

# Why Israel attacks Iran, Gaza

When Netanyahu launched a massive surprise attack on Iran, he told the world that Israel faced an immediate “existential threat” from Iranian nuclear weapons and had acted in “self-defence” - a barefaced lie.

## The Lie

Iran does not have nuclear weapons and has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The US National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard told Congress this year that Iran has not taken the decision to develop nuclear weapons.

Even if it did, it would take at least a year to enrich uranium to the 90% level needed and manufacture the bombs and delivery systems. There is no immediate threat from Iran.

Meanwhile, the Federation of American Scientists estimates that Israel has enough plutonium for 90 weapons. Israeli fighter jets and missiles could drop them on Iran. Israel has not signed the NPT.

## Real reasons

Israel attacked two days before the US and Iran were due to hold their sixth meeting since April, to negotiate an end to any possible weapons programme and to lift sanctions on Iran.

The Israeli government did not want any such deal. Netanyahu has used the threat of Iranian nuclear weapons — real or imagined — as a stick to



Over 50 Palestinians were massacred by the Israeli military in Gaza's Khan Younis while waiting for aid trucks on 17 June. [Hatem Khaled, Reuters]

Dr Tanya Haj-Hassan of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee that Israel has “*systematically targeted and destroyed*” Gaza’s health-care system. Palestinian children are brought to intensive care units in Gaza with “*skin that reeks of the weapons provided by Western nations, including the United Kingdom*”. MAP’s Rohan Talbot said “*This is the total dismantling and annihilation of Gaza’s population. That’s what we are witness to.*”

Israel’s genocidal attacks on Gaza have two aims acceptable to Trump. First, to herd Palestinians into tiny enclaves in the hope they will choose to leave, so Gaza can be redeveloped for Israeli settlers. Second, to eliminate any role for the UN in delivering aid or establishing a framework for peace (to include the Palestinian right of return and imposing sanctions).

control opposition inside and outside Israel. His fragile coalition faces collapse. The Army wants to remove the exemption from military service for Orthodox Jews, but the religious parties threaten to bring down his coalition if the law is changed. If he loses an election, his corruption trial may send him to jail. In late May, Israel signalled its plan to attack Iran with or without permission from Trump. Its war aim goes beyond a phony nuclear weapons threat. Israel seeks US help to force the Iranian regime to collapse. Bombing Iran rallied most Israelis in support of another war and pushed the starvation and ethnic cleansing of Gaza off the world’s front pages. We say NO! ►