

# LIVE BLOG: Witkoff Visits Rafah's 'Death Trap' as More Palestinians Die from Starvation, Massacres – Day 666

August 1, 2025 Blog, News, Slider



Israel has continued to use starvation of civilians as a weapon of war against Palestinians in Gaza.(Photo: Social media, via QNN)

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**Staff**

A large cell of Palestinian resistance fighters ambushed Israeli forces along a military supply route in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military announced it has begun reducing its forces in the Gaza Strip, including the withdrawal of the 98th Division.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed 60,332 and injured 146,894 others, the majority of whom are women and children, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

**[Click here for the previous blogs.](#)**

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

**82 Palestinians Killed since Dawn, Including 49 Aid Seekers**

GAZA HOSPITAL SOURCES – The death toll in Gaza rose sharply on Friday as Israeli forces targeted civilians waiting for aid.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

**Hamas Rejects Trump's Accusations over Stolen Aid**

HAMAS – The group dismissed Trump's claims as recycled Israeli propaganda, citing UN and USAID reports that debunked the allegations.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

**Netherlands Joins Air-Drop Alliance for Gaza Aid**

DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY – The Dutch government announced it is joining the international effort to air-drop supplies, while stressing the need to open land crossings.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

### **Poll: 56% of Israelis Fear Traveling Abroad amid Backlash**

ISRAEL'S CHANNEL 12: Growing international criticism of Israel's war in Gaza has led over half of Israelis to feel unsafe traveling internationally.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

### **Zamir Expects to Be Blamed for Gaza Campaign Failures**

ISRAEL'S CHANNEL 13 – Israel's army chief believes Netanyahu's government is preparing to scapegoat him, similar to what happened to his predecessor.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

### **Ansarallah: We Hit Ben Gurion Airport With Hypersonic Missile**

ANSARALLAH – The group claimed responsibility for a strike on the Israeli airport using a "Palestine 2" missile, saying millions sought shelter as a result.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

### **UNICEF: 5,000 Children in Gaza Suffer From Severe Malnutrition**

UNICEF – A top official said there were no cases of malnutrition before the war, warning that the lives of thousands of children are now at risk.

Sat, Aug 2, 12:50 AM (Palestine Time)

### **Israeli Army Chief Threatens Resignation amid Political Rift**

CHANNEL 12 – Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir reportedly threatened to resign as tensions peak between the military and political leadership.

Fri, Aug 1, 9:50 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Israeli Army Radio: Missile From Yemen Is the 15th This Month**

AL-JAZEERA:

The Israeli army announced that it intercepted the missile launched from Yemen.

Israeli Army Radio reported that this was the 15th missile launched from Yemen over the past month.

Fri, Aug 1, 9:50 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Al-Qassam Publishes Message about Israeli Captives**

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES: The Al-Qassam Brigades released a video message concerning the Israeli captives, stating: "They were supposed to be released in a deal, but the occupation government chose to starve them."

Fri, Aug 1, 9:50 PM (Palestine Time)

## **58 Killed in Gaza since Dawn**

AL JAZEERA: Sources in Gaza hospitals reported that 58 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since dawn today, including 32 people who were waiting for aid.

Fri, Aug 1, 9:50 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli Army Radio: Witkoff Will Leave Israel Today**

AL-JAZEERA: Israeli Army Radio reported that US envoy Steve Witkoff will depart Israel today after meeting with Netanyahu and visiting Gaza.

Fri, Aug 1, 9:50 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Witkoff: We Spent More Than Five Hours Inside Gaza Today**

AL JAZEERA

US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff said:

“Acting on President Trump’s instructions, I met with Israeli officials alongside the US ambassador in Tel Aviv to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

We spent more than five hours inside Gaza today and met with officials from the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and other agencies.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Trump to Axios: I’m Working on a Plan to Provide Food for the People of Gaza**

TRUMP (to Axios): “I’m working on a plan to provide food for the people in the Gaza Strip. We want to help the people in Gaza live, and this should have happened a long time ago. I am concerned about reports of famine in Gaza, but Hamas is responsible for stealing and selling the aid that enters the Strip.”

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Hamas Calls for Sunday to Be a Global Day of Solidarity With Gaza**

HAMAS STATEMENT:

Our people in Gaza continue to face a genocidal war that uses starvation as a weapon to break their resilience.

We call on the free people of the world to escalate mass mobilization every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until the aggression and famine end.

We call for the coming Sunday to be a national, Arab, Islamic, and global day in support of Gaza, Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the prisoners.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **One Martyred in Israeli Strike on Al-Daraj Neighborhood**

BAPTIST HOSPITAL (via Al-Jazeera): A source at the Baptist Hospital reported that a Palestinian was martyred in an Israeli strike on Al-Shawa Square in the Al-Daraj neighborhood, eastern Gaza City.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **World Health Organization Calls for Opening Gaza Crossings**

WHO SPOKESPERSON (to Al-Jazeera):

We demand the opening of crossings and the entry of 600 trucks daily into Gaza.

We need a continuous flow of food and medicine for the population.

We agree with our partners that the situation in Gaza is worsening, and the goal appears to be creating famine.

We and other humanitarian organizations warned months ago of the risk of famine.

The situation in Gaza is a man-made disaster that will only end with the delivery of aid.

