

# More than 250 humanitarian and human rights organisations call to stop arms transfers to Israel, Palestinian armed groups

*An open call to all UN Member States to stop fueling the crisis in Gaza and avert further humanitarian catastrophe and loss of civilian life.*

We, the undersigned organisations, call on all States to immediately **halt** the transfer of weapons, parts, and ammunition to Israel and Palestinian armed groups **while there is risk they are used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law.**

Israel's bombardment and siege are depriving the civilian population of the basics to survive and rendering Gaza uninhabitable. Today, the civilian population in Gaza faces a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented severity and scale.

## **Violations of international humanitarian law**

Furthermore, Palestinian armed group-led attacks [killed](#) around 1,200 people and took hundreds of Israeli and foreign hostages, including children, and continue to hold more than 130 hostages [captive](#) inside Gaza. Armed groups in Gaza have continued to indiscriminately [fire rockets](#) toward population centres in Israel, [disrupting school](#) for children, displacing and threatening the lives and well being of civilians. Hostage-taking and indiscriminate attacks are [violations](#) of international humanitarian law and must end immediately.

Humanitarian agencies, human rights groups, United Nations officials, and more than 153 [member states](#) have called for an immediate ceasefire. However, Israel continues to use explosive weapons and munitions in densely populated areas with massive

humanitarian consequences for the people of Gaza. World leaders have urged the Israeli government to reduce civilian casualties, yet Israeli military operations in Gaza continue to kill people at unprecedented levels, according to [remarks](#) by the UN Secretary-General. Member states have a legal responsibility to use all possible tools to leverage better protection of civilians and adherence to international humanitarian law. Gaza's remaining lifeline – an internationally-funded humanitarian aid response – has been paralyzed by the intensity of the hostilities, which have included the shooting of aid convoys, recurrent communications blackouts, damaged roads, restrictions on essential supplies, an almost complete ban on commercial supplies, and a bureaucratic process to send aid into Gaza.

### **Destruction and civilian harm**

Israel's military activity has destroyed a substantial portion of Gaza's homes, schools, hospitals, water infrastructure, shelters, and refugee camps; the indiscriminate nature of these bombings and a pattern of apparently disproportionate civilian harm they routinely cause is unacceptable. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has [warned](#) of the "heightened risk of atrocity crimes" being committed in Gaza and called on all states to prevent such crimes from unfolding. Since this call, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has only deteriorated further:

- More than 33,000 Palestinians, at least 14,500 of them [children](#), have been [killed](#) over the last six months, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza. Thousands more are buried under the rubble and presumed dead.
- More than 75,000 people have been [injured](#), many with life-changing injuries that will leave them with permanent disabilities; these include more than 1,000 Palestinian [children](#) who have lost one or more of their upper or lower limbs.
- An unknown number of Palestinian civilians, reportedly including children, have been unlawfully detained, [according to the UN](#), and must be released.

- Palestinians continue to be killed nearly every day in areas the Israeli government told them to flee. In the first week of 2024, an Israeli airstrike [killed](#) 14 people – the majority children – near an area Israeli forces prescribed as a “humanitarian zone.”
- Over 70% of Gaza’s population, around 1.7 million people, has been forcibly [displaced](#). Many followed Israeli-issued orders to relocate south and are now being squeezed into tiny pockets of land that cannot sustain human life, which have become breeding ground for the spread of disease.

### **Children and families face starvation**

- Half of the population of Gaza - around 1.1 million Palestinians - are facing catastrophic levels of hunger and starvation, the highest number ever recorded by the technical humanitarian [body](#) responsible for making evidence-based assessments of food insecurity, with famine now [imminent](#) in northern Gaza. The entire population of the Gaza Strip - around 2.2 million people - are facing high levels of acute food insecurity.
- More than 70% of [Gaza’s homes](#), much of its schools, and its water and sanitation infrastructure have been destroyed or damaged and left the population with almost no access to clean water.
- Not a single medical facility in the enclave is [fully operational](#) and those partially functioning are overwhelmed with trauma cases and shortages of medical supplies and doctors. More than 489 [health workers](#) have been killed.
- At least [243 aid workers](#)\* in Gaza have been killed, the highest of any conflict in this century.

Gaza today is the most dangerous place to be a child, a journalist, and an aid worker. Hospitals and schools should never become battlegrounds. These conditions have created a situation of utter desperation inside Gaza, leading top aid officials to declare

that there are no longer the conditions for a meaningful humanitarian response in Gaza. This will not change until the siege, the bombardment and the fighting ends. In January, the United Nations [described](#) humanitarian access as a “significant deterioration.” Israeli forces have repeatedly denied permission for aid convoys to reach areas north of Wadi Gaza where people are at the highest risk of starvation.

In recent weeks, high ranking Israeli officials have begun calling for the deportation of Palestinian civilians out of Gaza. The forcible transfer within Gaza and deportation of a portion of the population across borders, lacking any guarantees of return, would constitute a serious violation of international law, amounting to an atrocity crime.

