

Humanitarian work in Gaza is under siege



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Is an initiative launched by Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue Foundation, and consists of 500 development associations and organizations in 9 Governorates, in order to promote Human Rights conditions in Egypt, strengthen partnerships, and exchange experience.

The NGOs and institutions participating in the initiative were distributed in 9 governorates: Cairo, Gharbia, Beheira, Alexandria, Beni Suef, Sohag, Luxor, Qena and Aswan. Facebook Site:

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Introduction

On October 7, the Israeli occupation army began launching violent attacks and air raids on the Gaza Strip, committing brutal massacres, war crimes, genocide, and ethnic cleansing against civilians, hours after the Palestinian resistance carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on the settlements surrounding the Gaza Strip. Since that time, the Israeli occupation army forces have committed grave violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law against the people of the Gaza Strip, as they launched numerous indiscriminate air strikes that wiped out entire neighborhoods and killed 8,005 martyrs, including 3,342 children, 2,062 women, and 460 elderly people, in addition to wounding approximately more than 20,000 citizens sustained various injuries, and raids targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure, including the destruction of high-rise towers that housed many families and institutions, without the presence of clear military targets in the vicinity.

It also imposed a complete siege on the narrow, crowded Strip, which is inhabited by 2.3 million people, and closed the crossings leading to the Gaza Strip, thus preventing any humanitarian aid from reaching the population living in the Strip, which led to an escalation of economic pressure on the Gaza Strip. This humanitarian aid provided by countries and international governmental and non-governmental organizations represents a lifeline for many of those who were stranded due to that war, and many of them have become in dire need of the necessary needs necessary to sustain life, including food and medical supplies, potable water, fuel, blankets, furnishings, and others.

The occupation government also cut off electricity supplies and stopped the flow of water, food, and fuel, which led to a severe shortage of basic materials such as energy, food, and water, and the depletion of reserves of these materials, which costs many civilian lives on a daily basis. The occupation government's cessation of supplying electricity to the Gaza Strip led to the only Gaza power generation station in the Strip stopping operation. The Ministry of Health had previously warned of the seriousness of the health situation in the Gaza Strip, due to Israel's prevention of fuel from reaching power plants, which will cause the entire health system to be disrupted, expose the Strip to a humanitarian catastrophe, and leave two million and 200 thousand citizens without health services. According to the Water Authority, the water supply rate decreased to 40% after Israel cut off the

water supply rate, and the power outage led to the desalination plants in northern Gaza and the Central Governorate stopping work.

As a result of these violations and the continuous obstructions to aid carried out by the army and occupation authorities, the sector has become living in a tragic situation that requires the continued introduction of humanitarian, medical and food aid to the population. Most hospitals have announced that they are no longer able to treat patients, whether as a result of being bombed or due to a lack of fuel and medical equipment. 12 out of 35 hospitals have practically stopped working. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Red Crescent said on October 20 that it had received warnings from the Israeli authorities to immediately evacuate Al-Quds Hospital in the Gaza Strip, and added in a statement on Facebook that the vicinity of Al-Quds Hospital had been witnessing, since the morning hours, continuous raids that led to the destruction of the surrounding buildings within a 50-metre radius. Doctors Without Borders also confirmed that some surgeries are performed without general anesthesia for patients due to the lack of anesthetic drugs.

With many buildings turning into rubble and difficulty finding shelter, and Gazans suffering from a lack of food, water, fuel and medicine, their ordeal has worsened since the night of Friday, October 27, when communications and Internet services were cut off, and the communications interruption continued until Sunday, October 29. While Israel confirmed the expansion of its ground operations amid intense and unprecedented bombardment, the most violent since the start of the aggression. The besieged residents of Gaza faced an almost complete blackout of communications and the Internet, with Israeli warplanes dropping bombs and the entry of its forces and armored vehicles into the Strip.

This has exacerbated the already deteriorating situation by obstructing life-saving operations and preventing humanitarian relief organizations from contacting their employees. Humanitarian operations and hospital activities cannot continue without communications. Cutting off communication has limited the ability to communicate with ambulances to rescue the wounded in Israeli bombing, and the inability of crews to communicate with them. The ambulance and civil defense were able to accurately identify the targeted areas and head to them to recover the dead and wounded. Sometimes, civilian cars would wait for the hospital to arrive to report the bombing sites, so they would then head to them. The Palestinian Red Crescent announced that it had lost contact with its operations center and all its teams in the Gaza Strip, due to the Israeli authorities cutting off wireless and

cellular communications and the Internet. This affects the central emergency hotline 101 and impedes the arrival of ambulances to the injured in light of the continuing raids. It expressed its deep concern about the ability of the doctors. To continue providing care under these circumstances, as well as to the safety of its employees.

