

# Blockade on Gaza

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A blockade is implemented to prevent goods from entering or leaving an area by sealing it off. Some people believe that Israel imposes a full and illegal blockade on Gaza. However, this is false. **Israel imposes a legal naval blockade on the Gaza Strip to stop the flow of weapons from reaching Hamas, which is a US-designated terrorist organization.** Israel also sends humanitarian aid into Gaza to benefit the civilian population.

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## Why do I keep hearing about Gaza?

Gaza is controlled by Hamas, which is a US-designated terrorist organization.

- Hamas runs a corrupt and dictatorial regime and consistently abuses its Arab population's basic human rights.
  - It also commits the war crime of using its own civilians as human shields during combat.<sup>i</sup>
  - Hamas has committed more than 19,000 war crimes by launching more than 19,000 rockets at Israeli *civilians*.
  - Hamas leaders have been caught on many occasions stealing UN aid intended for the people of Gaza.<sup>ii</sup>

## Israel's naval blockade on Gaza is legal under international law.

- International law permits a naval blockade when two sides are in armed conflict.
  - Israel and Hamas are in a state of armed conflict, seeing as Hamas has and continues to launch thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians. Israel responds by launching attacks against Hamas infrastructure.
- The rules on blockades are based on binding international law, according to Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.<sup>iii</sup>

## Israel monitors the flow of goods that enter and exit Gaza for security purposes only.

- Hamas terrorists often attempt to smuggle weapons, people, and other goods used for terror over the border.
  - Before Israel imposed this naval blockade, Hamas used ports in Gaza to import weapons and other materials used for terrorism, thus a blockade was imperative to civilian safety.
  - Hamas also illegally builds tunnels from Egypt into Gaza and then into Israel in an effort to smuggle weapons and people across the border into terrorist hands. Israel has discovered hundreds of these tunnels in the past decade when Hamas took over the area.
    - The materials used for these terrorist tunnels (some of which have even been equipped with electrical supplies and phone lines<sup>iv</sup>) come from aid Israel sends across the border for civilian construction. **Unfortunately, Hamas steals these materials for its own use.**

## Despite Hamas terror, Israel sends thousands of tons and millions of dollars of humanitarian aid into Gaza each year.

- In an effort to improve the lives of abused Gazans, Israel provides the Palestinian-Arabs of Gaza with thousands of tons of aid to help **improve the lives of Gazans living under the dictatorial regime of Hamas.**
  - In March 2011, **Palestinian-Arabs fired 90 rockets into southern Israel**, while the IDF oversaw 3,656 truckloads of food and medical supplies into Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing.<sup>v</sup>

- **Israel has created a system to allow for efficient aid transportation to Palestinian-Arab Gazan civilians. Different crossings are designated to different types of aid; Israel designated the Kerem Shalom crossing for the sole purpose of transferring tools, raw materials, medical equipment such as medicine and wheelchairs, and school books that the civilian population in Gaza needs (their government denies them access to these materials).**<sup>vi</sup>
- In 2013, Hamas used cement given by Israel for jihad terror tunnels instead of schools and houses, which were its intended purposes.<sup>vii</sup>
- Israel provided medical treatment to Gazan civilians when Gaza's leaders were sending thousands of deadly rockets into Israel in 2014.<sup>viii</sup>
- During Operation Cast Lead in 2008-2009 (a war prompted by Hamas between Israel and Gaza to stop Hamas's continuous rocket fire on Israeli civilians), Israel delivered more than 1,500 truckloads of food and supplies to the enemy-controlled Gaza Strip.
  - **Israel delivered aid to enemy territory despite the enemy's continuous rocket-fire on Israeli civilians.**<sup>ix</sup>
- Prior to withdrawing all Israelis from Gaza in 2005, Israel built the Erez Crossing, which would have allowed for 40,000 Palestinian-Arab Gazans to cross per day to seek jobs in anticipation of continued economic and employment cooperation between Israel and Gaza.<sup>x</sup>
  - Unfortunately, after Hamas took over Gaza and intensified its terrorist attacks against Israel (including attacks on the Erez Crossing), it never began to operate as intended.<sup>xi</sup>
- **Israel supplies more water to Gaza than it is obligated to under the Oslo Agreement.**<sup>xii</sup>
- Israel **invested roughly \$22 million** to expand a border crossing in order to accommodate up to **450 trucks of humanitarian supplies** to Gaza every day.<sup>xiii</sup>
- Israel continues to supply Gaza with 125MW of electricity, accounting for **63 percent of Gaza's electricity** (exact numbers as of 2013).<sup>xiv</sup> Egypt, which also borders Gaza, only provides it with 20 MW.<sup>xv</sup>
- Israel delivered 1,068,400 tons of aid, 139,118,433 liters of fuel, and 52,580 tons of cooking gas to the Gaza Strip between January 2009 and June 2010.<sup>xvi</sup>
- During a massive winter storm in 2013, Israel provided Gaza with **1.2 million liters of fuel and four water pumps** to relieve the damage.<sup>xvii</sup>
- Israel coordinated 93 percent of requests by the Palestinian Authority for Gazans to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals in 2011, according to the World Health Organization.<sup>xviii</sup>
- Even though he continuously calls for Israel's annihilation, Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh sent his own granddaughter to receive **treatment in an Israeli hospital.**<sup>xix</sup>

**Hamis continuously launches rockets and other terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians.**

**However, Israel still delivers aid to its enemy's territory in an effort to help alleviate the suffering of innocent people by sending truckloads of humanitarian aid into Gaza on a daily basis.**

**If you were Israel, would you continue to send aid to a region which promotes and implements terror? Would you loosen security?**

(Sources on page 3)

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- <sup>ii</sup> Palestinian Media Watch, *Hamas steals medicine and food sent by donors*, February 5, 2009.
- <sup>iii</sup> Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, *The Legal Basis of Israel's Naval Blockade of Gaza*, July 18, 2010
- <sup>iv</sup> The Jerusalem Post, *IDF uncovers Palestinian terrorist tunnel leading from Gaza to kibbutz in Israel*, October 13, 2013
- <sup>v</sup> CBN News, *IDF Continues Gaza Humanitarian Aid amid Attacks*, April 12, 2011
- <sup>vi</sup> Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Increased humanitarian aid to Gaza after IDF operation*, June 26, 2010
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- <sup>viii</sup> Israel21c, *Gazan Children Receive Life-Saving Treatment in Tel Aviv*, July 8, 2014
- <sup>ix</sup> Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, Ministry of Defense, State of Israel: *The Humanitarian Efforts in the Gaza Strip*, January 18, 2009
- <sup>x</sup> Honest Reporting: *Erez Crossing*
- <sup>xi</sup> Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs: *Main terrorist attacks carried out at Gaza Strip crossings*.
- <sup>xii</sup> The Commentator: *Is Israel really to blame for Gaza's water shortages?* February 13, 2013
- <sup>xiii</sup> Haaretz: *Egypt's holy war against Sinai jihadists leaves many questions unanswered*, September 4, 2012.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, Ministry of Defense, State of Israel: *The Civil Policy Towards the Gaza Strip, 2012-2013*
- <sup>xv</sup> Al Monitor: *Fixing Gaza's electricity crisis*, November 19, 2013
- <sup>xvi</sup> Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Increased humanitarian aid to Gaza after IDF operation*, June 26, 2010
- <sup>xvii</sup> Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs: *Assistance to the Palestinians during December storm*, December 17, 2013
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