



WE BELIEVE
IN ISRAEL



THE FAMINE LIBEL – HOW TRUTH AND MEMORY ARE BEING STARVED



STOP
THE
HATE



2025



FOREWORD

The word famine evokes immediate horror — images of skeletal children, starvation, and societal collapse. It is precisely this emotional weight that has been exploited to vilify Israel. The so-called famine in Gaza is not a humanitarian truth but a propaganda weapon, a modern twist on the medieval blood libel designed to cast the Jewish state as a cruel oppressor.

Gaza is suffering, yes, but not from Israeli-engineered starvation. Every day, Israel facilitates the entry of hundreds of aid trucks carrying food, medicine, and essential supplies, even under rocket fire. The real architect of Gaza's humanitarian crisis is Hamas, which diverts aid, hoards resources, and uses its own people as pawns.

Yet, much of the Western press prefers a simpler, more poisonous narrative. Emotive images — even of children suffering from terminal illnesses unrelated to hunger — are misused to suggest deliberate starvation. This lie erodes the truth and fuels antisemitism by blurring the line between Israel and the Jewish people.

Meanwhile, the world's attention drifts from 7 October and the Israeli hostages still held by Hamas. This booklet seeks to restore clarity, reject falsehoods, and remind us that truth and justice cannot be built on the foundations of propaganda.

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INTRODUCTION

The word famine is one of the most powerful in the humanitarian lexicon. It evokes images of mass suffering, skeletal children, and the collapse of civil order. In recent months, the term has been weaponised by activists, journalists, and even some international agencies to portray Gaza as a land where Israel is deliberately engineering starvation. These claims have been repeated so often that they are rarely questioned, even when the evidence is tenuous or distorted.

But the reality is far more complex. Gaza is indeed a place of suffering, but there is no famine. The people of Gaza are facing hardship, yes, but the conditions on the ground do not meet the international thresholds for a famine declaration. The “famine” narrative is not an innocent misrepresentation – it is a deliberate slander, a modern reincarnation of the blood libel, aimed at demonising Israel and, by extension, the Jewish people.

This booklet will examine the facts about food security in Gaza, the mechanics of aid delivery, and the ways in which Hamas manipulates and diverts humanitarian resources. It will also address how the Western press and activist groups have manufactured images and stories that distort reality, using the suffering of innocents as a propaganda tool.

The purpose of this booklet is simple: to restore truth to a narrative that has been hijacked, and to ensure that genuine humanitarian concerns are not twisted into weapons of hatred.



WHAT IS A FAMINE?



The term famine is not merely descriptive – it is a highly specific classification used by humanitarian agencies to assess extreme food insecurity. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a famine is declared when the following conditions are met:

1. At least 20% of households face an extreme lack of food.
2. Acute malnutrition rates exceed 30%.
3. Mortality exceeds 2 people per 10,000 per day.

These are stringent criteria, designed to ensure that the term famine is used with precision and not as a rhetorical device. It is meant to reflect a catastrophic breakdown of access to food and water, often caused by war, natural disasters, or systemic failure.

By these standards, Gaza does not qualify as being in famine. While there are severe challenges – including disrupted food distribution and limited access to certain goods – markets continue to operate, bakeries produce bread daily, and humanitarian aid enters Gaza through multiple channels, particularly from Israel and Egypt. In contrast, true famines, such as those witnessed in Yemen or South Sudan, involve total societal collapse and widespread starvation, with entire communities unable to access even the most basic sustenance.



THE FAMINE LIBEL

The Western media has weaponised imagery to craft a narrative of “famine” in Gaza, presenting photographs of frail or sickly children as proof of deliberate starvation. Many of these tragic cases, however, stem from terminal illnesses or chronic medical conditions unrelated to food shortages. Yet the images are framed as evidence of Israel’s supposed cruelty, deliberately erasing the complexities of the conflict.

This is not a misunderstanding; it is a deliberate distortion — a modern echo of the blood libel. Where Jews were once accused of ritual murder, today Israel is accused of manufacturing hunger. The language has changed, but the underlying purpose — to demonise Jews — remains painfully familiar.

