

United States Senate

July 23, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

I am deeply concerned by reports of the severe inadequacies of medical facilities in Gaza and the continued blocking of medical supplies and other humanitarian aid to Gaza at its borders. U.S. citizen medical professionals volunteering to treat civilians impacted by the conflict have shared first-hand accounts of the chaotic regime of approval, scanning and inspection of both humanitarian assistance and of the personal belongings of aid workers intending to enter Gaza, which is ultimately controlled by Israeli authorities.

The lack of a clear and consistently enforced policy for the entry of humanitarian aid continues to cause a shortage of supplies and medical staff that contribute to preventable loss of life and suffering. I recognize and appreciate the work that the Administration has done to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance and aid workers into Gaza since the start of fighting under constantly changing circumstances. I ask that, as you continue to lead diplomatic efforts to bring an end to this conflict, you specifically address the factors that are impeding volunteer medical care for suffering Palestinians in Gaza, notably standards and inspection procedures for aid and personnel entering Gaza and safe passage for aid workers.

The restrictions placed on medical staff and supplies entering Gaza have increased significantly since military operations began in Rafah, closing the crossing that had been the primary entry point for aid. Volunteers willing to enter Gaza to provide medical care, including U.S. citizen doctors, are subject to increasingly severe and arbitrary restrictions, including being required to enter Gaza without personal supplies of food and medicine for their own consumption, and are required to stay for a minimum of four weeks at a time, a recent change that has restricted the population of individuals able to enter Gaza to provide much-needed medical assistance. Further, reports from on the ground suggest that groups from across international aid organizations are limited to as few as 30 individuals entering at a time, a couple of times a week.

These restrictions are both impractical and dangerous given the severe inadequacies of medical facilities in Gaza and the dire nutrition and sanitation conditions into which volunteers are entering. Additionally, unacceptable examples of attacks on aid workers persist, such as the death of a UN aid worker after his vehicle was fired on by an Israeli tank in mid-May, and the

attack on a World Central Kitchen convoy in April that resulted in deaths of seven individuals. In many of the widely reported incidents like these, aid workers were traveling in clearly marked vehicles and reported providing their coordinates to Israeli forces. The danger that volunteers face coupled with restrictions and uncertainty that severely impede their ability to provide medical care do not reflect Israel's commitment to mitigate the suffering of civilians.

American doctors of Palestinian descent are also reportedly being denied entry into Gaza as a matter of border policy. Such discrimination against U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents would directly violate the terms for participation in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP) (8 U.S. Code 1187). Last September, several of my colleagues and I raised our concerns with Israel's failure to comply with VWP requirements since a VWP memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Israel went into effect in July 2023. These issues have not been adequately addressed, and I am concerned that this targeted action further hinders effective provision of medical assistance in Gaza.

While the U.S. must continue to advocate for an immediate and mutual ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, it is important that we acknowledge that innocent lives will continue to be lost until access to medical care and other humanitarian assistance is guaranteed. Medical professionals returning from service in Gaza have provided timely and first-hand accounts of conditions on the ground stressing the critical need for expanded medical allowances, including basic needs such as food and water for adequate nutrition to heal; the organized and lawful presence of medical supplies and staff to treat those who are wounded and ill; and aerial medical evacuation for children who require medical attention and their parents or guardian.

To ensure adequate assistance to innocent civilians in Gaza, I urge you to work with the Government of Israel to outline a clear policy that includes broad commitments to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and protect aid workers in line with international humanitarian law in addition to detailing specific plans to facilitate the following requirements to allow more effective provision of desperately needed medical care:

1. Delivery of medical supplies, food and water—both aid for civilians and personal supplies for aid workers—through overland crossings, eliminating arbitrary and inconsistent restrictions;
2. Allowance for greater numbers of medical professionals into Gaza on more flexible timelines and without discrimination, including Americans of Palestinian descent;
3. Medical evacuation for children requiring medical attention and their parents or guardian during daytime pauses in military activity;
4. Secure delivery routes through conflict areas controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces.

I have included two appendices listing medical supplies that are urgently needed to treat civilians in Gaza for your review. I encourage the immediate negotiation of these actions and support your diplomatic efforts to do so.

