

Humanitarian Crisis

FICTION vs. FACT Israel's War with Hamas

FICTION: Israel has intentionally caused a famine and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

This repeated allegation is false. The following evidence disproves it.

FACT: The Famine Review Committee of the United Nations found no evidence of famine, according to a June 4, 2024 report.¹

Definition of Famine: Famine is a technical term, referring to a population that faces widespread malnutrition and hunger-related deaths because of a lack of access to food. (United Nations)²

Definition of Humanitarian Crisis: A singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety, or well-being of a community or large group of people.³

FACT: A May 2024 study revealed, 3004 kcal of nutrition per person per day was entering Gaza via aid trucks. (The average adult needs 1600-2800 kcal. Children typically need 1400-2000 kcal per day.)⁴



Food aid piles up in Gaza (Photo: NPR)



(Photo: COGAT)

FACT: Two different agencies have documented how much aid has entered Gaza since October 2023. These same agencies have also documented how UNWRA - the UN agency on the ground responsible for the aid once it enters Gaza - consistently underreports the number of aid trucks that cross from Israel into Gaza.

- The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, COGAT, in its report titled, "Discrepancies in UN Aid to Gaza Data," states:

*Given the humanitarian situation in Gaza, accurately collecting and reporting humanitarian aid data is of great importance. Considering the centrality of UN data, it is critical that it be accurate and provide a complete picture of the aid going into Gaza. There are, however, significant gaps in the data presented on the UN dashboard and the data collected and published by COGAT. After a thorough review and analysis of the data collected by COGAT and UNRWA, we have identified underreporting of over 8,000 trucks from the beginning of the war, with 4,880 'missing' trucks in the month of May alone.*⁵

- The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) corroborates the COGAT study and reports an even higher discrepancy:

The INSS found that approximately 10,000 aid trucks that entered Gaza during the conflict months were omitted from UN reports. While UN figures cite about 28,000 trucks, the Israel Defense Forces' District Coordination and Liaison (DCL) reports a significantly higher number of 38,000.

*The study further notes that the United Nations disregards the fact that Hamas attacks the crossings through which aid is brought in and forcibly takes control of convoys. The reports omit crucial facts about Hamas's control over convoy routes and distribution points. They also fail to mention incidents of looting of aid trucks, storage facilities, and distribution points by Hamas and criminal gangs.*⁶

In addition to the documented discrepancies in its reporting, the UN routinely disseminates false reports to global media, accusing Israel of intentionally causing starvation in Gaza.

However, as the numbers demonstrate, Israel consistently enables the flow of supplies, including more food than is required per person daily.

FACT: Israel provides food, water, and humanitarian aid to an enemy population in the midst of war.⁷

In so doing, Israel goes above and beyond what any other military has ever done, does so against its own interests, and demonstrates actual concern for Gazan civilians. In contrast:



Aid Trucks looted by Hamas (Photo: Times of Israel)



Sinwar's well-equipped tunnel hide-out
(Photo: The Daily Mail)

- Hamas uses its civilians as human shields.⁸
- In fact, Hamas leaders have stated on record that they have no concern or responsibility for the civilian population.⁹
- Hamas stole billions of dollars in international aid between 2005 and 2023 intended for civilian infrastructure and used it to build and supply terror tunnels to advance its war against Israel.¹⁰
- After the death of Hamas leader, Yahya Sinwar, on October 16, 2024, the IDF found an abundance of UN-labeled supplies and cash in his underground bunker.¹¹
- Egypt may also be responsible for disruption in humanitarian aid to Gazan civilians across its shared border.¹²

If civilians in Gaza are malnourished and without humanitarian supplies, it is because Hamas and other terrorist organizations prevent access to those supplies. They exercise complete control over the trucks once they cross from Israel into Gaza and they decide who is—and who isn't—fed.

Sources used for this FACT Sheet:

1. The Famine Review Committee of the United Nations
2. United Nations
3. What Is a Humanitarian Emergency? Humanitarian Coalition
4. Nutritional Assessment of Food Aid Delivered to Gaza via Israel during the 'Swords of Iron' War | Biochemistry, Food Science and Nutrition Hebrew University
5. Discrepancies-in-un-aid-to-gaza-data-2.pdf COGAT
6. Report: New study exposes UN's skewed portrayal of 'intentional starvation' in Gaza - JNS.org
7. Israel Defense Forces work to protect civilians -- not kill them New York Post

8. Opinion | We can't ignore the truth that Hamas uses human shields - The Washington Post
9. How Hamas's corrupt billionaire leaders cruelly lined their own pockets with cash meant for poverty-stricken Gazans - and you might have paid for it... | Daily Mail Online
10. Gaza is plagued by poverty, but Hamas has no shortage of cash. Where does it come from? NBC News
11. How Hamas's corrupt billionaire leaders cruelly lined their own pockets with cash meant for poverty-stricken Gazans - and you might have paid for it... | Daily Mail Online
12. Why Egypt Won't Open Its Border With Gaza ForeignPolicy.com