

Israel's Systematic Starvation Policy, Smotrich Blocks Wheat Flour Entry to Gaza

The ongoing tensions between the US and the Israeli PM escalate as Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich blocks a US-funded flour shipment to Gaza.

By [Al Mayadeen](#)

Global Research, February 14, 2024

[Al Mayadeen English](#) 13 February 2024

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name (only available in desktop version).

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

[Big Tech's Effort to Silence Truth-tellers: Global Research Online Referral Campaign](#)

Israeli Finance Minister and the leader of the Religious Zionist Party [Bezalel Smotrich](#) is preventing a shipment of US-funded flour to Gaza, under the pretext that the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is the recipient, Axios reported, citing two Israeli and US officials.

US officials noted that this action contradicts a commitment made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to US President Biden a few weeks ago, adding to the growing frustration between the two, as per *Axios*.

Dive Deeper

More than a month ago, top officials in the Biden administration discussed the potential shipment of flour. The Israeli war and security cabinets granted approval for the delivery to proceed from the port of "Ashdod" in southern "Israel" to Gaza through the "Kerem Shalom" crossing.

Both President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken have expressed gratitude publicly to the Israeli government for permitting the flour shipment. However, despite the approvals, the shipment has faced delays and remains stranded at the "Ashdod" port for weeks now, the report added.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich obstructed the transfer, instructing the Israeli customs service not to release the shipment as long as UNRWA was the recipient.

This comes amid an [Israeli campaign to stigmatize](#) the agency's credibility after "Israel"

accused 12 of its members of being affiliated with the October 7 operation conducted by the Palestinian Resistance. As a result, the [UK, the US, and 14 other countries](#) have opted to defund the organization, primarily led by the United States, prior to any investigation and [without any proof](#) provided despite the unbearable civilian toll and dire humanitarian crisis due to the current Israeli genocide.

Bezalel Smotrich's office affirmed to *Axios* that he directed the customs service to withhold the flour shipments. In collaboration with Netanyahu, he also allegedly requested officials to explore an alternative delivery method.

It is worth noting that more than 2.2 million people, constituting the entire population of Gaza, are confronting crisis or even more severe stages of famine, as per a report from a UN-supported organization released late last year. The risk of famine is escalating daily in the region. The report disclosed that approximately half of Gaza's population is experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Featured image: Bezalel Smotrich [File photo]

The original source of this article is [Al Mayadeen English](#)
Copyright © [Al Mayadeen](#), [Al Mayadeen English](#), 2024

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Al Mayadeen](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca