

Rafah stares death in the face

All eyes are on Rafah where 1.4m refugees from Israel's ceaseless bombardment of Gaza are crammed into a huge tent city surrounded by death.

Biden and Sunak warned Israel not to invade Rafah without a credible plan to protect civilians, as if there was somewhere safe to go. After four months of arms shipments to Israel and green lights for military action, over 28,000 deaths and more bodies buried under the rubble, the US and UK want to blame Netanyahu as if this had nothing to do with them.

Invading Rafah would cause tens of thousands more Palestinian deaths, in defiance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling requiring Israel to prevent genocide. Bombs and drones are killing hundreds in Rafah.

The Army ordered medical workers, patients, and displaced civilians to evacuate Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis even while its quadcopters and snipers targeted them, killing patients including a detainee executed in the hospital. On 15 Feb special forces destroyed two ambulances, stormed the maternity ward and set up military checkpoints.

The Army has deliberately killed Palestinian civilians, including journalists, with sniper or drone attacks as they attempt to communicate online with their families or employers.

Israel demands that aid agencies and the UN co-operate with Israel



Inside Nasser Hospital, Khan Younis, as special forces storm in 15 Feb

to evacuate civilians before an invasion. The UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs declared "We will not cooperate with any forced evacuation from Rafah".

Meanwhile, Israel demands the UN agency UNRWA - the main channel for aid and education - be wound up! A ship carrying humanitarian aid for distribution by UNRWA is stuck in the Port of Ashdod, as Israel instructs staff to refuse to handle it.

The US and Britain stopped funding UNRWA, before any investigation of Israeli allegations against just 12 of its 13,000 Gaza staff, heedless of the humanitarian consequences of funding cuts. What if NHS funding was halted when Lucy Letby was accused?

Merseyside and massacres

The tanks and bulldozers poised to invade Rafah are backed by the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF), which invests the deferred wages of local government staff. It has over £900k in General Dynamics (Merkava IV tank engines) and £122k in Caterpillar (militarised bulldozers).

We demand our Councillors:

- publicise the call for an immediate ceasefire
- back the ICJ ruling and demand Sunak and Starmer do so as well
- call on the MPF to divest from arms firms
- demand a UK arms embargo on Israel