In light of the above and what was monitored of the obstacles and restrictions that humanitarian relief organizations were subjected to in the period from October 7 to October 30 by the occupation army and the Israeli government to prevent the humanitarian aid provided by these organizations from reaching the Gaza Strip, this can be summarized as follows:

- **The Israeli government imposed a complete siege on the Gaza Strip since October 8**, and closed the crossings through which humanitarian aid enters the Gaza Strip before October 7. It closed the Rafah crossing with Egypt, and the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel. In a clear intention to kill innocent civilians in the Gaza Strip who are in dire need of this basic aid, such as food, water, medicine and fuel, in order to survive during the harsh and deadly conditions imposed by the Israeli government on the Strip from October 7 until now, and in clear violation of it. All international treaties and laws recognize the necessity of delivering humanitarian aid to civilians during times of war. Israel also threatened to bomb any humanitarian aid through the Rafah crossing on October 12, after it launched large-scale air strikes on the Gaza Strip and then targeted the Rafah crossing itself on October 10, twice within 24 hours. The strike was able to destroy the entrance to the crossing, as an affirmation of its seriousness in continuing the Illegal siege to the Gaza Strip.
- **The Israeli army forces also struck and bombed many civilian facilities affiliated with the United Nations and UNRWA**, including hospitals, schools, and shelters for those displaced from the war, which civilians fleeing the scourge of war took refuge in. They killed unarmed civilians and a large number of employees of relief organizations brutally and criminally, in order to hinder the work of these organizations in providing civilians with aid and protecting them in these shelters, and in order to weaken the capabilities and abilities of these organizations to be unable to provide any aid to the sector again due to the weakness in their financial capabilities after

the losses they incurred as a result of the destruction of their facilities and the killing of their employees, despite the fact that all facilities of the United Nations is protected under international law and must never be attacked under any circumstances. Therefore, it is easy for them to impose a siege on civilians in the Gaza Strip, get rid of them, and take their lives in the most horrific ways, whether by killing, bombing, or depriving them of the basic needs of life.

- **After the false action taken by the Israeli government to open the Rafah crossing, it imposed extremely strict inspection procedures on aid coming through the crossing at the Nitsana** crossing between Israel and Egypt, about 40 km from Rafah, for trucks coming from Egypt to Gaza, in order to further slow down the flow of aid. Humanitarian aid, and the arrival of very small amounts of aid into the Gaza Strip are not enough for the residents of the Gaza Strip to pretend to the international community that they are not blocking aid and have opened the crossing; Because the international community began urging it to allow the entry of aid and open the crossing in the past days after many relief organizations issued distress messages about their inability to deliver aid to the Strip, but at the same time, in a cunning way, it slows down its entry so that seriously affected citizens are unable to obtain aid in the right time, and many of them lose their lives before medicine and food reach them. The occupation has succeeded in reducing the amount of aid actually entering Gaza, as only 117 humanitarian aid trucks were able to enter Gaza from October 21 to October 29, and the largest number of aid trucks crossed on the evening of Sunday, October 29, into the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing, which were 33 humanitarian and medical aid trucks. The Strip currently needs approximately 200 trucks per day to provide the basic needs of the people of Gaza. Before the siege, about 500 trucks carrying aid and other goods entered the Gaza Strip daily.
- **The occupation forces also launch violent attacks indiscriminately on all areas and crossings in the Gaza Strip**, without prior warning, and without specifying safe corridors for humanitarian aid to pass through, which hinders the work of many organizations, as they are unable to find a safe route through which aid can arrive. Without fear of being bombed, and their employees being exposed to danger, they would stop providing the Strip with their humanitarian assistance. In addition, the roads in the Gaza Strip were severely damaged and the infrastructure was completely destroyed due

to the continuous bombing, which constitutes a difficulty in delivering products and aid to the Gaza Strip, and a difficulty in the movement of the people of the Gaza Strip to obtain food.

- **The occupation forces prevent the entry of fuel, and only allow very small quantities** under the pretext that Hamas will exploit this fuel to make weapons and explosives, but in reality they deliberately withhold fuel from the Gaza Strip in order to harm civilians in the Strip and prevent them from humanitarian aid, because the trucks that receive and deliver food supplies which enters through the Rafah crossing and runs on fuel, in addition to using it in bakeries to provide food to the people of the Strip and its importance to hospitals and water pumping and desalination stations, and thus it also deprives them of food production and access to water and health services, so they are unable to obtain their basic needs from inside or outside via the organizations provide them with aid to slowly eliminate the people of the Gaza Strip.
- **On Friday, October 27, the Israeli government cut off communications and Internet services in the Strip** and intensified its air strikes, in an attempt to obstruct the humanitarian response to civilians in the Gaza Strip by hospitals and organizations and block them from the outside world. The organizations lost communication with their employees and were unable to deliver medical aid to the injured, treat them, and control the situation. Ambulance and civil defense crews also lost the ability to identify target locations to recover victims and transport them to hospitals. It was a diabolical plan by the occupation in order to be able to exterminate the largest possible number of people in the Gaza Strip in light of their being cut off from the world and the aid that could save their lives, and to make it more difficult to obtain necessary information and evidence related to human rights violations and war crimes committed against Palestinian civilians in Gaza. And listen directly to those who are subjected to these violations.
- **The occupation army also intimidates employees of relief organizations and kill them and their families** along with the people of Gaza. Some of them are forced to flee outside the Gaza Strip, for fear of the crimes of the occupation army and the lack of guarantees for their safety and protection during the war. Which leads to the inability of organizations to deliver their assistance to the sector due to their inability to coordinate the situation

within the sector after they lost a large portion of their workers due to their death or displacement.

