



[Yet Another Israeli Massacre of Starving Civilians in Gaza](#)

This week, Israeli forces have committed numerous heinous massacres of Gazan civilians seeking food at aid distribution sites. Medical personnel have outlined how deplorably, many of the victims have been children killed with single gunshot wounds to the head or chest. Furthermore, first-hand accounts from witnesses and humanitarian workers have debunked Israeli forces' false claims of limited firing at individuals and instead prove that the shootings were en masse and indiscriminate. As United Nations (UN) officials and others have remarked, it is completely unacceptable and disgraceful that desperate civilians are being killed while trying to access aid, especially given the repeated nature of these occurrences. All of this has prompted the UN secretary-general to call for an independent investigation into the massacres of civilians at aid distribution hubs run by the widely condemned Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

Both the recurrence of these incidents and the manner in which they have been carried out demonstrate that they are undoubtedly deliberate acts. Eyewitnesses describe Israel's use of warplanes, tanks, helicopters, and heavy artillery to target vulnerable civilians merely queuing for humanitarian aid, leading one to understandably conclude that there could be no possible "threat" from these individuals that would warrant this type of barbarity. Israeli forces have a track record of committing these kinds of reprehensible massacres and then fecklessly trying to claim that it was in response to "threats" posed – something that, as is the case in these aid distribution site killings, has no merit and is used to try and defend the indefensible. These actions are egregious crimes against humanity which exhibit a blatant disregard for human rights and international law. Regrettably, the lack of accountability for them has emboldened Israel's abuses further and increased the likelihood of additional appalling violations like this taking place.

The mass killings of civilians at GHF sites have only deepened the already substantial criticism of Israel's aid distribution takeover. The UN and all reputable impartial humanitarian agencies have refused to take part in the politicized and militarized Israeli-run scheme. The aid takeover limits distribution points to a few inadequate locations, with many even pointing out that these are strategic spots chosen by Israel to try and facilitate the forced displacement of civilians. On top of these existing issues, what has unfolded at the sites has led observers to label them as "death traps" whereby desperate civilians are left to risk their lives in an attempt to secure essential aid. Rather than subjecting civilians to this cruel and inhumane system, humanitarian groups have implored Israel to open up border crossings and allow legitimate relief organizations to resume their operations. They continue to emphasize that a meaningful and large-scale uptick in relief services is required in order to meet the needs of millions of civilians and work to alleviate dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza. Additionally, independent humanitarian organizations have reiterated that they stand prepared to carry out their work should Israel simply allow them to, as they have a wide network of aid distribution points that had been helping to improve humanitarian conditions during the six-week Gaza ceasefire between mid-January and early March.

The high level of condemnation regarding the aid takeover and Israeli massacres recently prompted an American consulting firm to withdraw its team from the controversial program. Boston Consulting Group (BCG) expressed that the company had terminated its contract with GHF amid increasing criticism and backlash about its operations. The development adds to the denunciation of the GHF-led takeover which has been universally

rejected by humanitarian agencies and elicited outrage for the repeated mass killings of Gazan civilians. The news of BCG's abandonment is particularly noteworthy given its integral involvement in the design and management of GHF logistics alongside Israeli authorities. It also represents a clear acknowledgement from one of the operation's main architects as to the immense rebuke against it for allowing Israel to use starvation as a weapon of war and tying humanitarian access to military aims such as the forced displacement of civilians from the north of Gaza. Last week, the head of GHF had even resigned his position after admitting that the operation undeniably failed to adhere to the core humanitarian principles of independence and impartiality.