-led distribution model. Humanitarian workers also express concern that any coordinated effort by Israel risks further displacing vulnerable communities.

The situation has led to rising international condemnation, notably from Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, who has condemned Israel's tactics, asserting that the blockade weaponizes food deprivation as a political tool. She has called for an immediate ceasefire, emphasizing Canada's support for a two-state solution amidst the escalating violence, which has tragically claimed over 52,000 Palestinian lives since the conflict intensified following Hamas’ attack in October 2023.

As airstrikes continue, with recent assaults resulting in numerous casualties, including children, Palestinians face an unprecedented humanitarian disaster. Approximately half a million individuals are now at risk of starvation or malnourishment as essential services collapse. Aid agencies warn that without drastic action to stabilize the region and ensure unimpeded humanitarian access, the crisis may only worsen.

Within humanitarian circles, there is an urgent call for immediate and expansive access to aid, with an emphasis on prioritizing the needs of Palestinian civilians to avert further catastrophe. As the international community grapples with this complex reality, the time is ripe for a thorough reevaluation of diplomatic efforts, both at home and abroad, to forge a sustainable and humane resolution to the suffering in Gaza.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/14/isreal-no-hunger-in-gaza-narrative-flies-in-face-of-obvious-evidence-famine> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/new-canadian-foreign-minister-says-israel-using-lack-food-tool-gaza-2025-05-14/> - On May 14, 2025, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand criticized Israel for allegedly using food deprivation as a political tactic in Gaza. She condemned Israel's blockade, which began in early March after a ceasefire with Hamas collapsed, highlighting the dire humanitarian situation with over 50,000 Palestinian deaths and warnings from aid groups about an impending famine. Israel denies these claims, accusing Hamas of diverting aid resources. Anand emphasized the need for a ceasefire and reiterated Canada's support for a two-state solution. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/new-canadian-foreign-minister-says-israel-using-lack-food-tool-gaza-2025-05-14/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/bc5c95bdcf4106da61dda4fff762e5fe> - On May 14, 2025, Israeli airstrikes in Gaza killed at least 70 people, including 22 children, with the heaviest casualties in Jabaliya, northern Gaza. This escalation coincided with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's firm stance against halting military action until Hamas is dismantled. Despite Hamas releasing an Israeli-American hostage, hopes for a ceasefire remain dim. The offensive, which began after Hamas' deadly 2023 incursion into southern Israel, has resulted in over 52,000 Palestinian deaths and widespread humanitarian devastation. Gaza's health infrastructure is near collapse, with hospitals damaged and ambulances unable to operate. Nearly half a million Palestinians face starvation, with 60% of charity kitchens closed due to the ongoing blockade. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/bc5c95bdcf4106da61dda4fff762e5fe?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-backed-aid-group-start-work-gaza-by-end-may-2025-05-14/> - The U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) announced plans to begin aid operations in Gaza by the end of May 2025. Currently, no humanitarian aid has reached the enclave since March 2, putting approximately half a million people—about 25% of Gaza’s population—at risk of starvation, according to a global hunger monitor. GHF intends to distribute aid through secure distribution sites but emphasized the need for expansion beyond the limited planned sites in southern Gaza to include northern regions. In a letter to the Israeli government, GHF Executive Director Jake Wood urged the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to identify adequate locations in northern Gaza for secure aid distribution within 30 days. Wood also requested that Israel facilitate aid flow using current mechanisms until GHF's infrastructure is ready, aiming to ease the humanitarian crisis and reduce initial strain on distribution operations. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-backed-aid-group-start-work-gaza-by-end-may-2025-05-14/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-intensifies-gaza-bombardment-trump-visits-region-2025-05-14/> - On May 14, 2025, Israeli airstrikes intensified across Gaza, killing at least 70 Palestinians, including women and children, in the Jabalia area. The assaults coincided with U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East tour, which includes stops in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE but not Israel. Israel believes key Hamas officials, including military leader Mohammad Sinwar, may have been killed in a strike on a suspected command center under the European Hospital in Khan Younis, although confirmation is pending. Islamic Jihad fired rockets from Gaza shortly before the strikes, following Israeli evacuation orders in northern areas. Trump’s visit has raised hopes among Palestinians for increased diplomatic pressure to de-escalate the conflict. Hamas recently released Edan Alexander, the last known American hostage, and further releases are anticipated. Ceasefire efforts remain stalled. The U.S. proposed a humanitarian aid plan using private contractors, endorsed by Israel but opposed by the UN and aid organizations. The war stems from a Hamas-led attack on Israel in October 2023 that killed approximately 1,200 and resulted in 251 hostages. Since then, over 52,900 Palestinians have been killed, and Gaza faces a severe humanitarian crisis. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-intensifies-gaza-bombardment-trump-visits-region-2025-05-14/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-strip-ipc-report-sep24-apr25/> - A report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicates that between September 2024 and April 2025, approximately 1.84 million people in Gaza experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, with nearly 133,000 facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) and 664,000 in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Acute malnutrition levels were at serious levels (IPC AMN Phase 3), ten times higher than before the escalation of hostilities. The report highlights that nearly the entire population has been displaced multiple times, often under continued shelling and aerial bombardments, with many households unable to relocate or find safe shelter. The majority are living in temporary makeshift camps with an alarming density of almost 40,000 people per square kilometer. The evacuation orders and the military offensive have significantly disrupted humanitarian operations, and repeated displacements have steadily worn down people's ability to cope and access food, water, and medicine, deepening the vulnerability of entire communities. ([un.org](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-strip-ipc-report-sep24-apr25/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-2-15-march-2025> - The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that as of March 15, 2025, at least 80 community kitchens in Gaza were at risk of running out of stock within one to two weeks due to rising prices of dwindling food items on the local market. The halt in the entry of supplies led to an immediate surge in the prices of essential goods, particularly for key food items such as potatoes and eggs, with some fruits and vegetables experiencing a 200% increase compared to prices prior to the closure of the crossings. Some traders reported withholding basic goods, fearing prolonged restrictions. Cash liquidity shortages remained a major challenge for families wishing to purchase essential goods and for shop owners who needed to replenish their stocks. The Nutrition Cluster warned that malnutrition levels may worsen if critical aid stocks continue to dwindle, following more than two weeks of no supplies coming into Gaza. ([ochaopt.org](https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-2-15-march-2025?utm_source=openai))