

Statement by Israel-based Human Rights Organisations on the Obstruction of the Humanitarian Response to Gaza

We, the undersigned civil society organisations operating in Israel, striving to promote and protect the rights of all people in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, unequivocally condemn the current Israeli government's attempts to restrict and disrupt the life-saving work of international humanitarian organisations in Gaza at a time when every effort should be devoted to removing, not creating, obstacles to the humanitarian response.

Despite recent public commitments to improve humanitarian access, since 2 March Israeli authorities have repeatedly denied most major international NGOs authorisation to deliver urgently needed assistance, including food, medicine, assistive devices, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) items. In July alone, over 60 requests—many from organisations with decades of experience in Gaza—were rejected.

This obstruction is directly linked to the [new INGO registration rules](#), under which registration can be refused on the basis of vague and politicised criteria, such as alleged “delegitimisation” activities or participation in calls for boycott—criteria that can be triggered by the actions of a single staff member, partner, board member or founder. INGOs are also compelled to submit invasive disclosures as a condition for registration, including full lists of Palestinian staff and other sensitive personnel information. Failure to comply with these demands will result in de-registration, forcing INGOs to withdraw all their international staff by 9 September, or earlier.

Such legislation is only the latest in a broader campaign to shrink humanitarian space and politicise aid. It follows the decision to favour the US-based Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) in the distribution of aid in Gaza—a policy that has rendered aid delivery dangerous and deadly for both civilians and humanitarian personnel, with [at least 1,373 Palestinians](#) killed while attempting to access food since 27 May. It also follows recent Knesset legislation blocking the operations of UNRWA—the main humanitarian service provider in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza—and a nearly two-year ban on the access of the International Committee of the Red Cross to detainees and prisoners in Israeli-controlled facilities.

In light of the grave and worsening humanitarian crisis, we call on the Israeli government to:

- **Implement a full and immediate ceasefire and secure the release of all hostages held in Gaza** without further endangering civilian lives.
- **Open all crossings and routes to allow the unimpeded entry of essential goods and services at the scale required**, as requested in an ongoing [petition](#) before the Israeli High Court of Justice.
- **Halt the GHF distribution model and reinstate the established UN-led coordination mechanisms.**
- **Rescind all obstructive policies targeting INGOs**, including invasive registration requirements, to allow their **full and unrestricted access to Gaza.**
- **Immediately cease all attacks** at aid distribution sites and ensure protection for civilians, humanitarians and medical workers.

We further call on the international community, especially states maintaining close relations with Israel, to **exert meaningful and sustained pressure** on the Israeli government to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law. Likewise, we urge states maintaining close relations with Hamas to exert meaningful and sustained pressure to compel the group to release the Israeli hostages and comply with international humanitarian law.

The spiralling humanitarian crisis in Gaza must be addressed without delay. Words are no longer enough: silence or inaction in the face of these violations is a form of complicity, further entrenches impunity, and prolongs the suffering of Gaza's civilian population.

Signatories:

Akevot Institute

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel

Bimkom: Planning and Human Rights

B'Tselem: the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

Combatants for Peace

Emek Shaveh

Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual

Ir Amim

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel

Yesh Din - Volunteers for human rights