The occupation forces violated the provisions of the Geneva Convention, which stipulates the necessity of delivering humanitarian aid to civilians in times of war:

Article (23) states that:

Each High Contracting Party shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital stores and objects necessary for religious worship intended only for civilians of another High Contracting Party, even if the latter is its adversary. It shall likewise permit the free passage of all consignments of essential foodstuffs, clothing and tonics intended for children under fifteen, expectant mothers and maternity cases.

Article (55) stipulates that:

To the fullest extent of the means available to it the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring the food and medical supplies of the population; it should, in particular, bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other articles if the resources of the occupied territory are inadequate.

The Occupying Power may not requisition foodstuffs, articles or medical supplies available in the occupied territory, except for use by the occupation forces and administration personnel, and then only if the requirements of the civilian population have been taken into account. Subject to the provisions of other international Conventions, the Occupying Power shall make arrangements to ensure that fair value is paid for any requisitioned goods.

The Protecting Power shall, at any time, be at liberty to verify the state of the food and medical supplies in occupied territories, except where temporary restrictions are made necessary by imperative military requirements.

Article 59 stipulates that:

If the whole or part of the population of an occupied territory is inadequately supplied, the Occupying Power shall agree to relief schemes on behalf of the said population, and shall facilitate them by all the means at its disposal.

Such schemes, which may be undertaken either by States or by impartial humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross,

shall consist, in particular, of the provision of consignments of foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing.

All Contracting Parties shall permit the free passage of these consignments and shall guarantee their protection.

A Power granting free passage to consignments on their way to territory occupied by an adverse Party to the conflict shall, however, have the right to search the consignments, to regulate their passage according to prescribed times and routes, and to be reasonably satisfied through the Protecting Power that these consignments are to be used for the relief of the needy population and are not to be used for the benefit of the Occupying Power.

Article 60 stipulates that:

Relief consignments shall in no way relieve the Occupying Power of any of its responsibilities under Articles 55, 56 and 59. The Occupying Power shall in no way whatsoever divert relief consignments from the purpose for which they are intended, except in cases of urgent necessity, in the interests of the population of the occupied territory and with the consent of the Protecting Power.

Article 61 stipulates that:

The distribution of the relief consignments referred to in the foregoing Articles shall be carried out with the cooperation and under the supervision of the Protecting Power. This duty may also be delegated, by agreement between the Occupying Power and the Protecting Power, to a neutral Power, to the International Committee of the Red Cross or to any other impartial humanitarian body.

Such consignments shall be exempt in occupied territory from all charges, taxes or customs duties unless these are necessary in the interests of the economy of the territory. The Occupying Power shall facilitate the rapid distribution of these consignments.

All Contracting Parties shall endeavour to permit the transit and transport, free of charge, of such relief consignments on their way to occupied territories.

Article 62 stipulates that:

Subject to imperative reasons of security, protected persons in occupied territories shall be permitted to receive the individual relief consignments sent to them.

Article 63 stipulates that:

Subject to temporary and exceptional measures imposed for urgent reasons of security by the Occupying Power:

- (a) Recognized National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies shall be able to pursue their activities in accordance with Red Cross principles, as defined by the International Red Cross Conferences. Other relief societies shall be permitted to continue their humanitarian activities under similar conditions;
- (b) The Occupying Power may not require any changes in the personnel or structure of these societies, which would prejudice the aforesaid activities.

The same principles shall apply to the activities and personnel of special organizations of a non-military character, which already exist or which may be established, for the purpose of ensuring the living conditions of the civilian population by the maintenance of the essential public utility services, by the distribution of relief and by the organization of rescues.

Monitoring complaints from relief organizations about their inability to deliver aid to the sector due to the restrictions imposed on them by the occupation government:

– United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

October 19:

UNFPA sends life-saving reproductive health medicines and supplies to Egypt for storage and transport across the border to Gaza when possible. As of October 22, 3,000 hygiene kits containing hygiene supplies for women and girls have been delivered to the Egyptian Red Crescent Society for distribution in Gaza, with additional kits being prepared.

October 28:

With communications cut off in Gaza, UNFPA is unable to communicate with its staff in Gaza, and is deeply concerned for their safety and the safety of the women and girls we serve. This includes thousands of pregnant women, new mothers and newborns who are unable to access basic health care services.

UNFPA calls for the protection of all civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including healthcare facilities, health workers and patients, the protection of

humanitarian workers, the unconditional release of all hostages and the rule of international humanitarian law.

UNFPA also joins the calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the delivery of sufficient life-saving humanitarian supplies to respond to the urgent needs of the population in Gaza.

In the face of this urgent test of humanity, international solidarity and peace must prevail.

– **Palestinian Red Crescent Society:**

October 28:

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said, on Friday, October 27, that it had “completely” cut off contact with the operations room in the Gaza Strip and with all its crews working there.

The association continued in a statement published on the “X” social media network, saying: “An alarming situation has developed in Gaza, as we have lost contact with our crews on the ground.” Pointing out that “communication was cut off as the Israeli authorities completely cut off landline, cellular and Internet communications networks.”

October 29:

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said on Sunday, October 29, that “the Israeli army is deliberately launching missiles directly next to Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza on an ongoing basis, with the aim of forcing the medical staff, displaced people, and patients to evacuate the hospital.”

The association explained, in a statement, that the occupation raids “caused severe damage to the hospital departments, and exposed families and patients to suffocation.”

Earlier on Sunday, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said that it had received a “strongly worded threat” from the Israeli occupation army to “immediately evacuate Al-Quds Hospital in the Gaza Strip in preparation for its bombing.” It stated in a statement, “We received strong threats from the occupation forces to immediately evacuate Al-Quds Hospital in the Gaza Strip, as it will be bombed.” The Palestinian Red Crescent indicated that, “Since the morning hours, the vicinity of Al-Quds Hospital has witnessed continuous raids.”

– Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO):

October 13:

Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings remain closed due to hostilities. The referral of patients and their companions from the Gaza Strip to their scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel has been unsuccessful since October 7. Gazan workers inside Israel were unable to return to it. The Rafah crossing with Egypt remained closed to the movement of individuals and goods for the fourth day in a row. On October 9 and 10, Israeli forces launched several air strikes on the Palestinian side of the crossing, leading to its closure.

All humanitarian agencies and their staff face severe constraints in providing humanitarian assistance. The prevailing insecurity prevents safe access to people in need and essential facilities, such as warehouses. At least 23 humanitarian workers, including 11 health workers and 12 UNRWA staff, have been killed since the start of hostilities. Operations were also disrupted by movement restrictions, import bans, power outages, and shortages of fuel, water supplies and other essential supplies. Distributing aid to displaced people who are not in UNRWA shelter centers is particularly complex.

– United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA):

October 18:

The WHO Monitoring System for Attacks on Health Care has recorded 56 attacks on health care facilities since the outbreak of hostilities, with 16 health workers killed and 28 injured while on duty. At least 15 UNRWA employees were also killed.

The closure of the Kerem Shalom and Erez crossings and the commercial crossing on the Allenby Bridge poses challenges to the entry of food into Gaza.

October 19:

The Rafah crossing with Egypt remains closed, preventing the entry of urgently needed humanitarian aid, including food, water and medicine. It is estimated that more than 200 trucks carrying approximately 3,000 tons of goods are located at or near the crossing.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed. Referring patients and their companions to leave the Gaza Strip in order to reach their scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel has been suspended since October 7.

October 20:

Work is underway to prepare hundreds of trucks loaded with goods to enter Gaza from Egypt, where it was decided to deliver more than 3,000 tons of aid under United Nations supervision through the Rafah crossing, which remains closed for the tenth day in a row.

The UN Secretary-General, who was speaking on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing on October 20, noted that there are preliminary agreements between Egypt and Israel regarding opening the crossing to humanitarian aid, but there is a need to overcome the conditions and obstacles that still remain.

The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel also remain closed. Referring patients and their companions to leave the Gaza Strip in order to reach their scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel has been suspended since October 7.

October 21:

For the first time since October 8, the Rafah crossing with Egypt was opened for the passage of a limited number of trucks. The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel are still closed. Patients have not been referred to attend their scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel since October 7.

October 24:

The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process said: In his speech before a council session: What is happening in the occupied Palestinian territories has exacted a huge toll on civilians, and the Israeli air attack continues to this day and has targeted 5,000 sites, and on October 8, the Minister of Defense announced the siege. Complete control over Gaza, preventing the entry of food and all goods, including electricity, water, and medical materials, and the bombing of air strikes had a horrific effect and led to the massive killing of Palestinians, the majority of whom were civilians. To date, the Palestinian Ministry of Health has reported the death of 5,000 Palestinians, and the levels of displacement have become unprecedented.

October 24:

The Rafah crossing with Egypt was closed starting at 11 pm on October 24. A number of trucks loaded with humanitarian supplies, which were expected to enter, are still parked at the Nitsana crossing between Israel and Egypt (about 40 kilometers south of Rafah) to undergo security checks by the Israeli authorities. The Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings with Israel remain closed. Patients have not been referred to attend their scheduled medical appointments in the West Bank and Israel since October 7. More than 4,000 workers from the Gaza Strip have remained stranded in Israel since that day. The Israeli authorities arrested some of them and transferred others to public shelters in the West Bank.

