

Brussels, 29 July 2025

Subject: EU Staff appeal for Immediate EU Action to Restore Humanitarian Aid Access to Gaza

Dear President von der Leyen, Dear High Representative Kallas,

We, the undersigned staff members of the European institutions, write to you with profound urgency and deep concern regarding the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Time is running out.

Famines do not follow a linear trajectory, but they rather accelerate, often resembling exponential phenomena. Historical evidence from war- and occupation- related famines, including the Holodomor (1933–34), the siege of Leningrad (1941–42), the occupation of Bengal (1943), the Great Chinese Famine (1959–61), and Darfur (2004), Somalia (2011), and Yemen (2016) wars, shows that once a critical threshold is reached, mortality rates can rapidly escalate, doubling at each day. This is intuitive: when resources fail to reach a population under siege, the consequences compound at a devastating pace.

Our projections indicate that, without immediate and substantial restoration of aid, **Gaza is on course to surpass 100 starvation-related deaths per day within the next two to three weeks**, many of them children. Crossing this threshold essentially marks a **point of no return**, where it would likely be unfeasible to prevent the de-facto annihilation of the population of Gaza. Importantly, temporary aid relief does not affect the exponential nature of the phenomenon but merely delays it, especially if aid is delivered through inefficient means such as air drops. We have outlined the statistical basis for this assessment, with scientific references, in the annex to this letter.

As servants of the institutions, we are proud to uphold the values of the European Union: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. These values have compelled growing numbers of EU staff to speak out relentlessly over the last 19 months and today, more than ever, in a moment where action is urgently needed, our silence would mean complicity.

The ongoing blockade of food, baby formula, and medical supplies to Gaza is not only a profound humanitarian tragedy, but also a defining test of our Union's moral and political foundations, principles without which the European project itself loses its meaning and legitimacy.

We also bring to your attention the total failure of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) which, instead of bringing relief, has cost the lives of over 1000 people since May, shot by the Israeli Defence Forces and GHF contractors, according to widely reported UN figures¹.

¹ <https://news.sky.com/story/security-personnel-shot-at-palestinians-at-gaza-aid-distribution-centre-claims-ex-guard-13400777>

We urge you, on behalf of the European Union, to take immediate and decisive action to press Israel to let massive humanitarian aid into Gaza, without delay. This must include **opening all land crossings for the delivery of essential goods and permitting humanitarian ships to dock**. Israel cannot be allowed to show disdain for yet another agreement and further disrespect to the European Union. We refer to the understanding that HR/VP Kallas has announced on 15 July².

The European Union is Israel's largest trading partner and, as such, it has considerable leverage to insist on compliance with international humanitarian law.

Although in the discussion on the EU-Israel Association Agreement, some Member States have sided with Israel and hindered the possibility of suspending the agreement, the European Union can and must act independently by using other avenues.

To support your efforts, we respectfully propose the following measures (some of them being already laid down in the 18 page legal memorandum transmitted to you on 15 April 2025):

- The consideration of targeted sanctions, including restrictions on financial transactions and export controls, against entities responsible for obstructing humanitarian access, including top Israeli leaders.
- The leading of a coordinated international effort within the UN and other multilateral forums to ensure safe humanitarian corridors into Gaza.
- The suspension by EEAS of diplomatic relations with Israel and the recall of its ambassador from Tel Aviv.
- The immediate suspension by the Commission of all ongoing cooperation and negotiation for future agreements with and involving Israeli entities within NDICI-GE, as well as within the EU R&I.
- We welcome the latest news indicating the Commission is proposing a partial suspension of Israel's association with Horizon Europe. While we consider this initiative laudable, we propose the immediate suspension of all cooperation and the launch of a thorough and independent forensic audit of both ongoing and past cooperation with Israeli entities under the Horizon Europe program and its predecessors, which could result in recovery of funds and accountability, whenever an irregularity is proven.
- The immediate investigation by the Council of alleged Israeli and EU Member State pillage of the maritime offshore gas reserves in Gazan waters, which are the property of the state of Palestine, and immediately suspension of the exploration and exploitation contracts until clearance.