The truth is that Hamas exploits its own people’s suffering to score propaganda victories. It hoards food and aid, sells supplies on the black market, and uses civilians as human shields. These realities are omitted from the narrative, replaced by a singular image of Israel as a heartless oppressor.

The so-called “famine” narrative is therefore not just false — it is malicious. It aims not only to delegitimise Israel but to fuel antisemitism worldwide by blurring the line between a nation and a people.



FOOD ACCESS IN GAZA

The narrative of “deliberate starvation” collapses when confronted with facts. Despite ongoing hostilities, Israel facilitates the daily entry of hundreds of aid trucks carrying food, water, medicine, and essential supplies into Gaza via Kerem Shalom and, intermittently, Rafah. According to the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), more than 200–300 trucks of aid enter Gaza on many days, delivering thousands of tonnes of flour, vegetables, grains, and other essentials. Israel even enables the transfer of humanitarian goods from international agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNRWA — despite widespread corruption and aid diversion within these organisations.

The real obstacle to equitable distribution of aid is not Israel but Hamas. The terrorist organisation routinely intercepts convoys, hoards supplies, and sells food and fuel on the black market to finance its war machine. Videos and eyewitness accounts have shown Hamas operatives stealing aid and stockpiling food for fighters while civilians are left in need.

Moreover, markets, bakeries, and food stalls continue to operate in Gaza, even under conflict. Food scarcity is selective and uneven because Hamas manipulates distribution to maintain control and propaganda leverage. The West rarely acknowledges this reality, preferring the simpler — and false — narrative of Israeli malice.



MEDIA MANIPULATION

The Western press has become a powerful amplifier of Hamas's propaganda, often without acknowledging it. Headlines and front-page photographs focus on suffering in Gaza but rarely on its causes, creating a narrative in which Israel is the aggressor and Hamas's role is invisible. The images of children — some gravely ill from cancer, genetic disorders, or malnutrition unrelated to food shortages — are used as emotive “evidence” of famine. These photos, often circulated without proper verification, invite outrage but not understanding.

Journalistic malpractice compounds the problem. Reporters on the ground often rely on Hamas-controlled sources for information, as independent reporting in Gaza is nearly impossible without Hamas oversight. Statistics are quoted as facts, despite coming from ministries run by the same terrorist organisation responsible for the suffering. Rarely are these figures verified by independent humanitarian agencies or cross-checked against international data.

The narrative is also shaped by language and omission. Words like “blockade” are repeated endlessly, yet almost no mention is made of the hundreds of aid trucks Israel facilitates daily, or the tunnels Hamas uses to smuggle weapons rather than food. By ignoring Hamas's exploitation of aid and its responsibility for civilian suffering, much of the media effectively shifts blame from the true culprit to Israel.

This one-sided coverage fuels a broader narrative that demonises Israel and, by extension, Jews worldwide, feeding into the “famine libel” that has become a modern echo of ancient antisemitic tropes.

THE WEAPONISATION OF CHILDREN'S SUFFERING

Few images stir global outrage more than those of suffering children. Hamas, understanding this all too well, has perfected the art of exploiting such images to turn public opinion against Israel. Photographs of frail or injured children are broadcast worldwide, often presented without context or explanation. In many cases, these children suffer from terminal illnesses or congenital conditions that have nothing to do with hunger or Israel's actions. Yet, their images are cynically used to "prove" a manufactured narrative of famine.

This tactic is part of a deliberate propaganda strategy. Hamas embeds itself in civilian areas — schools, hospitals, and residential blocks — ensuring that when conflict erupts, children are among the casualties. These deaths and injuries are then framed as deliberate acts of Israeli aggression rather than the direct consequence of Hamas's own actions. By doing so, Hamas both maximises international outrage and deflects responsibility for its crimes.

