

# POLICY BRIEFING: End the Brutal War in Gaza

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## Immediate, Permanent Ceasefire

Halting the killing and famine is the most important priority and is necessary to secure the release of remaining hostages, and also to help prevent a wider regional war. [67% of all likely voters support a ceasefire](#)<sup>1</sup> between Israel and Hamas. [President Biden even said](#) that an “immediate ceasefire is essential.”<sup>2</sup>

- **Press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire by issuing a public statement** or by cosponsoring Rep. Cori Bush’s [H.Res.786](#).
- **Demand that President Biden work to secure an *immediate and permanent* ceasefire** by using leverage in the form of military, economic, and diplomatic support.

## Surge Humanitarian Aid to Gaza, Including Restoring UNRWA Funding

Due to Israel’s ongoing bombing and invasion, Gaza currently has “[the highest number of people facing catastrophic hunger ever recorded...anywhere, anytime.](#)” according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres. He described the imminent famine facing Gaza as an “entirely man-made disaster.”<sup>3</sup> UNRWA serves as a “[substitute for the state](#),”<sup>4</sup> and many aid agencies have pointed out that UNRWA is the only humanitarian aid organization capable of distributing food and water throughout Gaza in the way needed.

- **Support Reps. Carson, Raskin, and Jayapal’s UNRWA Restoration Act** to remove the disastrous limitation of US funding to the agency passed in the FY24 Appropriations Act.
- **Work to restore funding for UNRWA** via the FY25 Appropriations process.
- **Publicly call for full humanitarian access** in all parts of Gaza to ensure food, fuel, medicine, and clean water are available for Palestinian civilians who are in desperate need.
- **Denounce the systemic pattern of attacks that have claimed the lives of hundreds of humanitarian aid workers in Gaza**, including staff from Al-Shifa Hospital, World Central Kitchen, INGOs, and the UN.

## No Military Aid or Weapons to Israel as It Commits Gross Human Rights Violations

Numerous groups on the ground, including Oxfam and Human Rights Watch, have documented Israeli violations of international humanitarian law – including indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, use of white phosphorus, systematic blocking of assistance, strikes on or near several major hospitals, and more.<sup>5</sup>

- **Block all offensive weapons sales and military assistance to Israel** to end US complicity in civilian harm in Gaza. Vote against any supplemental appropriations bill with military aid to Israel.
- **Introduce/support legislation that invokes Section 502(B)c of the Foreign Assistance Act** to require the State Department to produce a human rights report on Israel’s campaign in Gaza.
- **Call for the enforcement of existing provisions of U.S. law – including the Leahy Law, Foreign Assistance Act, and Arms Export Control Act** – which would immediately require the US to halt weapons and military assistance to Israel due to its illegal and indiscriminate military campaign in Gaza.
- **Call on the Biden Administration to publicly state the Netanyahu Government’s assurances regarding the delivery of humanitarian aid in Gaza do not meet the “credible and reliable” test** required by National Security Memorandum (NSM)-20.

## No Wider Regional War

Israel’s reckless attack on an Iranian consulate on April 1, and the serious retaliation by Iran against Israel on April 13, threaten to drag the US, Iran, and Israel into a disastrous regional war.

- **Support calls for immediate regional de-escalation**, including by restraining Israel and Iran from further escalation and retaliation. President Biden has told Israel the US will not support further escalation.
- **Underscore the US should not participate in any regional hostilities**, particularly without required Congressional authorization. US attacks on Yemen and other countries risk kicking off wider war.

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<sup>1</sup> *Voters Support the U.S. Calling for Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and Conditioning Military Aid to Israel*, Data for Progress, February 27, 2024

<sup>2</sup> Tondo, Lorenzo, *Joe Biden calls for ‘immediate ceasefire’ in Gaza and says Israel must protect civilians to keep US support*, Guardian, April 4, 2024

<sup>3</sup> *Imminent famine in northern Gaza is ‘entirely man-made disaster’*: Guterres, United Nations News, March 18, 2024

<sup>4</sup> *Why Donors Should Not Suspend Aid to UNRWA*, UNRWA News, February 8, 2024

<sup>5</sup> *Israeli Assurances to Use US Arms Legally Are Not Credible*, Human Rights Watch, March 19, 2024