Airdrops are not a solution — the solution is to get trucks into Gaza.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli Forces Raid Anabta Town near Tulkarm**

AL-JAZEERA: Sources told Al-Jazeera that Israeli forces raided the town of Anabta, east of Tulkarm in the northern West Bank.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **83 Killed in Gaza within 24 Hours, Including 53 Aid Seekers**

GAZA HEALTH MINISTRY:

The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that 83 Palestinians were martyred by Israeli fire in the last 24 hours, including 53 aid seekers.

Since May 27, the total number of martyrs among those seeking aid has reached 1,383, with 9,218 wounded.

The total toll since October 7, 2023, has risen to 60,332 martyrs and 147,643 injured.

Fri, Aug 1, 5:18 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Injuries in Israeli Strike on Al-Daraj Neighborhood**

AL JAZEERA: Al Jazeera correspondent reported injuries from an Israeli airstrike on Al-Shawa Square in Al-Daraj neighborhood, eastern Gaza City.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **US Ambassador Joins Witkoff on Gaza Visit**

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee joined envoy Steven Witkoff on a visit to a food aid center in southern Gaza, according to Israeli media.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Seven Killed in Israeli Strike on Displaced Persons' Tents in Khan Yunis**

NASSER MEDICAL COMPLEX: The death toll from an Israeli drone strike on tents sheltering displaced civilians in Al-Mawasi, Khan Yunis, has risen to seven.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli Intelligence Misread Hamas's Strategy, Says Officer**

BLOOMBERG: A senior Israeli military intelligence officer acknowledged a fundamental failure in understanding Hamas's ideology and plans. A former Israeli minister said the issue lies not in intelligence, but in the lack of negotiation.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Director of Gaza Children's Hospital: Aid Not Reaching Those in Need**

NASSER MEDICAL COMPLEX (to Al-Jazeera): The director said that the limited aid entering Gaza is symbolic and does not reach those most in need. He urged that aid be handled by credible international organizations and highlighted a sharp rise in malnutrition-related deaths among children with chronic illnesses.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Witkoff Visits Food Distribution Center in Rafah**

ISRAEL'S CHANNEL 12: US envoy Steven Witkoff visited a food distribution center in Rafah in southern Gaza on Friday morning.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Poll: Nearly Half of Israelis Deny Famine in Gaza**

MAARIV: 47% of Israelis believe there is no famine in Gaza, while 41% acknowledge a humanitarian crisis. Of those, 18% said they are indifferent to it. The poll also shows Netanyahu's coalition trailing the opposition if elections were held now.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **HRW: Israel Using Starvation as Weapon of War**

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: HRW accused Israel of committing war crimes by killing Palestinians seeking food. The group said the US-backed Israeli system of aid distribution has become a "regular bloodbath" and constitutes a war crime and act of genocide. HRW called for an end to illegal Israeli restrictions and a suspension of the flawed aid system.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **ABC: Witkoff, Netanyahu Agree on Gaza Framework**

ABC NEWS (citing Israeli official): The US envoy and Netanyahu reportedly agreed on a basic framework for ending the Gaza war, including a possible ceasefire, the release of captives, disarmament of Hamas, and expanded humanitarian access.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Trump: We Want to Ensure People in Gaza Receive Food**

NBC: Trump said he expects a report from Witkoff and the US ambassador after their visit to Gaza. He reaffirmed US financial support but expressed concern over Hamas intercepting aid. Trump also praised Netanyahu as capable of managing aid distribution.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Six Killed, Dozens Wounded in Israeli Attacks in Khan Yunis**

NASSER MEDICAL COMPLEX: Four were killed in a drone strike on tents for displaced people in Al-Mawasi, and two others were killed as over 70 were wounded while seeking aid near the Morag axis in southern Khan Yunis.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Four Killed in Israeli Drone Strike on Deir al-Balah**

AL-AQSA MARTYRS HOSPITAL: Four Palestinians were killed in a drone strike in central Deir al-Balah.

Fri, Aug 1, 11:38 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Gaza Media Office: Israel Engineering Starvation and Chaos**

GAZA GOVERNMENT MEDIA OFFICE: The office accused Israel of deliberately engineering chaos and starvation across the Gaza Strip as a tool of warfare.

Fri, Aug 1, 12:19 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Slovenia Becomes First European Country to Ban Arms Trade with Israel**

SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT: Slovenia announced it is the first European nation to ban the import, export, and transit of weapons to and from Israel. The government said it had pledged to act independently if the EU failed to take action and confirmed that further measures against the Israeli government will be introduced in the coming weeks.

Fri, Aug 1, 12:19 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Al-Qassam: We Destroyed Israeli Merkava Tank in Jabalia**

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES: Hamas's armed wing said its fighters destroyed an Israeli Merkava tank on Tuesday in northern Jabaliya. The group added that its members observed evacuation helicopters landing in the area.

Fri, Aug 1, 12:19 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Hamas: Ending Famine in Gaza is Condition for Resuming Talks**

HAMAS: The group affirmed its readiness to resume negotiations immediately if aid reaches those in need and the famine in Gaza is brought to an end. Hamas stated that talks are meaningless while mass starvation continues and criticized Israel's withdrawal from negotiations without justification.

Fri, Aug 1, 12:19 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Slovenian News Agency Confirms Arms Ban on Israel**

SLOVENIAN PRESS AGENCY: The Slovenian government has imposed a ban on all arms trade with Israel, including imports, exports, and the transit of weapons through Slovenian territory.