

**“The Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in Gaza”, Dr. Lee Mordechai, Hebrew University,
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Lecture

[On the nutrition of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip:] Before the war, or rather before the current conflict, the average Gazan ate once a day, consuming grains and vegetables roughly seven times a week. That was the situation just before the ceasefire—difficult, even dire. Fast forward to May and June: today, the average Gazan eats grains four days a week, perhaps has access to oil one day a week, and consumes very few vegetables, dairy, or protein-rich products. Sugar and other essentials are also scarce. These conditions are the direct result of Israeli policy, which allows in only limited quantities of basic goods—particularly flour, and even that is insufficient for the population's needs.

Israel's alternative to regular humanitarian aid is something called the “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation”. This is an unknown, inexperienced organization, established only in February. Its funding sources were unclear until it emerged that Israel—possibly along with the United States—was backing it. Virtually all international humanitarian agencies, including the UN, oppose the foundation, accusing Israel of using aid as a weapon, aiming to push Gazans further south. Initially, there were four aid distribution points, with the apparent goal of forcing people to travel long distances—effectively encouraging internal displacement. There are even reports of the use of American mercenaries, earning between \$1,700 and \$2,500 a day, much of it funded by Israeli taxpayers.

Even the limited aid reaching Gaza does not meet actual needs. There are widespread operational failures. In the past month alone, there have been daily incidents involving mass casualties. Just in the last 24 hours, 71 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire—50 of them while waiting for or seeking aid. With many journalists killed and international media attention shifting elsewhere (notably to events in Iran), information from Gaza is increasingly scarce. Still, the evidence suggests that over 400 people have been killed and more than 3,000 injured in the past month—many while simply trying to get food. Numerous videos show people being fired upon while searching for aid, fleeing, and trying to take cover. Dozens of such videos exist.

Meanwhile, Israel is reportedly arming and supporting at least one Gazan militia—specifically, the faction led by Yasser Abu Shabab in southern Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu even publicly endorsed this group around three weeks ago. Observers suggest Israel's broader goal may be to dismantle the social infrastructure of Gaza and prevent any single entity from governing the territory after the war—fragmenting it into separate political units.