

Hospitals attacked as Gaza starves

On 18 March, Israeli tanks and troops attacked Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City. "We are trapped where we are inside the department," Dr Amer Jedbeh, a 31-year-old surgical resident, told the BBC.

"A shell hit our building on the first floor, injuring several people. One man died - we could not save him. We are working only with first aid, there is no electricity or water."

Two patients on life support at the intensive care unit in the same building died as the electricity supply was cut ahead of the raid. "All the machinery is off," Dr Jedbeh added.

Attacks on healthcare facilities and healthworkers are war crimes. For Gaza from 7 October to 12 March, the World Health Organisation listed 410 health attacks killing 685 people, affecting 99 health sites, 30 hospitals, 104 ambulances.

Famine

In northern Gaza, people comb the floor for wild grass to cook, while some have started slaughtering and eating horses as they can't even afford to buy animal feed to eat. The World Food Programme says famine is imminent without urgent food aid. The Israeli military prevents UN aid trucks from entering Gaza.

Instead of forcing Israel to agree a ceasefire and allow massive UN food convoys, the US negotiates the appearance of humanitarian aid while arms shipments and the war itself continues.



Gazan families fled the raid on Al-Shifa hospital. Reuters

Israeli war cabinet member Benny Gantz met US Vice-President Kamala Harris. Her office stated "they discussed the need for a "credible" humanitarian plan before any major military operation in Rafah".

In fact, there is no credible plan without a permanent ceasefire. The US wants aid to offset the public backlash, while the slaughter may turn into a ground invasion.

By 21 March, the Gaza death toll was over 31,988 including at least 13,000 children and over 8,000 missing. A ground invasion of Rafah will cause tens of thousands more deaths. Nowhere is safe.

Merseyside and massacres

Britain continues to arm Israel. The Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) invests the deferred wages of local government staff and others across the region. Council Tax contributes to the Fund. It has over £900k in General Dynamics (Merkava IV tank engines), £122k in Caterpillar (militarised bulldozers), £629k in RTX (Raytheon missiles and bombs), £207k in Teledyne whose Bromborough factory makes composites used in the F-35s, and nearly £40m in 21 firms arming Israel directly or via the US. Wirral Council Pensions Committee manages the entire MPF. On 18 March, Wirral Labour and Tory Councillors voted against an immediate, bilateral, long-lasting ceasefire.

**National Demo London 12 noon
Sat 30 March. Ceasefire Now,
Stop the Genocide, Free Palestine** ▶