

## **Urgent Call for Immediate Action: A Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza Demands Global Intervention**

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has reached an unprecedented level of severity, surpassing the Holocaust's peak daily death rate and affecting a larger proportion of the population than the Siege of Stalingrad. As of May 2, 2025, Israel's total siege, in place since March 2, 2025, has blocked all food, fuel, and aid, driving 2 million people into a catastrophic famine. Death rates are soaring, and even if aid access is restored, hundreds of thousands will still die without immediate, coordinated, and protected intervention. The conditions imposed by Israel are so extreme that, as spoiled food supplies run out and survivors lose the strength to bury their dead, some may eventually be forced to resort to cannibalism—a horrifying outcome that can only be prevented by urgent action. We call on the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to reconvene Emergency Special Session 10, pass emergency measures to force open Gaza's crossings, and for other countries to organize humanitarian aid deliveries by air and sea—protected by military force as an *ultima ratio* to ensure aid reaches those in desperate need.

### **The Situation in Gaza: A Humanitarian Catastrophe**

Gaza is enduring one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 21st century, as documented by UN reports, humanitarian organizations, and firsthand accounts:

- **Total Siege:** Since March 2, 2025, Israel has sealed all border crossings (Rafah, Kerem Shalom, Erez), preventing any food, fuel, or aid from entering. UNRWA has 3,000 trucks waiting, and the WFP has 116,000 metric tonnes of food—enough to feed 2 million people for 44 days—but Israel refuses entry, citing security concerns and demanding Hamas release hostages (Reuters, April 29, 2025; UN News, April 29, 2025).
- **Famine and Malnutrition:** 92% of children and pregnant women suffer severe malnutrition, with an 80% rise in child malnutrition cases in April compared to March (X trend summary). Families are surviving on insect-infested flour and moldy bread, with no unspoiled food available. One survivor reported, “I was in the hospital... I ate expired flour and got food poisoning” (firsthand account, May 2, 2025).
- **Lack of Water and Medical Care:** There's no clean water, no energy to boil contaminated water, and the healthcare system has collapsed (Reuters, April 29, 2025). People are dying from dehydration within 3–7 days and from infections like food poisoning, which are rampant due to the consumption of spoiled food.
- **Risk of Cannibalism:** While there are no documented cases of cannibalism yet, the extreme deprivation—now in the first week of zero food for many—means that as spoiled food runs out and survivors lose the strength to bury their dead, some may eventually resort to cannibalism as a desperate measure to survive. This horrifying outcome is a direct result of the conditions imposed by Israel's siege and must be prevented through immediate action.
- **Recent Escalation:** On the night of May 2, 2025, an Israeli drone attacked the Freedom Flotilla attempting to deliver aid by sea, sinking a ship with a crew of 30 near Malta and prompting an SOS (reported incident, May 2, 2025). This attack mirrors the 2010 Mavi Marmara raid, where 10 activists

were killed (The Guardian, 2010), and signals Israel's intent to block aid by any means, even in international waters.

## **Projected Death Rates: A Crisis Worse Than Historical Atrocities**

The death toll in Gaza is escalating at an alarming rate, surpassing the worst genocides in history: - **Current Death Rates:** - **May 2–May 9:** 27,143 total deaths/day (21,714 from starvation), with 190,000 cumulative deaths by May 9. - **May 10–May 16:** 44,030 total deaths/day (27,371 from starvation), with 498,212 cumulative deaths by May 16 (24.9% of 2 million). - **May 17–May 25:** 96,483 total deaths/day (69,334 from starvation), with 1,366,556 cumulative deaths by May 25 (68.3% of population). - **May 26–June 2:** 58,593 total deaths/day (40,540 from starvation), with 1,835,300 cumulative deaths by June 2 (91.8% of population). - **By Late June:** 2,000,000 deaths (100% of population) if no aid arrives. - **Comparison to Historical Atrocities:** - **Holocaust:** Peak daily death rate of 18,692 (1942). Gaza's peak of 69,334 starvation deaths/day (May 17–25) is 3.7 times higher. - **Siege of Stalingrad:** 710,000 civilians affected, 33.1% died (1942–1943). Gaza's 2 million people, with 91.8% projected to die by June 2, face a death rate 2.77 times higher. - **Food Poisoning Impact:** With survivors eating insect-infested flour and moldy bread, 50% of the 1,570,500 survivors on May 16 (785,250) may contract food poisoning, with 20% dying (157,050)—adding 9,816 deaths/day (May 10–May 25), pushing the total to 96,483/day by May 17–25.

