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## Hamas Goes Against the Grain

If the terror group can't steal food aid, it doesn't want Gazan civilians to have it either.



Palestinians gather near an aid distribution site run by the U.S.-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, Rafah, Tuesday. PHOTO: HATEM KHALED/REUTERS

### Full text :

Have you ever heard of a genocide in which the aggressor accepts a cease-fire and seeks to bring aid to civilians, while the victim refuses and orders its people to turn down the food? That's the game Hamas is playing in Gaza.

A new aid facility opened in Rafah on Tuesday, the launch of a [plan](#) to distribute meals in safe locations rather than send aid trucks across Gaza for Hamas to loot. Hamas said this provision of food to its own people is "completely unacceptable" and urged Gazans "not to cooperate with it."

For those who want the food, Hamas had a threat: "Anyone who cooperates with the occupation in imposing its agenda will pay the price, and we will take the necessary measures against them." Hamas punishes Palestinians it deems collaborators with torture and death.

*According to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), the U.S.-backed group running the aid operation, Hamas tried to keep Gazans from the food. "Gazans experienced several hour delays in accessing the site due to blockades imposed by Hamas," it said. But crowds became so large that Hamas couldn't stop them.*

They surged past Hamas blockades and proved too numerous for the aid facility as well. Israel says its troops fired warning shots outside the compound. The GHF says staff and security contractors "fell back to allow a small number of Gazans to take aid safely and dissipate" before operations resumed.

The GHF reports distributing 462,000 meals and expects aid to increase each day. It populated a second facility with aid Tuesday and plans to open more sites. *A spokesman tells us [many Gazans](#) said "this was the first aid they've ever received without being forced to pay for it."*

*Hamas sustains its rule with a flow of salaries and patronage, which depend on its profitable control of aid. Ending that could transform the war, so Hamas fights the new aid plan to keep control.*

The shame is that the United Nations and big aid groups fight it nearly as hard. Facing heavy pressure, the GHF's chief resigned Sunday. Former USAID response leader John Acree is now in charge. *The critics say the measures to keep aid from Hamas violate humanitarian principles, especially neutrality.*

*They view the old method, which let Hamas divert aid from civilians, as neutral and far preferable. That it has prolonged the war by sustaining a terrorist army is apparently of no humanitarian concern in the upside-down moral universe of the "international community."*