The Israeli army still prohibits access to the sea, and all fishing activities have stopped since the outbreak of hostilities. Access to areas near the Israeli border fence remains prohibited and has been expanded to 300 meters to 1,000 meters from the border, preventing access to vast tracts of agricultural land. Expanding this area leads to a decrease in crop yields and harms hundreds of thousands of people who work to harvest the crops.

All humanitarian agencies and their staff face severe constraints in providing humanitarian assistance due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions, and shortages of electricity, fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. Humanitarian partner organizations cannot safely reach people in need and the warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

Since the outbreak of hostilities, at least 16 health workers have been killed while on duty, along with 35 UNRWA staff.

October 27:

The Humanitarian Coordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory said:

For the 18th day in a row, Gaza continues to suffer from a complete power outage. This came after Israel cut off electricity, fuel, and water supplies to Gaza. Backup generators for many essential services, including hospitals, water desalination plants and food production, stop one by one due to fuel shortages. Inevitably, the health system is on the verge of collapse. A third of hospitals and nearly two-thirds of primary health care clinics in Gaza have already closed due to war damage and fuel shortages.

The areas have seen some improvements in drinking water supply over the past few days. But people only have access to brackish or salty groundwater. The majority of water available to people in Gaza comes from the ground. It is very salty and needs desalination, which cannot happen without fuel for generators. We have seen some truck deliveries begin. They started on October 21, and we've received about 74 trucks, and we're expecting another eight or so to arrive. For comparison, there were 450 trucks entering Gaza before October 7. This was under some very strict restrictions in terms of the ability of goods to enter Gaza. The number is now down to approximately 12 trucks. The number of trucks decreased from 450 to 12 trucks. At the same time, it has become difficult to access any type of drinking water or electricity, which means that we need to save fuel and water, which we never had to do before.

October 27:

All humanitarian agencies and their staff face severe constraints in providing humanitarian assistance due to ongoing hostilities, movement restrictions, power outages, and shortages of fuel, water, medicines and other essential items. Humanitarian partner organizations cannot safely reach people in need and the warehouses where aid supplies are stored.

During the past 24 hours, UNRWA confirmed that 14 additional employees were killed as a result of hostilities, bringing the total number of those killed to 53 employees, since October 7. One of these employees, a father of six children, was killed while waiting in line to get bread.

– World Food Program:

October 13:

Samer Abdel Jaber, World Food Program Representative and Country Director in Palestine, said that the situation in the Gaza Strip is catastrophic, as food is running out, bakeries have stopped working, electricity and clean water are cut off, and fuel supplies are scarce.

He said that he did not want to imagine what might happen if an agreement was not reached to secure humanitarian corridors to the Gaza Strip, stressing that 2.4 million people “are at risk of not having the most basic human rights in terms of food, water, medicine, and health.” He confirmed that there were no casualties among them. The program staff so far said that their situation is very difficult.

He talked about that they cannot correctly estimate how long he is talking about before the food supplies run out because yesterday they were estimating that there was enough in the markets in Gaza for two or three weeks, but now even the mills have been damaged due to the lack of imports, the power outage, and the lack of fuel needed to operate. The situation is getting worse rapidly.

He said: Suddenly today we actually found ourselves in a humanitarian crisis. Clear supply lines have not yet been secured, and there is not enough food inside the Gaza Strip. The places north of the Strip that have been declared necessary to evacuate may include warehouses, bakeries, shops, etc., and we do not know whether their owners will be able to move their goods if they are displaced.

We want our staff to have the ability to conduct field surveys of needs, but the staff themselves are in a difficult situation of displacement. I have no idea how long there will be food or water. Even in shelters, we had difficulty delivering food and water two days ago. Today we were able to reach shelters in the south, but bakeries will stop working.

He also expressed their desire to find a humanitarian crossing that meets the needs to bring urgent and safe aid into the Gaza Strip. What they need is very simple: two things. First, it facilitates the access of humanitarian aid, including food supplies, which Gaza desperately needs. The other thing is the security and protection of humanitarian staff and their partners so that they can reach people who need aid, whether it's food, medical, water supplies, fuel, anything.

October 23:

The spokeswoman for the World Food Program in Palestine, Alia Zaki, said that the humanitarian aid that has entered Gaza so far constitutes a very small percentage compared to the size of the needs in the Strip. She also pointed out the challenges faced by bakeries that work with the program in light of the scarcity of fuel.

She added that without fuel, hospitals or bakeries would not function, noting that “there are only 4 bakeries operating” in the entire sector, after there were 23 working with the program at the beginning of the escalation. She stated that the program “reduced the rations that each person receives per day” in order to reach the largest number of people. The program focuses on delivering aid to UNRWA shelters and schools, but Zaki confirmed that they are now working on a plan to reach people outside shelters and schools. The UN official reiterated the

importance of protecting civilians and relief workers and not exposing them to danger.