I strongly affirm the United States' continued commitment to the people of Israel and to a peaceful two-state solution. There can be no justification for taking hostages and we continue to call on Hamas to release the remaining hostages and bring an end to the conflict. The United

States must remain committed to democratic values and norms, including respect for international humanitarian law. While the entire global community has a responsibility to address the growing humanitarian crisis, the U.S. must work with our close ally to establish practical, logistical processes for the delivery of much-needed medical care to suffering civilians now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Duckworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator

APPENDIX A. European Hospital Shortage List

		Drug name	Amount	Situation analysis?
General Medication	1	Paracetamol 300 mg	3000	Needed
	2	Acyclovir 400 mg	1200	Needed
	3	Phenoparbital 100 or 200 mg amp	100	Needed
	4	Clindamycin 600 mg	500	Needed
	5	Phenytoin 100 mg	2000	Needed
	6	Immunoglobulin G human 5%	100	Needed
	7	Ipratropium bromide 0.25 mg/ml. 25 ml.	200	Needed
	8	Meropenem 1 gm	3000	Needed
	9	Normal Albumin (human serum) 20% 50 ml	300	Needed
	10	Pancuronium Br 4 mg + NaCl 18 mg, 2 ml	500	Needed
	11	Paracetamol 500 mg	10000	Needed
	12	Phenylephrine HCL 1% 1 ml, S.C., I.M., I.V.	200	Needed
	13	Levetiracetam 500 mg	2000	Needed
	14	Levetiracetam 100 mg	2000	Needed
	15	Saline 23.4%; 30 ml.	200	Needed
	16	Vancomycin 500 mg	4000	Needed
	17	Desmopressin nasal spray	200	Needed
	18	Fentanyl 0.1 mg amp	5000	Needed
	19	Tramadol 100 mg amp	3000	Needed
	20	Haloperidol 5 mg	300	Needed
	21	TPN (INTRALIPID- AMINO ACIDS	100	Needed
	22	Phenoparbital 200 mg amp	100	Needed
	23	Ciprofloxacin 200 mg	1000	Needed
	24	Ciprofloxacin 500 mg	10000	Needed
	25	Pneumococcal vaccine	50	Needed
	26	Amoxicillin 500 Clavulanate 125 mg	30000	Needed
	27	Metronidazole 500 mg	2000	Needed
	28	Metronidazole 500 mg	10000	Needed
	29	Carbamazepine 200 mg	2000	Needed
	30	Rivaroxaban 20 mg	2000	Needed
	31	Atorvastatin 40 mg	10000	Needed

	32	Calcium carbonate 600 mg	10000	Needed
	33	Topiramate 100 mg	5000	Needed
	34	Lamotrigene 100 mg	300	Needed
	35	Potassium chloride 600 mg	5000	Needed
	36	Prednisolone 5 mg	3000	Needed
	37	Loratadine 10 mg	2000	Needed
	38	Sodium bicarbonate 8.4%	500	Needed
	39	Azathioprine 50 mg	3000	Needed
	40	Esomeprazole 20, 40 mg or any PPI	20000	Needed
	41	Levofloxacin 500, 750 mg	10000	Needed
	42	Hyoscin or any anti spasmodic	5000	Needed
	43	Tacrolimus 1 mg	5000	Needed
	44	bosentan 125 mg	1000	Needed
	45	5 aminosalysalic acid 500 (pentasa)	3000	Needed
	46	Abixapan 5 mg	3000	Needed
	47	penicilhamine 250 mg	2000	Needed
ICU Medication	1	Labetalol IV	20 boxes	Needed
	2	Adenosine	20 boxes	Needed
	3	CaChannel blocker IV	20 boxes	Needed
	4	Nemodipine	20 boxes	Needed
	5	Muscle relaxant	20 boxes	Needed
	6	Rocurum	20 boxes	Needed
	7	Atracurium	20 boxes	Needed
	8	Succunylcholine	20 boxes	Needed
	9	Phenytoin IV	20 boxes	Needed
	10	Phenobarbital IV	20 boxes	Needed
	11	TEGRETOL	20 boxes	Needed
	12	keppra	20 boxes	Needed
	13	Largactil	20 boxes	Needed
	14	Aerovent	20 boxes	Needed
	15	Mucomyist	20 boxes	Needed
	16	Dexmedetomidine	20 boxes	Needed
	17	Fentanyl	20 boxes	Needed
	18	Morphine	20 boxes	Needed
	19	phenylephrine	20 boxes	Needed
	20	Lactulose	20 boxes	Needed
Anesthesia Medications	1	Pheyleherine 10 mg	1000	Needed
	5	Fentanyl 100mic	100	Needed
	6	Ketamine 250mg	1000	Needed
	7	Propofol 1%	1000	Needed