Western journalists, knowingly or not, often become complicit in this manipulation. Instead of investigating the real causes of civilian suffering, they amplify these carefully curated images, shaping a narrative where Hamas is absent, and Israel is the sole villain. This portrayal is not just misleading — it dehumanises both the children exploited for political gain and the victims of Hamas's atrocities, such as the hostages still held since 7 October.

COMPARING REAL FAMINES

To understand why the claim of “famine in Gaza” is misleading, it is essential to compare it with genuine, internationally recognised famines. Real famines, such as those in Yemen (2017–2021), South Sudan (2017), and Somalia (2011), involved catastrophic collapse of food systems, mass displacement, and extreme malnutrition where tens of thousands died from starvation.

In Somalia’s famine of 2011, over 250,000 people perished, half of them children under five. In Yemen, famine conditions were declared due to a complete breakdown of infrastructure, no functioning markets, and widespread food shortages that reached nearly every household. These were humanitarian disasters on a scale that left skeletal populations and mortality rates surpassing the IPC’s most severe thresholds.

By contrast, Gaza — despite the undeniable hardships — has functioning markets and bakeries, with food products (from flour to vegetables) available. Aid deliveries, facilitated by Israel and Egypt, number in the hundreds of trucks per day, providing flour, grains, cooking oil, and medical supplies. While there are localised shortages, there is no systemic starvation. International humanitarian organisations, including the World Food Programme (WFP) and IPC, have not declared a famine in Gaza.

The misuse of the term famine trivialises the suffering of those who have endured genuine starvation crises and manipulates public perception to portray Israel as a villain rather than a state actively enabling humanitarian aid despite ongoing conflict.

THE POLITICAL USE OF “FAMINE”

The claim of famine in Gaza has become more than a humanitarian issue — it has been weaponised as a political narrative. Activists, some NGOs, and Hamas itself have discovered that nothing mobilises international outrage faster than the suggestion that a state is starving children. This narrative does not emerge from data or verified reports but from a deliberate effort to portray Israel as a pariah, guilty of crimes that echo the darkest chapters of history.

For Hamas, this is strategic. It understands that while rockets and terrorism draw condemnation, images of hungry children can shift the narrative entirely. By diverting aid, hoarding supplies, and creating artificial scarcity, Hamas manufactures the conditions for these claims while blaming Israel. Each headline about “starvation” strengthens its hand, eroding international support for Israel and buying Hamas sympathy abroad.

Western activists and segments of the media eagerly amplify this narrative, often without questioning its veracity. The language of “famine” is deployed not as an accurate description but as emotional blackmail, designed to delegitimise Israel’s right to defend itself. It is a tactic as old as antisemitism itself: the transformation of the Jew — or the Jewish state — into a symbol of cruelty.

This politicisation of humanitarian language is not only dishonest but deeply damaging. It diverts attention from Hamas’s exploitation of its own people, undermines genuine humanitarian efforts, and fuels global antisemitism.

DEBUNKING KEY MYTHS

The famine narrative surrounding Gaza is riddled with half-truths, omissions, and outright lies. Below are some of the most common myths — and the facts that debunk them:

Myth 1: “Israel is deliberately starving Gaza.”

Fact: Israel facilitates daily humanitarian aid deliveries via Kerem Shalom, even under rocket fire. According to official COGAT data, hundreds of trucks carrying food, medicine, and essentials enter Gaza each day. The bottleneck occurs not at the Israeli crossings, but due to Hamas diverting and hoarding aid.

Myth 2: “Children are dying of hunger across Gaza.”

Fact: While malnutrition is a concern in isolated areas, there is no verified data from international agencies confirming famine conditions. Many images circulated in the media show children suffering from terminal or congenital illnesses, not starvation.

Myth 3: “Gaza’s markets are empty.”

Fact: Satellite imagery, field reports, and humanitarian updates confirm that markets and bakeries are operational. Food is available, though distribution is uneven due to Hamas’s manipulation and the chaos of war.

Myth 4: “Israel blocks all humanitarian aid.”

