

# Gazans ‘skin and bones’ due to Israeli starvation

Iran urges int’l community to stop ongoing crimes in Gaza



A displaced Palestinian child sits next to a pot of lentil soup that he received at a food distribution point in Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip on July 25, 2025.  
● OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP

**International Desk**  
The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) warned that almost one in three people in the Gaza Strip are going for days without eating as a hunger crisis is deteriorating in the besieged territory, turning the people to “skin and bones.”  
“Malnutrition is surging with 90,000

women and children in urgent need of treatment,” the World Food Programme said, adding that nearly half a million are enduring “famine-like conditions.”  
“An agreed cease-fire is the only way for humanitarian assistance to reach the entire civilian population in Gaza with critical food supplies in a consistent, predictable, orderly and safe

manner – wherever they are across the Gaza Strip,” the WFP said in a statement.  
Warnings of starvation in Gaza have intensified this week. Six more Palestinians died from malnutrition and starvation on Sunday, bringing the total such deaths since the war began to 133, including 87 children.  
Two of those who died on Sunday were children, Gaza Health Ministry said. The majority of the deaths have occurred since March when Israel imposed a total blockade of aid deliveries and resumed its military operations two weeks later.  
Medical workers describe dire conditions on the ground, and hospitals overflowing with malnourished patients. Despite growing evidence of widespread hunger, the Israeli military has reiterated its claim that “there is no starvation in the Gaza Strip,” calling it “a false campaign promoted by Hamas.”  
Iran’s Health Minister Mohammad

Reza Zafarghandi, in an urgent letter addressed to international bodies, expressed deep regret over the catastrophic situation in Gaza, calling for humanitarian and coordinated intervention to stop the ongoing disasters in the Palestinian territory.  
“The scale and purpose of the destruction inflicted upon the civilian population [in Gaza], especially children and women, has surpassed the threshold of a humanitarian crisis,” he said.  
Zafarghandi urged the international community to respond immediately and effectively to collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, and genocide taking place in the besieged Palestinian territory.  
**‘There is nothing to buy’**  
Liz Allcock, head of protection at Medical Aid for Palestinians, has been in Gaza multiple times, but since her latest arrival nine weeks ago, she says the difference has been the “scale of starvation” and “the number of people that you see walking around who are literally skin and bones.”  
“Money really has no value here when there is nothing to buy, and the total blockade on Gaza has had monumental and cumulative impact on people’s health and wellbeing ... everybody in

Gazan society – no matter who they are – is suffering from critical food shortages,” Allcock told Al Jazeera.  
Allcock said people were showing her their ribs as she walked around Gaza City, and putting their hands to their mouths, desperately asking for food. She added that the scale of starvation in Gaza was “a barbaric indictment” of Israel’s “lack of adherence to its obligations.”  
The UN Secretary General António Guterres has said he could not “explain the level of indifference and inaction we see by too many in the international community - the lack of compassion, the lack of truth, the lack of humanity.”  
Addressing the Amnesty International global assembly, he said more than 1,000 Palestinians had been killed while trying to access food since May 27 - when the US and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) began distributing supplies as an alternative to the UN-led system.  
Facing growing international condemnation over Palestinians starving to death, Israel’s military on Sunday began a “humanitarian pause” in densely populated parts of Gaza, and open corridors for UN convoys to make aid deliveries. However, it said fighting would continue elsewhere.

## Leader’s advisor: Enemies pursuing Zangezur Corridor as cover for larger geopolitical projects

**International Desk**  
Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the proposed Zangezur Corridor is as a geopolitical scheme led by the US and Israel aimed at undermining Iran’s security and a cover for larger geopolitical projects.  
Ali Akbar Velayati made the remarks at a ceremony in Tehran on Sunday, noting that plans like the Zangezur Corridor serve as a cover for larger geopolitical projects.  
The Zangezur Corridor is a 43-kilometer land route that would connect mainland Azerbaijan to its enclave Nakhchivan, passing through Armenia’s Syunik Province. Armenia opposes the plan, saying it would violate its sovereignty.  
Velayati said the main goal of this

plan is to “weaken the Resistance Axis, sever Iran’s link with the Caucasus, and impose a land blockade on Iran and Russia in the region’s south.”  
It would cut off Iran’s land border connection with Armenia, a key ally and transit route for Iran.  
Velayati also noted that this project is not only part of America’s strategy to shift pressure from Ukraine to the Caucasus, but is also supported by NATO and certain pan-Turkist movements.  
Velayati further stressed that “Iran’s national security is our red line,” adding that Tehran has already deployed forces to its borders and has adopted a proactive approach of “active prevention” rather than reactive measures to address potential threats.  
As tensions escalate again between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the

disputed territories, Iran has made it emphatically clear that it will not allow any border changes in the Caucasus.  
Elsewhere in his remarks, Velayati said that the enemies of Iran, specifically the US and Israel, have long been concerned about the Islamic Republic’s strong unity and deep cultural connections in the region.  
He also emphasized that the adversaries aim to undermine the foundations of Iranian identity to jeopardize the country’s national security.  
Velayati further pointed out that initiatives like the Zangezur Corridor are not solely focused on economic aspects, but are actually intended to create division within Iran.  
Furthermore, he cautioned that the hostile forces are attempting to infiltrate Iran’s geopolitical integrity by camouflaging their efforts as eco-



conomic projects, while in reality, they are driven by separatist motives. Iran has in the past opposed the plan because it would cut off the transport routes connecting its territories to Armenia.

## Taliban FM calls for gradual repatriation of Afghans from Iran

**International Desk**  
Taliban’s caretaker foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, on Sunday called for gradual repatriation of Afghan nationals from Iran which has begun a plan to deport undocumented Afghans since June.  
He made the remarks during a phone conversation with Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.  
The Afghan official expressed concern about the process of return of Afghan nationals, urging that their dignity should be respected.  
Last week, Malek Hosseini, who leads employment affairs at Iran’s Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare, said nearly 700,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran as part of the program.



Iran’s foreign minister, for his past, highlighted Iran’s efforts to pave the way for the gradual deportation of Afghan refugees in a respectful manner by observing their rights.  
During a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in Tehran on Tuesday, Ara-

ghchi said that Tehran is determined to repatriate Afghan volunteer refugees and illegal migrants to Afghanistan.  
Iran’s top diplomat highlighted Iran’s five decades of hosting Afghan refugees and underscored the Iranian government’s commitment to facilitate their voluntary return and providing a dignified repatriation process for those residing without valid documents.  
Araghchi also called on the international community to fulfill its responsibilities and provide the required assistance in this matter.  
The top Iranian diplomat also put a premium on cooperation between Afghanistan and the United Nations to expedite the process of repatriating illegal nationals and to create employment and living opportunities for Afghan citizens in their own country.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