October 24:

“We have supplies at the Gaza border and we are ready to move them, but we need to be let in to do that,” said World Food Program Director Cindy McCain. “I cannot repeat this enough: We need to be let in.” “And we need that now.” There are many aid organizations waiting to be allowed into Gaza. The World Food Program is the largest of them, and the organization alone has 951 metric tons of food ready to go near the border with Gaza in Egypt, which is enough to feed 488,000 people for a week, according to a report on the emergency response issued by the organization on Wednesday.

In this regard, McCain said: So far, we have provided emergency food aid to hundreds of thousands of people, but stocks are starting to run out, and day after day the work is getting more difficult. The World Food Program also has huge food stocks in the West Bank and Jerusalem that can be used to feed hungry Palestinians in Gaza. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he would not allow any aid to go from Israel to Gaza until Hamas released all the hostages it was holding.

October 27:

The program warned in a statement, Friday, October 27, that the catastrophic conditions facing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip “may be exacerbated by the severe fuel shortage, which threatens to halt food aid and other relief operations inside the Strip.”

The program stressed that without additional fuel supplies, “bakeries that work with the World Food Program will not be able to produce bread,” noting that if they stop working, this will be “a painful blow to thousands of families.” The program stressed that the residents of the Gaza Strip need continuous assistance at a level consistent with the enormous needs to alleviate suffering and enable the delivery of the necessary aid for life.

He pointed out that “fuel is not only necessary for bakeries, but also for the trucks that receive and deliver food supplies that enter through the Rafah crossing, in addition to its importance for hospitals and water pumping and desalination stations.”

Gaza was receiving about 500 trucks of food and other supplies daily before October 7, including 45 fuel trucks to operate the Strip's cars, water desalination plants and bakeries, according to what the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the near east (UNRWA) Philip Lazzarini said in an article. Published in The Guardian newspaper, Thursday. As needs increase, the program is reviewing its funding needs upward and estimates that it will need at least \$100 million over the next 90 days to continue responding to the emergency, according to the statement.

October 27:

Cindy McCain, Director of the United Nations World Food Programme, said: On Thursday, the excessively stringent inspection of trucks at the Rafah crossing from Egypt to Gaza severely slowed the flow of humanitarian aid.

The Egyptian-controlled Rafah crossing has become the main point for delivering aid since Israel imposed a complete blockade on Gaza. The United States is leading negotiations with Israel, Egypt, and the United Nations in an attempt to establish a resilient mechanism to deliver aid to Gaza. The controversy revolves around aid inspection procedures and bombing operations on the Gaza side of the border.

On this point, McCain explained: We got a little bit from the trucks. We need to enter large quantities. We need safe, unrestricted access to Gaza so we can feed people and make sure they don't starve, because that's what's happening. Limited shipments of food, water and medicine have entered since Saturday, but fuel has not been allowed in because Israel fears the fuel shipments will be diverted to Hamas according to her saying. The last batch of relief aid was the fifth that entered Gaza, via the Rafah crossing, on Wednesday, loaded with food supplies and medical supplies, bringing the total shipments that crossed into Gaza to 62 trucks since last Saturday.

October 27:

The representative of the World Food Program in Palestine, Samer Abdel Jaber, said that the "severe fuel shortage" may force the program to stop providing emergency food aid to thousands of displaced families in the Gaza Strip, which is besieged by Israel.

Abdul Jaber added in a statement, "Only two of the bakeries contracted with us have fuel to produce bread at the present time, and there may not be any fuel in

them tomorrow.” He continued, “This will be a painful blow to thousands of families who live in shelters and depend on the bread provided to them daily.”

He said that the program provides daily supplies of bread to about 200,000 people living in shelters on average, but this number decreased to 150,000 on Wednesday due to fuel shortages.

He added, “Basic food commodities are quickly running out in Gaza’s stores,” given the inability of these stores to obtain products “due to damaged roads, safety concerns, and fuel shortages.”

October 29:

Most humanitarian aid in Gaza has stopped, and there is no communication between the different groups providing aid, said Abeer Atifa, a spokeswoman for the World Food Programme. She added that movement from one area to another has also stopped, and there is a severe shortage of fuel, and therefore the situation is difficult in all its forms, as there is a cut in communications and a major escalation in Israeli military operations and the targeting of all facilities.

She continued: "Before the recent events, the stock in the shops was sufficient for more than a few days, and now most of these foodstuffs may have completely run out of the shops. Also, due to the fuel shortage, there has been a severe shortage in the provision of bread. She continued: Before these events, we were dealing with In Gaza, there are 23 bakeries, and now there are only two bakeries continuing to operate, and therefore the events are difficult and talking about them is also difficult, because what is happening in the Gaza Strip is more difficult than any humanitarian crisis in the recent period.”

– UNRWA Organization:

October 11:

In a statement from the organization, it is with great sadness that I confirm the killing of 11 fellow UNRWA employees and workers in the Gaza Strip since October 7.

These workers include five teachers in UNRWA schools, a gynecologist, an engineer, a psychological counselor, and three support staff. Some of them were killed in their homes with their families. UNRWA mourns this loss and shares the grief of our colleagues and their families.

UN personnel and civilians must be protected at all times during conflict. We call for an end to the fighting to save more civilian lives.”

