

Vote to Block Bombs and Assault Rifles to Israel as Netanyahu Starves Civilians

Background

The Israeli military has [killed](#) more than 55,000 Palestinians in its nearly two-year bombing campaign in Gaza. Thousands more are dying from starvation and disease caused by Israeli government restrictions on humanitarian aid and attacks on vital medical, water, and sanitation infrastructure.

Despite the war's devastating toll on civilians, the Trump Administration is accelerating military aid to Israel. Within a week of taking office, President Trump [reversed](#) a crucial Biden administration hold on the supply of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel. In February, the Trump administration notified Congress of seven major arms sales to Israel amounting to over \$11 billion of lethal weapons.

On top of bombing civilian areas and consistently blocking food and humanitarian aid, Israeli soldiers are fatally [shooting men, women and children](#) as they seek food at aid stations. More than 100 humanitarian organizations have issued an [urgent plea](#) for life-saving aid to enter Gaza as civilians and aid workers "waste away." In light of consistent violations of international and U.S. law the Trump Administration must suspend arms transfers to Israel. If it does not, Congress must step up, oppose the sales of lethal weapons to the Israeli government, and ensure the protection of civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

U.S. Arms Sales to Israel Violate U.S. Law As Long As Netanyahu Blocks Humanitarian Aid

Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. § 2378–1) [prohibits](#) the United States from providing security assistance or arms sales to any country that "prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance."

Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli government has repeatedly blocked the entry of humanitarian aid, enforced arbitrary restrictions on humanitarian goods, conducted military strikes on humanitarian workers and sites, and attacked starving civilians seeking life-saving aid. Today, the humanitarian response in Gaza has been systematically [dismantled](#) by the government of Israel, with mass starvation and atrocities as the result. For example:

- The 400 aid distribution points operating during the temporary ceasefire across Gaza have been replaced by just four military-controlled distribution sites, forcing two million people into overcrowded, militarized zones where they face daily gunfire and mass casualties while trying to access food and other life-saving supplies.
- The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) alert [warns](#) that the "worst-case scenario of Famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip." In addition, the IPC states that "humanitarian aid remains extremely restricted due to requests for humanitarian access being repeatedly denied and frequent security incidents. Despite the easing of the blockade on 19 May, only a trickle of humanitarian assistance, mainly food, has entered the Gaza Strip."
- The World Food Program [stated](#) on July 20th that 90,000 women and children stood in urgent need of malnutrition treatment, while 1 in 3 people goes for days without eating. As of July 22nd, 10 child deaths from severe acute malnutrition had been [reported](#) by partners in July alone,

according to OCHA, and repeated displacement orders continued to disrupt nutrition interventions. As of July 27th, the World Health Organization [reported](#) a total of 63 malnutrition related deaths in July.

- Hundreds of civilians have been killed by Israeli forces while seeking aid since May. Retired U.S. special forces officer and former Gaza Humanitarian Foundation contractor Anthony Aguilar [reported](#) witnessing Israeli forces shooting at crowds of Palestinians seeking aid. "In my entire career, I have never witnessed the level of brutality and use of indiscriminate and unnecessary force against a civilian population. An unarmed, starving population," he said.
- Human Rights Watch [determined](#) last year that the Israeli government was committing a war crime by using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in the Gaza Strip. Oxfam [documented](#) war crimes committed by the Israeli government relating to its destruction and weaponization of water in Gaza.