The European Union has always aspired to be a global defender of human rights. We cannot allow this tragedy to escalate to ever more unspeakable scene. **Our credibility and moral leadership depend on taking bold and principled action now.**

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/foreign-affairs-council-press-remarks-high-representative-kaja-kallas-upon-arrival-2_en

We trust in your leadership and your commitment to act decisively and swiftly to prevent this humanitarian catastrophe from worsening.

Respectfully,
The Signatories

Annex – Statistical analysis

A famine is a period during which a defined population within a geographically constrained area experiences a sustained and severe shortage of food and essential resources, leading to acute malnutrition, elevated mortality rates, and a measurable collapse of basic survival mechanisms.

As a result, deaths under these conditions occur following an exponential growth curve:

$$D(t) = D_0 * \exp(k * t),$$

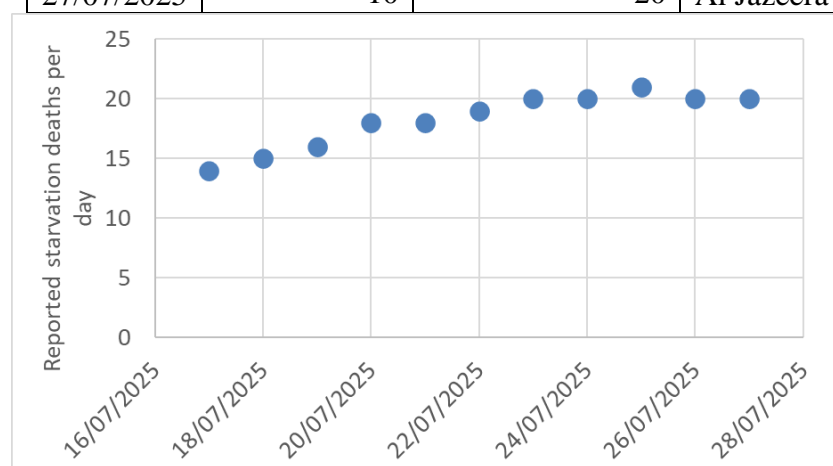
where k represents the key parameter of the death growth rate.

The meaning of this formula is that starvation deaths don't just increase steadily but grow faster and faster over time. As food and supplies run out, each day leaves more people vulnerable. The fewer resources there are, the more people die, and as deaths increase, critical infrastructure like hospitals and roads begin to fail. When that happens, it becomes even harder to deliver aid or provide care—causing the death toll to rise even more rapidly. **This kind of spiralling effect is what makes famine so dangerous: once it reaches a certain point, it accelerates uncontrollably.**

The growth value k can be estimated for historically documented famines, as well as for Gaza, based on the starvation-related reports from the past weeks.

The values being reported from Gaza in the past week are as follows:

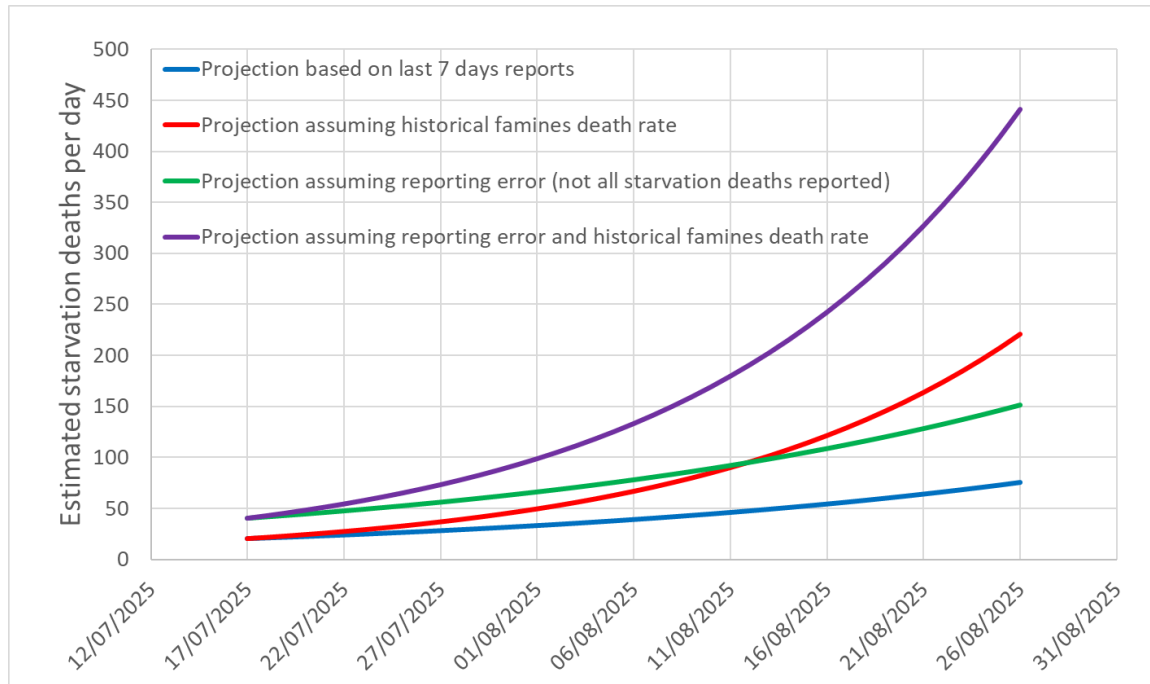
Day	Progression	Reported_Deaths	Source
17/07/2025	0	14	UN/OCHA, Al Jazeera
18/07/2025	1	15	UN/OCHA, Al Jazeera
19/07/2025	2	16	UN/OCHA, Al Jazeera
20/07/2025	3	18	UN OCHA Daily Update
21/07/2025	4	18	UN OCHA Daily Update
22/07/2025	5	19	WHO Situation Report
23/07/2025	6	20	Al Jazeera (Field Reports)
24/07/2025	7	20	UNICEF Update
25/07/2025	8	21	WHO Situation Report
26/07/2025	9	20	UN OCHA Daily Update
27/07/2025	10	20	Al Jazeera (Field Reports)



