

Gaza Airdrops - Just a Smokescreen

Since **March 3, 2025**, Israel has enforced a **total siege on the Gaza Strip**, home to **2.3 million people**, most of them children. Finance Minister **Bezael Smotrich** declared: *"Not a single grain of wheat will enter Gaza."* That declaration became genocidal policy. In the months that followed, the territory plunged into a **Stage 5 famine**, the most catastrophic level classified by the **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)**.

By July 2025, Gaza's hospitals were out of anesthetics and food, doctors were collapsing from hunger during surgery, and dozens of children had already died of starvation. "We heal others while we ourselves are the ones in need of healing," wrote **Dr. Fadi Bora**, a Gaza surgeon, after a 12-hour shift on an empty stomach. This is not wartime disruption - it is **deliberate starvation**, weaponized as policy.

The Legal Case: Clear Violations by Israel

As the **occupying power**, Israel is legally obligated under **Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention** to ensure the provision of food and medical supplies. Instead, it has blocked, bombed, and controlled all aid entering Gaza.

Under **customary international humanitarian law**, the **starvation of civilians as a method of warfare** is a **war crime** (Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxv)). It is also a grave breach of **Common Article 3** to the Geneva Conventions, which prohibits "violence to life and person" including acts that cause death by deprivation.

Israel is also in **defiance of provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ)** in **January and March 2024**, which required it to allow humanitarian aid and prevent acts that contribute to genocide. These measures are binding. Israel has openly disregarded them.

The International Responsibility to Protect

Beyond Israel's obligations, all UN member states are bound by the **Genocide Convention**, which requires the **prevention** of genocide - not merely its punishment after the fact. The **ICJ's 2007 Bosnia v. Serbia judgment** affirmed this duty: states can be held liable if they fail to act when they had the capacity to intervene.

The **Responsibility to Protect (R2P)** framework reinforces this: when a state is either unwilling or unable to protect its population - or worse, is the perpetrator - the international community **must** act. In Gaza, the world has not acted. It has enabled.

Timeline Matters: No Airdrops Until July 27, 2025

It is important to correct a common misconception: **no airdrops occurred from March to July 2025**. During the critical early months of Israel’s siege - when famine conditions rapidly worsened - **Israel refused to authorize any airdrops**, and most countries complied.

Only on **July 27, 2025**, under massive international pressure and after images of skeletal children and collapsed hospitals became undeniable, did airdrops resume. That means the first **144 days** of the siege passed with **zero air deliveries of aid**.

Documented Airdrops Since July 27, 2025

Available records indicate the following:

Date	Countries Involved	Amount of Aid	Aircraft Type (if known)
July 27, 2025	Jordan, UAE	25 tons	Not specified
July 31, 2025	Likely Jordan, UAE	43 aid packages	Not specified
August 1, 2025	Spain, France, Germany, Egypt, Jordan, UAE, Israel	126 packages (~57 tons)	Mix: C-130s and A400Ms confirmed

These deliveries - though involving **multiple nations and modern aircraft** - remain **grossly insufficient**. The **UN estimates that 2,000–3,000 tons per day** are needed to meet minimum humanitarian standards in Gaza. The **57 tons delivered on August 1** represent **less than 3%** of that requirement.

Berlin Airlift vs. Gaza Airdrops: A Factual Comparison

Operation	Flights/Day	Tons/Day	Total Duration	Aircraft Used
Berlin Airlift (1948–49)	~541	~4,978	15 months	C-47 (3.5 tons), C-54 (10 tons), Avro York
Gaza Airdrops (2025)	~2–4 (since July 27 only)	22–57 (peak)	1 week (ongoing)	C-130s, A400Ms (payload up to 37 tons)

Despite **modern aircraft** and **superior logistics**, Gaza airdrops remain **symbolic gestures**, not strategic interventions. The Berlin Airlift sustained **2.2 million people** for over a year with **older, smaller planes** in a postwar environment. Gaza’s population is nearly identical, yet the international response is **orders of magnitude smaller**, despite far greater capabilities.

Why This Matters: Airdrops Are a Smokescreen

The contrast is damning. In Berlin, the world **defied a superpower** to save a city. In Gaza, the world **complies with a regional power** to the point of complicity.

Airdrops today serve not as real solutions, but as **PR tools** - a way for Western governments to **calm domestic outrage** without confronting Israel's siege directly. They are a **smokescreen**, not a strategy.

The ICC and ICJ Will Ask: Was Enough Done?

The legal reckoning will come. When the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** and the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** assess the famine in Gaza, they will ask:

■ **"Was enough done, and could more have been done sooner?"**

The answer will be:

■ **Too little. Too late. And deliberately so.**

- **Too little:** Aid delivered was **a fraction of what was possible**, even with modern aircraft and international coordination.
- **Too late:** It began **only after global outrage peaked**, and after the famine had already reached **catastrophic, irreversible levels**.

This verdict will not only condemn Israel. It will **implicate the governments that enabled this atrocity**:

- The **United States**, for shielding Israel diplomatically and supplying arms
- **Germany**, for blocking ceasefire language and exporting military goods
- The **United Kingdom**, for providing token aid while refusing to challenge the siege
- And others who allowed starvation to become strategy.

History Will Not Absolve Them

In 1948, the world organized the greatest humanitarian airlift in history. In 2025, it let **an entire population starve**, offering symbolic airdrops **only after** emaciated children filled screens and timelines.

The reckoning will come - in **courtrooms**, in **archives**, and in the **judgment of future generations**.