October 18:

In a statement by the organization, I appeal to the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation who meet today to firmly and without restrictions support the humanitarian efforts aimed at protecting civilians in Gaza.

Even as this appeal is being formulated, horrific images continue to emerge from Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza where more than 500 people were killed last night. Yesterday, an UNRWA school was also hit (the bombing of an UNRWA school) housing 4,000 displaced people, killing at least six people and wounding dozens.

UNRWA has tragically lost 14 staff members to date, and most of our 13,000 staff have been displaced within Gaza. Not even a single shipment of aid has been allowed to enter Gaza since the beginning of this conflict due to the complete blockade imposed on the Strip. People are forced to drink water that is not fit for human consumption, simply because clean drinking water is not available. Stocks of food, hygiene materials and medicines are rapidly dwindling. We are on the verge of a major crisis in the health and sanitation sector.

Against this background, I request your urgent support for the following:

First, we must reiterate the rule of international humanitarian law, with an immediate cessation of attacks targeting civilians and civilian objects, including UN personnel, humanitarian workers and facilities. It must be emphasized that all United Nations facilities are protected under international law and must never be attacked under any circumstances.

Second, there is an urgent need to ensure humanitarian access. This can be achieved through an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to allow, without any delay, safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid.

Third, UNRWA must receive adequate resources. The agency is underfunded by \$100 million in its core budget this year.

October 21:

Since the start of the war on 7 October, at least 35 UNRWA facilities have been damaged so far, some of which were hit by direct strikes.

We are deeply saddened to receive continuing reports of civilian deaths in Gaza, including UNRWA staff. So far, 17 of our colleagues have been confirmed killed in this fierce war. Unfortunately, the actual numbers are likely to be higher. Some of our employees have been killed along with their families while sleeping in their beds at home.

Words cannot describe the levels of condemnation for all the atrocities and violations, everywhere. I reiterate the non-negotiable legal obligations of all parties to the conflict to protect the lives of civilians, wherever they are, at all times, and to refrain from attacks on civilian facilities, including schools, hospitals, places of worship and civilian homes, including the homes of UNRWA staff. These are basic moral imperatives of our collective humanity.

October 22:

In three days, UNRWA will run out of fuel, which is critical to our humanitarian response across the Gaza Strip. Without fuel, there would be no water, no hospitals and functioning bakeries. Without fuel, aid will not reach many civilians who need it most. Without fuel, there will be no humanitarian assistance.

The lack of fuel will lead to further restrictions on children, women and the population of Gaza.

“UNRWA is the largest humanitarian actor in the Gaza Strip. Without fuel, we will fail the people of Gaza, whose needs are growing by the hour, under our watch. This cannot and should not happen.”

“I call on all parties and those with influence over them to immediately allow fuel supplies into the Gaza Strip and strictly ensure fuel use to prevent the collapse of the humanitarian response.”

“UNRWA is currently sheltering more than half a million people out of about a million displaced people throughout the Gaza Strip.”

“I welcome yesterday’s convoy to Gaza, the first in two weeks of a very tight blockade affecting two million people. However, it is far from sufficient. To be meaningful, Gaza needs a continuous and expanded humanitarian supply line.”

October 27:

As we speak, people are dying in Gaza. They die from bombs and raids. Soon, many more will die from the consequences of the blockade imposed on the Gaza

Strip. Basic services are collapsing. The medicine is running out. Food and water are running out. The streets of Gaza began to overflow with sewage. Gaza is on the verge of a massive health threat, with disease risks looming large. A few days ago, I warned that we would not be able to continue our humanitarian operations if we did not receive fuel supplies. My warning still stands. Over the past few days, UNRWA has significantly reduced its fuel consumption. This has been expensive. Our team had to make difficult decisions that no humanitarian worker should have to make. What needs support most? bakeries? Life support machines in hospitals? waterworks? They all need fuel to function.

The blockade means that food, water and fuel - basic commodities - are used to punish more than two million people collectively, the majority of whom include children and women. There have been intense negotiations and endless shuttle diplomacy to open a humanitarian supply line. So far, these have yielded only a few aid convoys. This will not change the fact that Gaza is being suffocated. The people of Gaza feel outcast, isolated and abandoned. Over the past week, I have closely followed the focus on the number of trucks entering Gaza. Many of us saw these trucks as a glimmer of hope. However, this has become a distraction. These few trucks are nothing more than crumbs that will not make a difference for two million people. We must avoid conveying the message that a few trucks a day means the blockade on humanitarian aid has been lifted. it's not like that. The current system in place is headed towards failure. What is needed is a meaningful and uninterrupted flow of aid. To succeed, we need a humanitarian ceasefire to ensure this aid reaches those in need. That's not a lot to ask for.

Civilians have already paid a heavy price, with more than a million people displaced, entire neighborhoods leveled, thousands killed, and thousands injured with almost no access to hospitals. This all happened under our watch.

