



Speak Out Now

August 25, 2025 mail@speakoutsocialists.org speakoutsocialists.org IG:@sonsocialists

Stop the Famine – No Genocide in Our Name!

According to the UN and international health organizations, the people of Gaza City are experiencing a severe famine. They report that, by the end of September, more than 640,000 people in Gaza City will face the highest level of food insecurity, Phase 5 – Famine (at least two adults or four children under five per 10,000 people die every day from starvation or related disease). An additional 1.14 million people in the Gaza Strip will be in Phase 4 – Emergency, and 396,000 people in Phase 3 – Crisis conditions.

This is a genocide being carried out by the state of Israel. It is a result of the calculated effort to exterminate the Palestinian people. The U.S. is a backer of this horrific war crime. According to Brown University's Costs of War Project, the U.S. spent at least \$17.9 billion during the first year of the war. It has continued its support.

Israel is a main ally of the U.S. – its cop in the Middle East. Israel has received an estimated \$310 billion from the U.S. since Israel's founding. It defends the oil and gas companies' exploitation of Middle Eastern resources. The U.S. also depends on Middle Eastern dictatorships that supply their oil and supports the rulers who live in luxury on the backs of the people of the region.

The state of Israel was established in 1948, when, backed by the European powers and the U.S., its armed colonial forces forced more than 700,000 Palestinians from their land, an event known as the Nakba. Conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian people have continued ever since.

The Gaza Strip has since become the home to 2.2 million Palestinian people. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world – called the "world's largest open-air prison." On October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Palestinian organization that rules over Gaza, raided Israeli cities and towns outside Gaza. 1,200 Israelis were killed and 251 taken hostage. Israel retaliated almost immediately by bombing Gaza and carrying out a ground invasion six days later.

The ongoing war on Gaza has forced Palestinians to flee from one place to another. Under the pretense that they are fighting Hamas, Israel has obliterated most of Gaza. Hospitals, schools, mosques, community centers and residential areas have been targeted and reduced to rubble. Water supply systems have been destroyed and sewage systems targeted – sending sewage everywhere. The farmland that existed has been destroyed. According to the

Gaza Health Ministry, 62,622 people have been killed as of August 22, 2025. In July 2024, Lancet, a respected medical journal, estimated that at least 186,000 had been killed. Estimates today are much higher.

The control of access to food, water, medicine, and other basics of life is being used by Israel as a weapon of war. In 1948, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) was established and, along with other aid organizations, has provided aid for the Palestinian people ever since. But since October 2023, food aid has been greatly restricted. In March 2024, Israel accused 13 of the more than 3,000 UNRWA workers of working with Hamas. As a show of support, Biden, along with more than a dozen countries, stopped funding UNRWA, ending what little regular access to food and other humanitarian aid was available.

The flow of even small amounts of aid has been turned on and off, according to the status of the so-called peace negotiations and limited ceasefire agreements. Instead of 500 or more truckloads that delivered food and essentials daily, it has been restricted to 30 or 50 trucks or none.

Recently, U.S. contractors took over food distribution. The distributions were totally disorganized and inadequate and resulted in Israeli soldiers and contractors opening fire on desperate Palestinians seeking food. They have killed more than 2,000 and wounded thousands.

The Israeli military is preparing its new offensive, Gideon's Chariot II. It is calling up 60,000 military reservists and extending deployment of 20,000 reservists to escalate its war of terror. The Israeli government wants to take complete control over Gaza.

This murder and cruelty is covered in the media, but foreign reporters are not allowed into Gaza, unless they are with the Israeli military. And more than 270 Palestinian reporters and media workers have been targeted and killed. We hear about the genocide and mass murder on a daily basis. But the major powers and their politicians, led by the U.S. and Europe, have continued to support this Israeli murder. This imperialist system has shown it has no limits to its inhumanity.

People around the world have protested and called for an end to the genocide of Palestinians. We must find the way to do even more – whatever we can to stop it.

Baltimore, Maryland:

Workers Stand Up for Each Other and for Palestine

On Sunday, August 17, restaurant workers at Bunny's Buckets and Bubbles, along with other supporters, protested in front of their Baltimore workplace for their coworker who was fired for wearing a Palestinian flag pin.

The protest was held after the owners demanded that two workers wearing the pins either take them off or lose their job. One worker took off their pin and the other was fired.

A number of their coworkers, several of whom walked out during their shift to participate in the protest, came together to fight for their coworker and for the people of Palestine. The bosses responded by firing six workers who protested. Other people have made donations through "Go Fund Me" to support the fired workers (tinyurl.com/StandwithBunnysWorkers). Workers and other people are absolutely right to organize around support for Palestine and opposition to the genocide there supported by the U.S. government. We have to fight for a decent world both globally and locally.

Newark, New Jersey:

Unhoused in New Jersey

According to the latest official count, the number of people in New Jersey without housing is now at its highest number in decades. The new total of at least 13,700 is an 8% increase above last year's number. And although Black people make up 12% of the state's population, they are 47% of the unhoused population. More than 11,000 sleep temporarily in shelters, while more than 2,000 sleep regularly on the streets or in abandoned spaces. Across the country, at least 771,000 are consistently unhoused, also a record high.

This is an outrage. While millionaire and billionaire capitalists regularly own numerous luxury apartments and compounds worth hundreds of millions, and spend millions on private jets and outer space tourism, why can't we provide housing for everyone? Decent, dignified housing should be available to everyone. PERIOD!

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich — the bosses of the big corporations and banks — keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

The Triangle, North Carolina:

Find Your Local Labor Day Rally

The bosses and politicians are cutting the services that working people rely on: our health care, food stamps, education, and legal and job protections. This administration has sent ICE agents to violently snatch our immigrant coworkers, neighbors, family members, and friends and hold them in detention camps. They have fired thousands of federal workers and canceled collective bargaining contracts for multiple federal agencies.

This year on Labor Day, let's all be organizers. Around the country, there are rallies planned for Labor Day. Let's show up, and bring our coworkers, families, and friends out. We are the only ones that can stop these attacks, and it will start with how we connect to each other and build our forces. Look for Speak Out Now at your local rally, for example, in Durham, NC: mobilize.us/mayday/map.

Bay Area, California:

Trump's Medicaid Cuts Will Harm U.S.!

In June, Alameda Health System CEO James Jackson was asked if Trump's attack on Medicaid could lead to job cuts, and he answered "YES." Now the Medicaid cuts have hit! Trump's bill calls for a \$1 trillion cut to Medicaid and threatens Highland Hospital's primary revenue stream among others. Job cuts have not happened yet, but we can expect that the CEO will direct the impacts of the cuts onto the workers.

This attack on Medicaid will also hurt and even kill the poor, unhoused and elderly. The majority of patients are on Medi-Cal or Medicare. Without these services, people will forego care, which leads to far worse health problems.

So what can we do? Stand up, fight back! The cuts to Medicaid are scheduled to roll out over the next five years. We must hit the streets and say enough is enough. Billionaires keep your hands off our healthcare!

