

# War criminals in Washington as polio threatens Gaza

The day before Netanyahu pitched for more arms and to woo Trump, Jewish Voice for Peace activists held a Congressional sit-in, calling on the US government to stop arming Israel's genocide in Gaza.

The anti-war movement mobilised overnight for a "red line" around the White House to "Arrest Netanyahu for crimes against humanity".

These symbolic actions mirror the International Criminal Court (ICC) attempt to issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Defence Minister Gallant. They are charged with using mass starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the murder and persecution of Palestinians as crimes against humanity.

Last October, as Israel launched its revenge attack, Gallant ordered "a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed." The ensuing siege, murder of medics, destruction of hospitals and sanitation, caused chaos.



Jewish Voice for Peace protesters in Congress 23 July

The World Health Organisation now warns that Gaza faces a polio outbreak, as traces of the virus turn up in sewage. The Gaza health ministry found polio in wastewater flowing "between displacement camp tents and in inhabited areas". Many Gazans now live in shelters with one toilet for 600 people, with little access to safe drinking water. A mass polio vaccination campaign is impossible without a ceasefire. Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers are being vaccinated.

## Arming Israel and obstructing justice

Netanyahu is not the only war criminal in Washington. The US provides 65.6% of the weapons sold to Israel. Within two months, Israel received over 10,000 tons of US weapons,

more than 15,000 bombs and 50,000 artillery shells. Even as Israel invaded Rafah and refused to implement the Security Council resolution drafted by the US, President Biden never pulled the plug. The US told the Labour government to obstruct the ICC arrest warrants using a duff legal challenge issued by the Tories. It seems David Lammy eventually said "no".

Biden doesn't want to be remembered as "Genocide Joe", but the mud sticks to him.



Stagnant wastewater near tents sheltering displaced people Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, 22 July. Omar Ashtawy APA images