



By: TA | AP Brief

# Israeli allies say the war in Gaza 'must end now'



Twenty-eight countries including Britain, Japan and a host of European nations issued a joint statement Monday saying the **war** in Gaza “must end now” — the latest sign of allies’ sharpening language as Israel’s isolation deepens.

The foreign ministers of countries also including Australia and Canada said “the suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths.” They condemned “the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food.”

The statement described as “horrificing” the recent deaths of over 800 Palestinians who were seeking aid, according to the figures released by Gaza’s Health Ministry and the U.N. human rights office.

“The Israeli government’s aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity,” the countries said. “The Israeli government’s denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable. Israel must comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law.”

## Israel and U.S. reject the criticism

Israel’s Foreign Ministry rejected the statement, saying it was “disconnected from reality and sends the wrong message to Hamas.” It accused Hamas of prolonging the war by refusing to accept an Israeli-backed proposal for a temporary ceasefire and hostage release.

“Hamas is the sole party responsible for the continuation of the war and the suffering on both sides,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein posted on X.

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U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee also rejected the statement from many of America’s closest allies, calling it “disgusting” in a post on X and saying they should instead pressure the “savages of Hamas.”

Germany was also notably absent from the statement.

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl wrote on X that he spoke with Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar on Monday and expressed the “greatest concern about the catastrophic humanitarian situation” in Gaza as Israel’s offensive widens. He **called** on Israel to implement agreements with the EU to enable more humanitarian aid.

## A worsening humanitarian crisis

Gaza’s population of more than 2 million Palestinians is in a catastrophic humanitarian **crisis**, now relying largely on the limited aid allowed into the territory. Israel’s offensive has displaced some 90% of the population, with many forced to flee multiple times.

Most of the food supplies Israel has **allowed** into Gaza go to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American group backed by Israel.

Since its operations began in May, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in shootings by Israeli soldiers while heading to the sites, according to witnesses and health officials. The Israeli military says it has only fired warning shots at those who approach its forces.

Israel’s 21 months of war with Hamas have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine, sparked worldwide protests and led to an International Criminal Court arrest **warrant** against Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

**Israel has brushed off previous criticism**

Allies' criticism about Israel's actions has had little clear effect. In May, Britain, France and Canada issued a joint **statement** urging Netanyahu's government to stop its military operations in Gaza and threatening "concrete actions" if it didn't.

Israel rejects criticism of its wartime conduct, saying its forces have acted lawfully and blaming civilian deaths on Hamas because the militants operate in populated areas. It says it has allowed enough food in to sustain Gaza and accuses Hamas of siphoning off much of it. The United Nations says there is no evidence for widespread diversion of humanitarian aid.

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Israel and Hamas have been engaged in ceasefire talks but there appears to be no breakthrough, and it's not clear whether any truce would bring the war to a lasting halt. Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed.

Speaking to Parliament, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy thanked the U.S., Qatar and Egypt for their diplomatic efforts to try to end the war.

"There is no military solution," Lammy said. "The next ceasefire must be the last ceasefire."

Hamas triggered the war when militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage. Fifty hostages remain in Gaza, but fewer than half are thought to be alive.

Israel's military offensive has killed more than 59,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's

Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says more than half of the dead are women and children. The ministry is part of the Hamas government, but the U.N. and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.