Every day becomes a sad day for the United Nations and UNRWA as the number of our colleagues killed increases. Today, at least 53 of my colleagues have been confirmed dead. We received confirmations that 15 of them were killed in one day. They are mothers and fathers. Amazing people who dedicated their lives to their communities. If they were not in Gaza, they would be your neighbors. A colleague died while on his way to get bread from a bakery. He left behind six children.

It pains me that humanitarian aid, a very basic right of people, is constantly being questioned while at the same time despair is being broadcast right under our noses. My colleagues in Gaza report that the last remaining public services are collapsing,

our aid operation is collapsing, and, for the first time ever, people are now suffering from hunger. Civil order is collapsing, and anger is starting to be directed at my colleagues. How long can we last? Not more than a few days.

October 29:

The UNRWA Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees warned of chaos after thousands in Gaza stormed aid warehouses and distribution centers and took flour and supplies. On Sunday, October 29, UNRWA reported that thousands of people stormed aid warehouses in Gaza to take food and other basic items.

The international agency UNRWA warned in a statement of the seriousness of this step: “This is a worrying sign that the civil order has begun to collapse after 3 weeks of war and the tightening siege on Gaza.”

The World Food Program stressed that the residents of the Gaza Strip need assistance to be provided continuously and at a level consistent with the enormous needs to alleviate suffering and enable the delivery of the necessary aid for life.

October 29:

UNRWA warned on Sunday of the spread of chaos in the Gaza Strip after its warehouses and food aid distribution centers were looted.

The United Nations agency announced in a statement that “thousands of people stormed several UNRWA warehouses and distribution centers in the central and southern Gaza Strip,” adding, “It is a worrying indicator that the civil order has begun to collapse after three weeks of war and the siege imposed on Gaza.”

UNRWA called for the necessity of a regular and steady flow of humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip, because the mass displacement of residents from the north to the south of the Strip has increased the burden on public services. The UN agency also indicated that the humanitarian aid arriving in Gaza from Egypt is insufficient.

– Doctors Without Borders (MSF):

October 27:

Our activities in Gaza are currently very limited, as we face severe difficulties in delivering aid and providing health care in light of the insecurity and unpredictability of the bombing. While some of our colleagues have decided to head to the south of the Strip following the unacceptable evacuation order for

northern Gaza, others have remained in northern Gaza where they continue to support life-saving activities at Al-Shifa Hospital as well as Al-Nasser Hospital in the south. As for Al Awda Hospital, an MSF team consisting of seven people works in the MSF inpatient department.

We also support local health authorities with donations from our medical stock. In light of the continuous influx of large numbers of wounded since the beginning of the war, Al-Shifa Hospital, the main surgical facility in the Gaza Strip, was on the verge of completely running out of essential medicines. In response we were finally able to donate a large medical stock, including medicines and medical equipment to the hospital.

Our team is working hard to prepare medical and humanitarian supplies to be sent to Gaza when safe access is guaranteed and open, and we will send emergency teams if and when we are able to do so.

MSF is committed to supporting people affected by the heavy Israeli bombing and indiscriminate attacks on Gaza, and we stand in solidarity with healthcare workers and patients in Gaza. We would like to be able to reach people most in need of medical care and provide life-saving humanitarian services, but we need basic safety guarantees in order to do so.

Conclusion

Through what was monitored in the report of the Israeli occupation's attempts to prevent and obstruct the work of humanitarian organizations in delivering humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, it is clearly evident to us how horrific the Zionist entity is in its use of multiple and twisted methods to kill and get rid of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, whether by killing them and bombing them with weapons directly, or by besieging them and preventing them from obtaining basic needs in order to continue their lives, and other conspiracies and cunning Zionist tricks that the occupation devise to reach its goal, which is to seize the entire Gaza Strip, expel the people of the Strip from it, and get rid of them. In clear and explicit violation of all international norms and laws due to the approach of double standards and selectivity practiced by Western society and the United States of America in applying international laws, and its support and assistance to the occupation army and providing it with the latest weapons so that it can easily kill defenseless civilians, including children, women and the elderly, and deprive them

of their most basic rights to life in the most horrific manner by the worst ways and by committing the most horrific massacres.

Recommendations

- We call for an immediate ceasefire, with immediate and unrestricted permission for humanitarian aid to enter all parts of Gaza to enable humanitarian actors to reach civilians in need. The flow of this humanitarian aid must be on a large and continuous scale, and to provide all the people of Gaza live a decent life.
- We call for the protection of humanitarian workers in Gaza who risk their lives to serve others, protect humanitarian facilities, and respect the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality that humanitarian work emphasizes globally.
- We call on the occupation forces and Western society to respect international humanitarian law to the fullest extent, and we call on Western society and the United States of America to stop practicing double standards when talking about the Palestinian issue.
- We call for the provision of water, food, health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, and the fuel necessary to provide basic services, and for all of this to be available in a safe and continuous manner.
- We call for the protection of all civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including health care facilities.
- We demand an urgent international trial of the occupation army for the crimes it committed against the Palestinian people.