



[The Gaza War's Civilian Casualties and the Biden Administration](#)

Biden administration officials certainly share culpability for the perpetuation of Israel's longstanding Gaza War which has decimated the Palestinian territory and had a devastating impact on its civilian population. The mishandling of the conflict and an inability to put an end to it has resulted in the killing of tens of thousands, the displacement of more than 90% of citizens, catastrophic levels of food insecurity and other resource shortages, the Israeli impeding of humanitarian aid, and the destruction of at least two-thirds of infrastructure in the besieged enclave. Despite all of this – in addition to overwhelming evidence of Israeli war crimes and human rights violations – military and financial aid has continued to flow, with the Biden administration failing to heed the appropriate calls from human rights activists to curtail support to Israel in light of what is taking place. Furthermore, in recent months, U.S. officials have pushed aside, disregarded, and inadequately responded to a host of Israeli escalations and provocations which risk spurring the outbreak of all-out war in the region.

Dissatisfaction over the Biden administration's Gaza War policy is exemplified by the fact that numerous U.S. officials have resigned from their positions in protest during the past year. Among other things, many of these individuals have cited the growing public concern regarding unconditional U.S. weapons transfers to Israel due to their use in committing egregious war crimes and human rights abuses, and how government officials have not adjusted their policies to suitably address this. They have also criticized the administration for voicing the importance of safeguarding human rights, but not initiating actions which align with this purported value. One of their other major qualms is with the blatant Israeli obstruction of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and how until recently, U.S. officials had not been forceful enough in calling this out. As has been outlined by human rights activists, these former administration officials that have decided to resign merely want Gaza War policy to be fair and rooted in reality. Doing so requires ensuring that arms transfers comply with U.S. and international law, and that the United States is not complicit in the flagrant Israeli violations that are taking place in Gaza and elsewhere. High-profile resignations include that of Josh Paul, who left the U.S. State Department late last year after 11 years of service, decrying U.S. military and financial support as a blank check with a lack of regard for the abusive manner in which this has been used.

The failure to achieve a lasting ceasefire agreement in Gaza has not only resulted in a continuation of the devastating conflict there, but it has also paved the way for other Israeli escalations and provocations in the region that leave the Middle East on the brink of all-out war. Israel's indiscriminate bombardment of Lebanon and its tit-for-tat with Iran – which began with the early April Israeli attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus – has seen the expansion of hostilities outside of Gaza, and observers now fear that the imminent anticipated Israeli attack on Iran could deteriorate circumstances in the region even further. An all-out war between Israel and Iran would quickly ignite a fire that would consume the entire region. This has prompted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to make yet another diplomatic trip to the Middle East this week, but as long as Israel keeps demonstrating a desire to perpetuate hostilities and the Biden administration enables its ability to do so, a ceasefire deal will unfortunately more than likely remain out of reach.

For the United States to truly abide by the values that it espouses to, like the protection of human rights, it must take action to halt arms transfers that are used to commit egregious violations against civilians. It is clear that

those within the administration hear the relevant domestic and international voices calling for an arms embargo, and can follow suit with the other countries that have already restricted their weapons transfers to Israel due to the evidence of their military human rights violations and war crimes. The United States' influence on the global stage is undoubtable, and therefore, it should be a leader in initiating principled, moral, and responsible policies – using its leverage and clout to put a stop to the seemingly endless violence and destruction in Gaza. Not doing so risks diminishing its credibility and soft power among much of the world.