This is obviously a limited sample, nonetheless, fitting the exponential growth curve returns a k value between 0.03 and 0.06 depending on modelling error.

This is in remarkable agreement with past reports from the mentioned famines, all of which were characterized by a growth rate of daily deaths k between 0.03 and 0.06. In particular, k values estimated for past famines occurring under occupations or war have been: 0.06 for the Leningrad siege of 1941, 0.05 for the Bengal famine in 1943, 0.046 for the Great Chinese Famine of 1959, and 0.046 for the Somalia war in 2011.

Based on these values, on the 27th of July, we have elaborated the below projections for the following 4 weeks:



The **blue** curve represents the projection based on $k=0.03$, hence the **lower limit** of our analysis, and an initial death toll of about 18 starvations per day, as reported from Gaza in the past 7 days. The **red** curve considers the reported deaths of 18 starvations per day but then extrapolate using a more historically realistic **upper limit** k value of 0.06. As you can see, under this scenario Gaza will hit over 100 starvation-deaths before mid-august.

One important consideration relates to the initial death toll being reported. It is feasible to consider that this number is under representative of the reality on the ground. In a situation like Gaza's, deaths could easily be under-reported or misreported as caused by different causes than starvation (i.e. air strike, IDF shooting, building collapse, to name a few). The **green** curve assumes the lower limit of $k=0.03$, but an initial death toll of 36. Finally, the **purple** curve assumes this initial value of 36, but the upper limit of $k=0.06$. **Under this scenario, we would see about 450 deaths by starvation per day by the end of August.** To remark, this analysis only considers deaths related to famine, not the ones also caused by the on-going war and bombardments.

In the letter above, we chose to highlight the 2-to-4 week timeline because it reflects the most likely outcomes. We deliberately excluded more extreme worst-case scenarios in order to keep our estimates realistic and grounded in the most reliable projections.

References:

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3. Dyson, Tim (1991). On the Demography of South Asian Famines Part I. *Population Studies*, 45(1): 5–25.
4. Menken, Jane, et al. (1981). Demographic Effects of the 1974–75 Bangladesh Famine. *Population and Development Review*, 7(3): 415–434.
5. United Nations, FAO (1985). *Report on the African Famine Disaster*.
6. Checchi, Francesco, and Robinson, Courtland (2013). Mortality Among Populations of Southern and Central Somalia Affected by Severe Food Insecurity and Famine During 2010–2012. *FAO/FEWS NET/FSNAU*.
7. WHO/UNICEF/WFP (2000). *The Management of Nutrition in Major Emergencies*.
8. Sen, Amartya (1981). *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Oxford University Press.