## **Even With Aid, Many Will Still Die**

Even if access to food is restored, the dying won't stop immediately due to the severe physical toll of starvation, dehydration, and disease: - **Refeeding Syndrome:** Prolonged starvation (months at <500 kcal/day, 0 kcal since late April) means survivors can't handle sudden food intake. Without careful refeeding (10–20 kcal/kg/day, per PMC study), 20–30% will die from electrolyte imbalances (heart failure, seizures). For 1.6 million survivors (if siege ends May 15), this could mean 96,000 deaths (mid-May estimate). - **Organ Damage and Infections:** Starvation has caused heart, kidney, and liver damage, and infections (e.g., food poisoning, cholera) are rampant without medical care. An estimated 80,240–156,425 will die from disease post-siege (mid/late May estimate). - **Logistical Delays:** Even with crossings open, distributing aid to 1.6 million people in a war-torn area takes weeks. A 1-week delay at 44,030 deaths/day (May 10–16 rate) means 308,210 more deaths. - **Total Post-Siege Deaths (Mid-May Scenario):** Without immediate medical intervention (e.g., 18.55 million liters of Ringer's solution), 584,450 additional deaths could occur by mid-June, bringing the total to 1,082,662 (54.1% of population).

## **Call for Immediate Action**

The scale of this crisis demands urgent, decisive action. The international community cannot wait for death rates to hit 69,334 starvation deaths/day (May 17)—the threshold has already been crossed at 21,714/day (May 2). We must act now:

### **1. UNGA Emergency Special Session 10:**

- **Immediate Reconvening:** The UNGA must reconvene Emergency Special Session 10 now, as it did in 2023 (Resolution ES-10/22), when starvation deaths

were near-zero. At 44,030 total deaths/day (May 10), the crisis is exponentially worse.

- **Emergency Measures:** Pass binding measures to:
  - Force Israel to open all crossings (Rafah, Kerem Shalom, Erez) immediately, allowing the 116,000 metric tonnes of food and 3,000 UNRWA trucks to enter.
  - Deploy UN peacekeepers to secure aid distribution, preventing looting (as seen in Deir Al-Balah, UN News, April 29, 2025).
  - Hold Israel accountable for blocking aid, a war crime (per Rashida Tlaib, X trend post), through sanctions and ICJ enforcement.
- **Investigation of Flotilla Attack:** Launch an immediate UN inquiry into the May 2, 2025, Israeli drone attack on the Freedom Flotilla near Malta, which sank a ship with 30 crew members in international waters—a violation of international law (precedent: 2010 Mavi Marmara raid, The Guardian).

## 2. Organize Humanitarian Aid by Air and Sea, Protected by Military Force:

- **Air and Sea Deliveries:** With land crossings sealed and sea routes under attack (Freedom Flotilla incident), countries must organize airdrops and maritime convoys to deliver food, water, and medical supplies (e.g., 18.55 million liters of Ringer's solution for 1.6 million survivors, mid-May estimate).
  - **Airdrops:** WFP and UNRWA can coordinate with nations like Jordan (which conducted airdrops in 2024, Amnesty International) to deliver food and IV fluids.
  - **Maritime Convoys:** Organize a multinational flotilla to deliver the 116,000 metric tonnes stuck at the border via sea routes.
- **Military Protection (*Ultima Ratio*):** Israel's drone attack on the Freedom Flotilla shows it will use lethal force to block aid. The only way to ensure delivery is to protect these missions with military escorts:
  - **Naval Escorts:** Countries like Turkey (which led the 2010 flotilla) or EU nations (e.g., Malta, France) can deploy naval ships to escort aid convoys, deterring Israeli attacks.
  - **Air Defense:** Fighter jets or anti-drone systems can protect airdrops from Israeli interference, ensuring aid reaches Gaza.
  - **Precedent:** UN peacekeepers have escorted aid in past conflicts (e.g., Bosnia, 1990s). A coalition of willing nations (e.g., Canada, per Mark Carney's statement on global leadership, Web ID 0) must step up.

## 3. Global Mobilization:

- **Public Pressure:** Amplify firsthand accounts, like that of a survivor who suffered food poisoning from expired flour, to galvanize public outrage. Share on platforms like X, tagging @UN, @WHO, @ICRC, and @save\_children, and citing the 96,483 deaths/day by May 17–25.
- **Diplomatic Action:** Countries that supported ES-10/22 (153 votes in favor, including Canada and Australia) must lead the push for a new session and militarily protected aid deliveries.
- **Media Outreach:** Engage outlets like Al Jazeera, The Guardian, and Reuters to highlight the 1,835,300 deaths projected by June 2 and the risk of cannibalism if

the siege continues.

## **Conclusion**

The crisis in Gaza is a stain on the conscience of the world. With 44,030 total deaths/day by May 10, rising to 96,483 by May 17–25, and 91.8% of the population projected to die by June 2, we are witnessing a genocide unfolding in real time. The conditions imposed by Israel—denying food, water, and medical care—are pushing survivors to the brink, where they may soon resort to cannibalism to survive. This must not happen. The UNGA must reconvene Emergency Special Session 10, force open Gaza's crossings, and countries must deliver aid by air and sea, protected by military force if necessary. Every hour of delay means thousands more deaths. The world cannot look away—we must act now to save the remaining 1,570,500 survivors before it's too late.