1000-Pound Bombs and Guidance Kits – [S.J.Res34](#) – 2028 delivery

- On February 28, 2025 Congress was [notified](#) that the State Department [approved](#) a sale of bombs to Israel [utilizing](#) emergency authorities to bypass normal congressional review. The sale included five thousand **1,000-lb bombs and JDAM guidance kits** valued at [\\$675.7 million](#).
 - The administration invoked emergency authorities to bypass congressional review, and has not clarified how the notified arms sales are necessary to oppose an immediate threat to Israel. Delivery of the bombs is foreseen to begin in 2028. Given this timeline, it is absurd to invoke emergency authorities and bypass the statutory 15-day Congressional notification timeline.
- The Israeli military has consistently used 1,000 pound bombs, along with similar general purpose bombs, and guidance kits in attacks that have killed civilians. For example:
 - Ordnance expert Trevor Ball [confirmed](#) that a bomb striking a residential building in Nuseirat was a U.S.-made 2,000-lb bomb with JDAM kit. Footage of the strike from July 4, 2025 [shows](#) a massive explosion, with children's screams audible in the background.
 - On April 16, 2025, Israel used a 1,000 or 2,000-lb bomb with a JDAM during a series of strikes on an informal displacement camp in Khan Younis. Survivors described a [‘powerful explosion’](#) that engulfed tents in flames; at least 37 people including children were killed. Of the strikes on Khan Younis, UNICEF Director said: "Images of children burning while sheltering in makeshift tents should shake us all to our core."
 - On March 23, 2025, a 2,000-lb bomb with a JDAM guidance kit [struck](#) Gaza City near a [school](#). The number of casualties is unknown, but [footage](#) following the strike shows a massive crater and widespread destruction in the populated area.
 - On March 19, 2025, a U.S.-made 500-lb bomb with JDAM guidance kit [struck](#) a crowded beachfront cafe in Gaza. Between 24 and 36 Palestinians were killed, including a 4-year-old child and a well-known filmmaker.
 - On July 13, 2024, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in al-Mawasi [killed](#) at least 90 Palestinians – at least half of whom were women and children – and injured at least 300.
 - On March 27, 2024, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in al-Habariyeh, Lebanon [killed](#) 7 healthcare workers, all of whom were university volunteers who joined the ambulance corps after the war started.

- On January 18, 2024, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in al-Mawasi [targeted](#) a humanitarian facility. Coordinates had been shared with the Israeli military as part of the UN deconfliction program. The injured medical team had to evacuate from Nasser hospital.
- On October 31, 2023, an Israeli strike with U.S. JDAMs in Jabalia [killed](#) at least 126 civilians, including 69 children. At least one survivor lost his entire family, and another survivor lost all his children. The bomb left a 40-foot crater and destroyed 20 residential buildings.
- On October 22, 2023, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in Deir al-Balah [killed](#) 19, including 12 children. Survivor Samaher Abu Mu'eileq had just left the home of his brother, sister-in-law, and nephews and nieces when their house was [bombed](#).
- On October 10, 2023, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in Deir al-Balah [killed](#) 24, including 7 children. Survivor Suleiman Salman al-Najjar had just returned from receiving treatment for kidney problems when he [learned](#) his wife and children were killed.

Assault Rifles – [S.J.Res.41](#) – delivery timeline unknown

- On March 6, 2025, the Department of State approved the sale of **20,000 Colt Carbine fully automatic rifles**, valued at \$23,977,800, for end use by the **Israel National Police**.
- The Israeli government has reportedly indicated that the rifles [may be given to civilians](#) in addition to the National Police. Israeli officials promised to supply civilians with weapons in at least 1,000 towns and cities, including Israeli settlements in the West Bank. These rifles are notoriously difficult to control and use accurately, even for trained soldiers, and have been banned for purchase to civilians in the U.S. [since 1986](#).
 - This is an established practice: in October 2023, the government purchased [10,000 assault rifles](#) from Israeli manufacturers for civilian militias in border communities, in the West Bank, and in mixed Israeli-Arab cities
- Violence against Palestinians by Israeli settlers and civilian militias is a growing concern. In 2023, the UN warned that settler attacks in the West Bank were at a [two-decade high](#). There were over [1,000 incidents of settler violence](#) in the West Bank in the year following October 7, which pushed 1,300 Palestinians from their homes. On July 28, the settler Yinon Levi allegedly [murdered](#) Awdah Hathaleen, a Palestinian school teacher from the town of Umm al-Khair featured in the Oscar-winning documentary “No Other Land.”
- Additionally, the Israeli National Police are implicated in human rights violations against Palestinians in Israel and in occupied Palestinian territory. The Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor has identified [several units](#) as being [credibly involved](#) in gross violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings and torture.
- Israeli settlers have used U.S.-manufactured rifles to fatally shoot and abuse Palestinian civilians in the West Bank.
 - Zvi Bar Yosef — a settler sanctioned by the Biden administration and responsible for repeated acts of violence against Palestinians — has been documented in possession of a [Colt M16 rifle](#).

- Human Rights Watch has documented instances of abuse and harassment by Israeli settlers armed with [M16 rifles](#) against Palestinian civilians.
 - On October 11, 2023, a group of settlers armed with M16 rifles destroyed Palestinian civilians homes/tents and stole their belongings.
 - On October 16, 2023, five masked men, one with a rifle, attacked a Palestinian man in his home, and threatened to “burn” him if he did not leave.
- In a report released in July, the Israeli human rights group B’Tselem concluded that Israeli forces are perpetrating a genocide in Gaza and [warned](#) of the “clear and imminent danger” of the genocide spreading to the West Bank.