

UNIFIED CALL TO CONFRONT FAMINE IN GAZA: LAUNCH THE DIPLOMATIC HUMANITARIAN CONVOY NOW

12th May 2025

Palestinian civil society, joined by humanitarian and human rights organisations worldwide, issues this urgent and unified call: **The manufactured famine in Gaza must be halted. The international community must act decisively, immediately, and with full moral and legal responsibility.**

We are witnessing, in real time, the **deliberate starvation of a civilian population as a method of warfare**. Over two million Palestinians in Gaza **are living in famine**. Since 2 March 2025, Israel has blocked all humanitarian supplies and life-saving assistance - constituting the longest total siege Gaza has ever experienced. [UNICEF](#) and [OCHA](#) have sounded the alarm: in Gaza, farmland has been destroyed, fishing waters are off-limits, bakeries and community kitchens are shutting down, food has run out, and people are fighting over water amid relentless bombardment. **Children are “going to bed starving.”** 92% of children under two and breastfeeding mothers are not receiving adequate nutrition. [Hospitals](#) have run out of blood, and those burned in explosions are left with no water to save them.

[UNRWA](#) and the [World Food Programme](#) have exhausted their reserves, while Israel **moves to dismantle the existing UN-run aid distribution system**. On 11 April 2025, the Palestinian NGO Network [declared](#) that Gaza had entered an **advanced stage of famine**. This was followed by an [official declaration](#) from the State of Palestine designating the Gaza Strip as a **famine zone** and calling for urgent international intervention, including under Article 99 of the UN Charter. **Deaths from famine are already occurring** and are expected to rise sharply if conditions persist. According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#), **the entire population of Gaza is experiencing acute food insecurity**, with half a million people facing starvation. There is a high risk that famine (IPC Phase 5 – Catastrophe) will soon materialise, making immediate action imperative.

Despite this catastrophic reality, over **3,000 aid trucks and 116,000 metric tonnes of food** are [ready and waiting](#) to enter Gaza – **obstructed solely by Israel**. This is being done in **open defiance** of the core principles of international law, as reiterated in **binding legal orders**, including the International Court of Justice’s provisional measures in *South Africa v. Israel* - orders that remain ignored and unfulfilled over a year later.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has [said](#):

“Aid is non-negotiable.... The entry of assistance must be restored immediately.... There must be no hindrance in humanitarian aid.. This is not a time for ritualistically expressing support, ticking a box, and moving on.”

On 29 April 2025, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk [warned](#) of the **total collapse of life-saving support**, stating that:

“Third States have clear obligations under international law to ensure that such conduct stops immediately, and they must act accordingly.”

We therefore call for the immediate organisation and deployment of a Diplomatic Humanitarian Convoy to Gaza through the Rafah Crossing.

We urge states to **join the humanitarian convoy by dispatching official diplomatic missions -at the highest possible level- to accompany the aid trucks already waiting at the Rafah Crossing, and to enter Gaza alongside them.** This is an act of legal obligation, moral courage, and human solidarity. To that end, we demand the following:

- 1. We call on all states to publicly commit** to joining the humanitarian convoy by dispatching official diplomatic missions to accompany the aid trucks into Gaza via the **Rafah Crossing**. A specific departure date will be announced soon. States must also **reject the weaponisation of aid and Israel's planned distribution mechanisms**, which militarise relief efforts and bypass UN agencies and humanitarian actors.
- 2. We urge all states to coordinate with the United Nations and the Government of Egypt** to facilitate the convoy's entry and ensure the **immediate, unhindered, and safe passage** of humanitarian aid, medical teams, and relief workers.
- 3. While some governments complicit in the ongoing atrocities may choose not to participate, we call on individual diplomats, parliamentarians, and ministers from those countries to join the convoy** in their personal capacities.
- 4. We urge international media outlets** to accompany the convoy - to **bear witness**, to document the famine, and to expose the blockade starving Gaza.
- 5. We call on global civil society**, including NGOs, trade unions, student groups, political parties, and solidarity networks, to **mobilise immediately** - to pressure governments to support the convoy and provide material, political, and public support.
- 6. We call on the United Nations to immediately declare Gaza a famine zone** based on the verified data, and to **support this unified call** by actively facilitating, endorsing, and joining the Diplomatic Humanitarian Convoy.

This is a **human imperative**. A **Diplomatic Humanitarian Convoy** would mark a historic step to **break the siege, end the starvation, and affirm the world's rejection of hunger as a weapon of war.**

This call is grounded in **international law, shared morality, Genocide Convention, the ICJ's provisional measures, the UN Charter**, and countless resolutions from the **UN, OIC, Arab League, and the European and African Unions.**

Inaction will lead to mass death by starvation, enable further grave illegalities, and undermine the international legal system. We are calling on you today to:

Let Gaza Live. End the Starvation. End the Siege. Open the Crossings.

Launch the Diplomatic Humanitarian Convoy - NOW