

Israeli Government Starves Palestinians in Gaza

Genocide through Famine

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If you're like me, you subscribe to news services like the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN, and Reuters, which send daily news reports and quick highlights. Given the busy pace of life, most people probably read those headlines and short summaries and little else. The mainstream media is counting on that.

Consider this quick summary I received today from Reuters' "Daily Briefing":

ISRAEL AND HAMAS AT WAR

- More than five months into Israel's ground and air campaign, launched in response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, there are widespread shortages of food, medicines and clean water in Gaza, doctors and aid agencies say. [Starving children fill hospital wards as famine looms.](#)

Note the framing here. It's a war between Israel and Hamas, with history beginning on October 7, 2023. Most of all, note how widening famine is described: it's just happening, apparently due to a war that Hamas started.

You're not told that the famine is man-made. That the Israeli government is blocking thousands of trucks loaded with food, medicine, and clean water for Gaza. Instead, you're encouraged to think it's much like a natural disaster, if not entirely the fault of Hamas, which allegedly started all the trouble on October 7th.

If challenged to write my own summary for Reuters, I'd pen something like this:

Israeli government policies are producing mass famine in Gaza. Israel has already killed or wounded more than 100,000 Palestinians since the October 7th Hamas attacks. An Israeli blockade on most aid to Gaza promises death tolls in the hundreds of thousands over the next few months. Meanwhile, the U.S. continues to send weapons to Israel while providing diplomatic cover in the UN, making it complicit in genocide.

We see similar narrative elision with the Russia-Ukraine War, which in the mainstream media is all the fault of Vladimir Putin, who woke up in February 2022 and decided to invade Ukraine because he's a power-hungry maniac, a new Hitler—or worse. Meanwhile, Putin blew up his own highly profitable Nordstream pipelines, or maybe a rogue element from Ukraine did it. Who can tell, right?

Dishonest and disingenuous reporting is facilitating genocide in Gaza and a horrendous war in Ukraine that is hollowing out that country. In each case, what we're supposed to focus on is something else: the crimes of Hamas and the alleged megalomania of Putin.

Gaza is especially egregious since a genocide is in progress there, enabled and empowered by massive weapons shipments from the United States to Israel. But I guess there's nothing we can do to help those starving Palestinian children "as famine looms." I guess we can construct a temporary pier that will take two or three months to build; I hope the starving children can hold on that long. Whether that pier will facilitate relief efforts or serve mainly as a [Trojan horse](#) to evacuate Palestinians from Gaza (ethnic cleansing by the boat load) remains to be seen.

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Featured image: Palestinian children try to eat from a single bowl inside the tent as Palestinians, trying to live in makeshift tents they set up, are viewed in Rafah, Gaza on February 14, 2024 [Abed Zagout - Anadolu Agency]

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