

# Starving inside the Gaza carnage

Yazan al-Kafarneh, 10, died of severe malnourishment at a hospital in Rafah at the southern border with Egypt.

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 World Health Organisation says the lack of food resulted in the deaths of 10 children and "severe levels of malnutrition" in northern Gaza. One in six children under two years is "acutely malnourished", the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA states.

The Israeli military prevents UN aid trucks from entering Gaza. Instead, an Israeli-organised convoy carrying flour headed for Gaza City. As starving people surrounded the trucks at 5am, Israeli soldiers opened fire. At least 112 died, and doctors reported that amongst the 176 injured they saw, 142 had bullet wounds.

## Aid as Propaganda

Instead of forcing Israel to agree a ceasefire and allow massive UN food convoys, the US and UK settled for a spectacular but irrelevant air-drop jamboree. As Norwegian Refugee Council head Jan Egeland commented "Airdrops are expensive, haphazard and usually lead to the wrong people getting the aid."



Yazan al-Kafarneh, a 10-year-old Palestinian boy, receives medical treatment with limited resources at Abu Yusuf al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah, Gaza, on 28 Feb. Yazan died of severe malnourishment on 4 March.

Jehad Alshrafi/Anadolu via Getty Images

When Israeli war cabinet member Benny Gantz visited Washington apparently defying Prime Minister Netanyahu, he 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. But what the US wants is enough humanitarian aid to offset the international backlash, while the continuing slaughter may turn into a ground invasion.

By 5 March, the Gaza death toll was over 30,600 including at least 12,300 children and 8,000 missing. A ground invasion of Rafah will cause tens of thousands more deaths. Nowhere is safe.

## Merseyside and massacres

The US and Britain continue to arm Israel, despite the very public evidence of genocide. The Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) invests the deferred wages of local government staff and others across the region. It has over £900k in General Dynamics (Merkava IV tank engines) and £122k in Caterpillar (militarised bulldozers), and nearly £40m in 21 firms arming Israel directly or via the US. Wirral Council Pensions Committee manages the entire MPF.

**Demo 5pm Tuesday 19 March  
Birkenhead Town Hall before  
Pensions Committee meeting**

