

Gaza faces fresh hunger crisis as Israel readies ban on UN agency for Palestinian refugees

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Gaza City, January 25 (RHC)-- In Gaza, leaders of Hamas say they will provide the names of four more Israeli hostages scheduled for release. Under terms of the ceasefire deal, Israel will free a group of Palestinian captives during a prisoner exchange on Saturday.

The U.N. reports 4,800 trucks carrying humanitarian aid have arrived since the ceasefire took effect on Sunday. The desperately needed surge of supplies comes just days before a new Israeli law is set to take effect on January 28th banning the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, from operating in Israel or the territories it occupies.

The move is likely to dramatically increase Gaza's suffering as the U.N.'s main humanitarian operation crumbles without an alternative in place to serve Gaza's more than 2 million people. UNRWA reports Israeli attacks since October 2023 have killed 272 of its members.

On Wednesday, Palestinians surveyed damage to U.N. facilities in Rafah, where Israeli attacks left UNRWA warehouses and delivery vehicles in tatters.

Mohammed Abou Jazar said: "This place has nothing to do with the resistance or anything else. This place used to feed us. These are all the warehouses of UNRWA that used to assist the Palestinian people. We all used to get our flour from it and so on. And as you can see, look at how the destruction is everywhere."

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