Fact: Israel works with the UN, the Red Crescent, and the WFP to coordinate aid. The problem lies in Hamas’s theft and mismanagement, which is rarely reported by the press.

WHAT THE WORLD SHOULD KNOW

The humanitarian challenges in Gaza are real, but the narrative of famine is a political construct, not a reflection of verified facts. To address suffering effectively, the world must first acknowledge the truth: Hamas, not Israel, is the primary architect of Gaza's humanitarian crisis. By diverting aid, using civilians as shields, and prioritising weapons over welfare, Hamas has created a system where suffering is leveraged for propaganda. The international community and media must also recognise their role in perpetuating this narrative. Headlines that blindly repeat claims of "famine" while ignoring data on aid deliveries do nothing to help civilians. Instead, they feed global antisemitism, portraying Israel as a cruel, heartless oppressor, while absolving Hamas of its crimes against its own people.

To protect truth and justice, the following must be prioritised:

- Transparent reporting on humanitarian conditions, verified by independent sources.
- Accountability for Hamas and its deliberate sabotage of aid.
- A renewed focus on the victims of 7 October and the hostages, whose plight has been overshadowed by propaganda.

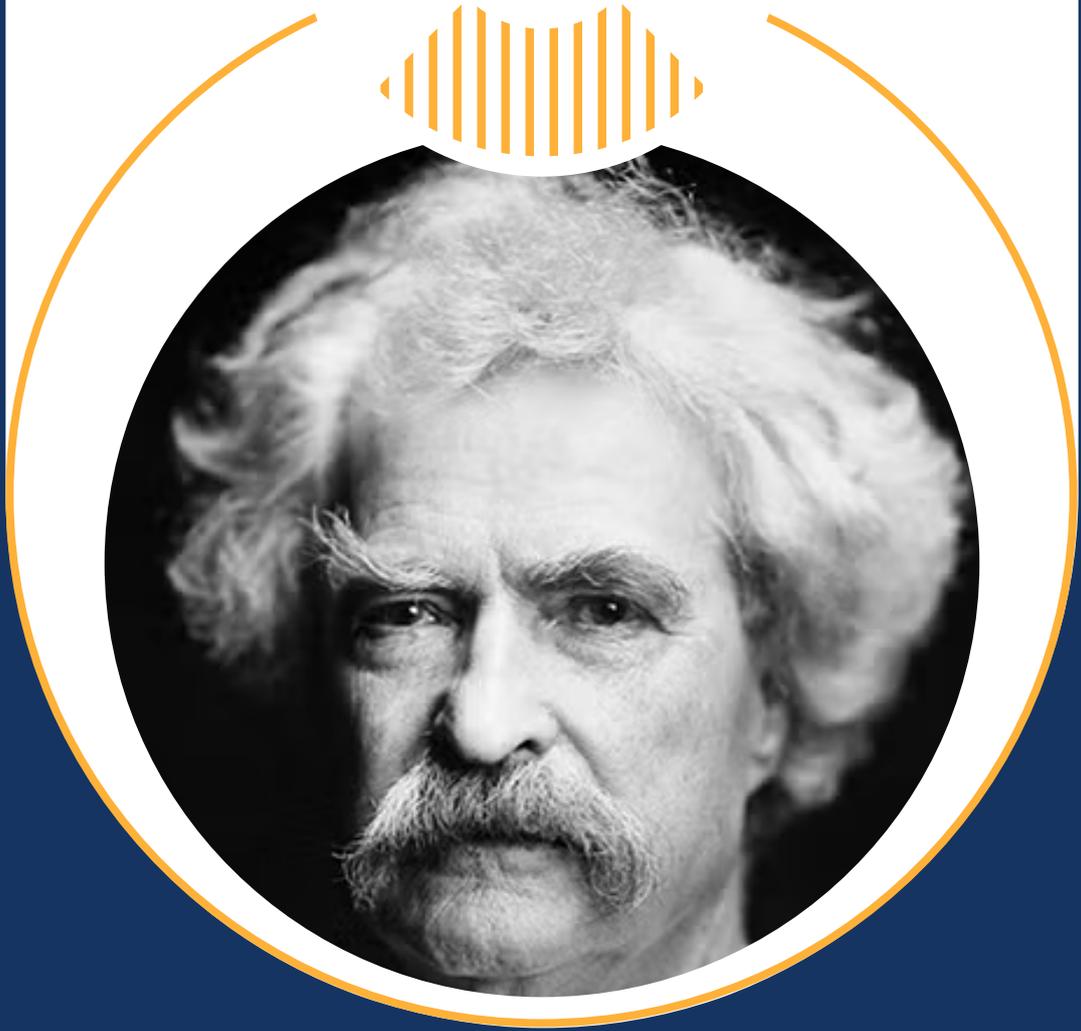
Real compassion demands honesty. Only by dismantling these myths can humanitarian efforts be effective and prevent the weaponisation of suffering.