	8	Isoflurane/Sevoflurane	100	Needed
	9	Dexamethasone 8mg	1000	Needed
	11	Bupivacaine 0.25% and 0.5%		Needed

APPENDIX B. Gaza PCRF Rejected Medical Supplies List

Item	Quantity	Expiration Date
BAG 1:		
Dexeryl Cream	80	1/2026
Elica Cream	225	10/2026
BAG 2:		
Newgel E+	30	8/2026
Bactrobax Ointment	247	12/2025
Fusibact Cream 15g	350	10/2025
Nidazole 500 G 30 TAB	10	7/2025
CLIVEX 5* 2.5	1	12/2026
Cotton	12	8/2024
BAG 3:		
Nayyar Lice Spray	51	2/2026
Sodermix Cream	20	1/2027
Scarmed Gel	12	8/2025
Ozoliva R	30	7/2025
Isenaban Lotion	30	4/2025
Nayyar Heal Ointment 30 G	56	1/2027
Fusibact B Cream	76	11/2024
Neupogen 300 mcg	9	11/2025
Novarapid Flexpen 100 unit/ml	5	2/2026
Levemir Flexpen 100 unit/ml	3	2/2026
Respal 1 mg/1 ml Solution 100 ml	2	4/2027
Dextrose 50% 20ml Vial	10	6/2026
Prizma 4.5 gram Vial	30	5/2025
Valcolon 1000 mg Vial	20	3/2026
Gentamicin 80 mg Ampoule	50	1/2026
Rivotril 2.4 mg/ml 10 ml Drop	3	8/2025
Nolvadex D 20 mg 30 Tablet	6	2/2028
Vismed multi Eye Drop	6	6/2026
Oflox eye drops	6	1/2025
LevoTiron 100 mcg (100 tablets)	4	9/2025
LevoTiron 50 mcg (100 tab)	4	6/2025
Euthyrox 25 mcg (100 tab)	4	6/2026
Silverin Cream 200 gram	1	8/2027
Silverin Cream 30 gram	2	11/2027

Minirin melt 60 mcg (30 tab)	2	6/2026
Vaseline Gauze	5	12/2028
Iodine Solution 100 ml	3	11/2026
Alfacalcifol 0.25 (30 tab)	2	11/2025

Bag 4:

Azi — ONCE 22.5 ML	30	9/2025
Azi — ONCE 30 ML	30	10/2025
Twac Eyes 1 ML	15	3/2025
Dr. Panthen Ha Cream 100 ML	4	8/2026
Dr. Panthen Ha Cream 30 ML	11	8/2026
Dexevyl Cream	20	1/2026
Bactronex ointment	100	2/2025
KenaBan lotion	20	4/2025
Nayyar Lice Spray	49	2/2026
Ozoliva R Cream	20	7/2026
Fusibact B Cream	50	11/2024
Elica Cream	40	10/2026
Scarmed Plus Gel	5	3/2025
Scarmed Gel	5	8/2025
Nayyar Heal 30g	14	1/2027
Fusibact Cream	50	10/2025
Ciprover 500 Mg Tab	9	3/2025
Clivex 5 M*5 Cm	5	6/2026
Clivex 5 M*2.5 Cm	9	12/2026
Joflam Tab	10	7/2026
ZORO 500 mg	10	2/2026
Mepore Dressing 9*90 Cm	2 Boxes	11/2024
Crev Bandeg 15cm *4.5m	12	3/2029
Penamox 1 G Tab	6	9/2026
B-GOOD 5m *1.25 cm	3	12/2026

Bag 5:

Haldol Decanoas 50 mg/ml (1 ampoule)	220	5/2026
Haldol 50 mg (25 tablets)	200	12/2024
Clozapine Remedica 100mg (50 tablets)	200	11/2025
Joflam Tab	10	7/2026

Bag 6:

Renamet (medical food)	170	8/2025
Pre Nan	23	11/2024
Nutri Drink	4	1/2025

Bag 7:

Baby clothes	61	N/A	
Latex gloves	1	N/A	
Gauze Swabs 10*10	3		4/2028
Gauze Swabs 10*10	3		3/2028
Absorbent Gauze Bandage	8		12/2026
Vaseline Gauze 10*10	40		12/2028
Iodine Solution 100 ml	7		11/2026
Damacryl 910	8		5/2027
Emergency Response Blanket	3	N/A	
Breathable Tape	3	N/A	