

Israel tells UN it will reject UNRWA food convoys into northern Gaza

25 March 2024 | News

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Israeli authorities informed the United Nations that it will no longer approve the passage of any UN agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, food convoys into northern Gaza.

As of today, UNRWA, the main lifeline for Palestine refugees, is denied from providing lifesaving assistance to northern Gaza, UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini wrote in a social media post on X.

He called the decision "outrageous", saying it was made to intentionally obstruct lifesaving aid deliveries during a man-made famine in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

He underlined the need to lift this ban, adding that UNRWA "the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza" is the largest relief agency in the Strip and has the greatest ability to reach displaced communities there.

"Despite the tragedy unfolding under our watch, the Israeli authorities informed the UN that they will no longer approve any UNRWA food convoys to the north. This is outrageous & makes it intentional to obstruct lifesaving assistance during a man-made famine," he wrote.

"These restrictions must be lifted," he continued.

"By preventing UNRWA from fulfilling its mandate in Gaza, the clock will tick faster towards famine & many more will die of hunger, dehydration + lack of shelter," he warned. "This cannot happen, it would only stain our collective humanity."

World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus slammed the new order.

"Blocking UNRWA from delivering food is denying starving people the ability to survive," he said in a social media post.

"This decision must be urgently reversed," he continued.

“The levels of hunger are acute. All efforts to deliver food should not only be permitted but there should be an immediate acceleration of food deliveries.”

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Upon the report’s release, UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the findings as an “appalling indictment of conditions on the ground for civilians”.

“Palestinians in Gaza are enduring horrifying levels of hunger and suffering,” he said at the time. “This is an entirely man-made disaster, and the report makes clear that it can be halted.”