CONCLUSION

The claim of famine in Gaza is more than a distortion; it is a deliberate weaponisation of language and imagery. It builds on centuries-old prejudices, reviving the antisemitic impulse to portray Jews — and now the Jewish state — as malicious, inhuman, and uniquely cruel. The “famine libel,” like the blood libel before it, is designed to inflame hatred and delegitimise Israel’s right to exist and defend itself.

Yes, Gaza suffers — but it suffers because of Hamas. It is Hamas that hoards aid, prioritises weapons over food, and places its civilians in harm’s way to win propaganda victories. Israel, despite being in a state of war, continues to facilitate the entry of hundreds of aid trucks each day, ensuring that food and medicine reach Gaza’s population. Yet this reality is ignored by much of the Western press, which favours sensational narratives over hard truths.

We must not allow propaganda to erase the events of 7 October, the atrocities committed by Hamas, or the ongoing plight of the hostages. True humanitarianism demands clarity: to help Gaza’s civilians, the world must confront Hamas’s tyranny, not demonise Israel. This booklet stands as a call to resist lies, defend truth, and reject the cynical manipulation of suffering.



IN THE WORDS OF HISTORY

“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes.”

— Mark Twain



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Share the Booklet

Distribute this document widely—within your community, to educators, journalists, faith leaders, and local influencers. Use it to start conversations rooted in facts, not slogans.

Speak Up

Challenge distortion wherever you see it—on social media, in meetings, and in everyday discussion. Replace emotional rhetoric with grounded arguments. Speak not just loudly, but wisely.

Join Our Campaign

Follow us online, sign up for campaign updates, and connect with the work of Stop The Hate UK , The Shield of David and partner organisations. Unity is our strength; momentum comes through collective resolve.

Hold the Line

The defence of truth, dignity, and democratic values begins at home. When we push back against appeasement and resist moral relativism, we reinforce the very principles that hold society together.

WE BELIEVE IN ISRAEL

At We Believe in Israel (WBI), our mission is to champion a fair, nuanced, and balanced understanding of the State of Israel. Our endeavours transcend mere political discourse, striving to encapsulate and represent the true essence of Israel in all its vibrant complexity. We are dedicated to fostering open and informed conversations that illuminate Israel's multifaceted nature, addressing and challenging the deep-seated biases against the Jewish State.



STOP THE HATE UK

At Stop The Hate UK, our mission is to stand boldly against antisemitism and anti-Israel hate wherever it appears. We are a grassroots movement dedicated to protecting the safety, dignity, and visibility of Jewish people in the UK, and to advocating proudly for Israel. Beyond responding to hate, we empower our community through direct action, challenge institutional failures, and defend the right to be visibly and unapologetically Jewish and Zionist. We confront anti-Jewish hatred not as a relic of the past, but as a threat in the present—and we are here to stop it.



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We are a UK advocacy group with members of all faiths, who recognise the danger of rising Antisemitism. Our aim is to make advocacy EASY and we provide regular emails templates that can be swiftly signed and sent. We also aim to share and amplify the superb work being done by other Israel and Jewish campaign groups here in the UK



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