### **We demand an immediate ceasefire**

We demand an immediate ceasefire and call on all states to halt the transfer of weapons that can be used to commit violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. The UN Security Council must fulfill its responsibility to maintain global peace and security by adopting measures to halt the transfer of weapons to the Government of Israel and Palestinian armed groups and prevent the supply of arms that risk being used in the commission of international crimes, effective immediately.

All states have the obligation to prevent atrocity crimes and promote adherence to norms that protect civilians. The international community is long overdue to live up to these commitments.

### **Editor’s Note**

- This statement was initially published on 24 January 2024, with the endorsement of [16 humanitarian organisations](#). Since its publishing, more than 250 civil society organisations around the world have endorsed the call. This statement has been updated to reflect figures that are accurate as of 10 April 2024, including the numbers of people killed, including children, aid workers, and health

care workers, the number of those injured, and the latest figures in respect to food insecurity released by the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#).

- Since the original statement was published on 24 January 2024, the following events have occurred:
  - On 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued [provisional measures](#) in the case of the [Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip \(South Africa v. Israel\)](#).
  - On 12 February 2024, the Dutch Court [ordered](#) the government of Netherlands to stop supplying F35 fighter jet parts to Israel within seven days, due to the risk of serious violations of international humanitarian law.
  - On 23 February 2024, UN experts [released](#) a joint-statement stating that arms exports to Israel must stop immediately, stating, “The need for an arms embargo on Israel is heightened by the International Court of Justice’s ruling on 26 January 2024 that there is a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza and the continuing serious harm to civilians since then.”
  - On 25 March 2024, the UN Security Council [passed](#) Resolution 2728 demanding an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan.
  - On 28 March 2024, the ICJ issued [additional provisional measures](#) alongside observations of the court that “famine is setting in.”
  - On 5 April 2024, the UN Human Rights Council [passed](#) a resolution to “cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel, the occupying Power...to prevent further violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.”
- The [total number](#) of aid workers killed includes staff members of UN agencies, NGOs, as well as the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Figures on the annual

number of aid workers killed in other context can be found on the [Aid Worker Security Database](#).

## Undersigned

1	Federation Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion
2	War Child Alliance
3	Christian Aid
4	Norwegian People's Aid
5	Médecins du Monde International Network
6	Mennonite Central Committee
7	medico international
8	Oxfam
9	Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
10	Danish Refugee Council
11	Save the Children
12	Plan International
13	Norwegian Refugee Council
14	Diakonia
15	Amnesty International
16	American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
17	Welfare Association
18	War on Want
19	War Childhood Museum Foundation
20	Palestinian Farmers Union
21	WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
22	United Nations Association - UK
23	Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)
24	Human Rights Sentinel
25	IM Swedish Development Partner
26	Firefly International

27	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
28	Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) GE
29	Nonviolent Peaceforce
30	Peace Action
31	Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME)
32	Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation
33	France Palestine Mental Health Network
34	Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations
35	Syrian Network for Human Rights.
36	INGO ALG CONSULTANT GROUP
37	Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development
38	Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
39	Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)
40	The National Organization of Yemeni Reporters SADA
41	L'Union Juive Française pour la Paix (UJFP)
42	Development and Peace - Caritas Canada
43	EmpowerVan
44	Train of Hope Dortmund e.V.
45	Jewish Network for Palestine
46	مدافعات للحقوق والحريات والتنمية
47	PELDA
48	Ina outra senda - Swiss Friends of Combatants for Peace
49	Street Child UK
50	Polish Medical Mission
51	Peace SOS
52	Gender Advisory Team, Cyprus
53	Olof Palmes Internationella Center
54	Cordaid
55	Street Child España
56	Share The World's Resources

57	Church and Peace - Ecumenical Peace Church Network in Europe
58	ForcesWatch
59	Vredesactie
60	Terre des Hommes Netherlands
61	Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights
62	Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
63	Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine
64	PAX
65	EuroMed Rights
66	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
67	The Presbyterian Church in Canada
68	The United Church of Canada
69	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
70	CIUSSS Centre-Sud
71	Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
72	Business Plan for Peace
73	Secours Catholique - Caritas France
74	Danish Muslim Aid
75	Peace Direct
76	Belgian Academics and Artists for Palestine (BA4P)
77	Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions - UK
78	The Dallaire Institute for Children Peace and Security
79	Creatura Think & Do Tank
80	Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions - Germany
81	Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)
82	The Hague Peace Projects
83	Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
84	Nonviolence International
85	Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
86	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion



87	The Anglican Church of Canada/L'Eglise anglican du Canada
88	MADRE
89	Ekō
90	ReThinking Foreign Policy
91	International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) Germany
92	Initiatives et Changement (IofC France)
93	WeWorld
94	Pax Christi - Deutsche Sektion e.V.
95	Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte
96	Centre for Peace Research and Advocacy -CPRA
97	Equal Legal Aid
98	Young Christian Students Movement South Africa
99	Laurentiuskonvent e.V.
100	Socialist Movement of Ghana
101	Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation
102	Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation
103	Action Corps
104	EgyptWide for Human Rights
105	Pax Christi International
106	International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) - Greece
107	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
108	KAIROS Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
109	Committee of 100 in Finland
110	Khulumani Support Group
111	Amos Trust
112	Sanad Basra Organization for Human Rights
113	Association Pour Jérusalem (France)
114	Community of Christ
115	Avaaz
116	Christian Jewish Allies for a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine

117	Women Volunteers for Peace
118	Forum Computer Professionals for Peace and Societal Responsibility
119	Salam For Yemen
120	Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen e.V. (VDJ)
121	Association France Palestine Solidarite Paris-Sud
122	Culture de Palestine
123	Emmaus International
124	Kristna Fredsrörelsen / SweFOR
125	Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
126	Medical Association for Prevention of War
127	HelpAge International
128	Quakers in Scotland (General Meeting for Scotland)
129	Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e. V.
130	DAWN MENA
131	Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)
132	NVMP-Artsen voor vrede
133	ActionAid France
134	Pax Christi Scotland
135	Shujaa-Initiative
136	Pax Christi Italia
137	Pax Christi - Perú
138	Center for Jewish Nonviolence
139	Peace Movement Aotearoa
140	Center for Peace Education, Miriam College
141	Pax Christi England and Wales
142	Pax Christi Aotearoa NZ
143	Pax Christi Miriam College
144	Age International
145	Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict
146	Arms Information Centre (RIB e.V.)

147	Caritas International Belgium
148	Medact
149	Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
150	Feminist Humanitarian Network
151	Saferworld
152	Mwatana for Human Rights
153	The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
154	International Alert
155	CIVICUS
156	Internationaler Versöhnungsbund - Deutscher Zweig e.V.
157	Pax Christi USA
158	Caritas Internationalis
159	The United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society
160	Humance Heal For Human Rights
161	International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
162	Min Haqi Foundation to Empower Women Politically and Economically
163	Yoga and Sport with Refugees
164	Caesar Families Association
165	KinderUSA
166	Ocalenie Foundation
167	Aura Freedom International
168	Finnish-Arab Friendship Society
169	Street Child Italy
170	Rebuilding Alliance
171	Bildungsprojekt Sachsen im Klimawandel
172	Diversity Matters North West Ltd
173	Un Ponte Per
174	Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
175	Terre des Hommes Italy
176	Middle East Children's Alliance

177	Mercy Corps
178	Permanent Peace Movement
179	Seenaryo
180	Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (WPD Nepal)
181	Muslim Peace Fellowship
182	UCOS vzw (UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)
183	Protection International (PI)
184	Women's Right to Education Programme
185	Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative
186	IANSA Women Network Nigeria
187	Muslim Delegates and Allies Coalition
188	Mayworks Kjipuktuk/Halifax
189	Tamkeen for Legal Aid & Human Rights
190	Doctors Against Genocide
191	The Rights Forum
192	Women for Peace - Finland
193	Righting Relations Canada
194	Foyer du Monde
195	Bahrain Transparency
196	Rete Italiana Pace Disarmo
197	FundiPau
198	Control Arms
199	Climate Refugees
200	SOL Education Center
201	Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos - México
202	Daraj Media
203	Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL)
204	Mujeres para el Dialogo
205	Pastoral Social, Iglesia Anglicana de México

206	Asociación de familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos y Víctimas de Violaciones a los Derechos Humanos en México AFADEM-FEDEFAM
207	Anti-Prison Feminist Project - Sisters in the Shade (Mexico)
208	Servicio Paz y Justicia (serpaj)-mexico
209	Global Thought
210	American Baptist Churches USA
211	Sojourners
212	Migrant Roots Media
213	Citizens for Just Policy
214	PEOPLES FEDERATION FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (PEFENAP)
215	Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP)
216	Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas
217	Vision GRAM-International
218	The United Church of Christ
219	Caritas Middle East and North Africa
220	Comité pour une Paix Juste au Proche-Orient
221	BDS Berlin
222	SOMO (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations)
223	Women in Black - Austria
224	Collective Aid
225	ReFOCUS Media Labs - Poland
226	Fund for Global Human Rights
227	Omega Research Foundation
228	Women for Weapons Trade Transparency
229	United Against Inhumanity (UAI)
230	Episcopal Peace Fellowship-Palestine Israel Network
231	Terre des Hommes International Federation
232	CCFD-Terre Solidaire
233	COCASEN - Coalición Nacional Contra el Abuso Sexual
234	CARE International

235	Fundación Ser de Paz AC
236	Forum o Disarmament and Development of Sri Lanka
237	FTSCD(Forum Togolais de la Société civile pour le Développement)
238	Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
239	MPower Change Action Fund
240	Steirische Friedensplattform
241	Minnesota Peace Project
242	Académicos con Palestina contra el genocidio
243	International Rescue Committee
244	Fundación Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual
245	Broederlijk Delen
246	Coordinadora Galega de ONG para o Desenvolvemento
247	ARSIS Association for the Social Support of Youth
248	Churches for Middle East Peace
249	Educo - Spain
250	MENA Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (MENAPPAC)
251	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) - Lebanon
252	Entraide et Fraternité - Belgium

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