

# More U.S. Jews urge Israel to ensure aid deliveries to Gaza

By DAVID CRARY and TIFFANY STANLEY  
The Associated Press

For most Jewish Americans, whatever their political persuasion, support for Israel has been a bedrock principle. Thus it's notable that a broad swath of U.S. Jews — reacting to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza — have been urging the Israeli government to do more to ensure the delivery of food and medicine.

There is no overwhelming consensus. On the left, some U.S. Jews contend that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is guilty of genocide. On the right, some conservative Jewish news outlets have suggested that the widely verified food crisis in Gaza is a hoax.

What is clear is that the ranks of American Jews alarmed by the current conditions in Gaza have swelled and now include major organizations that customarily avoid critiques of Israeli policies.

What are major Jewish organizations saying?

The American Jewish Committee — a prominent advocacy group that strives to broadly represent Jews in the U.S. and abroad — stressed in its statement that it “stands with Israel in its justified war to eliminate the threat posed by Hamas.”

“At the same time, we feel immense sorrow for the grave toll this war has taken on Palestinian civilians, and we are deeply concerned about worsening food insecurity in Gaza,” said the AJC, urging Israel and other key parties “to increase cooperation and coordination in order to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches Palestinian civilians in Gaza.”

The Rabbinical Assembly, a New York-based organization representing rabbis of the Conservative Movement, sounded a similar note.

“Even as we believe Hamas could end this suffering immediately through the release of the hostages and care for its civilian population, the Israeli government must do everything in its power to ensure humanitarian aid reaches those in need,” the assembly said. “The Jewish tradition calls upon us to ensure the provision of food, water, and medical supplies as a top priority.”

Rabbi Moshe Hauer, executive vice president of the Orthodox Union,



SUE DORFMAN VIA AP

In this image provided by Sue Dorfman, a group of Jewish clergy sit-in at the office of Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., to bring attention to the situation in Gaza on Tuesday at the Capitol in Washington.

told The Associated Press he and his colleagues “are proud, sad, and angry.”

“We remain proud of Israel and its army, the only moral fighting force in the region striving to abide by internationally accepted laws of war,” he said via email. “We are genuinely sad about the mounting human costs which — as intended by Hamas — this war is inflicting on Israelis and innocent Palestinians. And we are angry at those who only ascribe to Israel the worst intentions and all responsibility while ignoring Hamas’ inhumanity.”

A spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the staunchly pro-Israel group better known as AIPAC, welcomed Israel’s latest moves to boost aid to Gaza.

“The true key to improving the humanitarian conditions is for Hamas to surrender power and free all 50 hostages, including the 2 Americans,” Marshall Wittmann said via email.

Of major nationwide organizations, perhaps the most vehement statement came from the Reform Jewish Movement, which represents the largest branch of Judaism in the U.S.

“Hamas has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to sacrifice the Palestinian people in its pursuit of Israel’s destruction, but Israel must not sacrifice its own moral standing in return,” the Reform statement said.

“No one should be unaffected by the pervasive hunger experienced by thousands of Gazans,” it continued. “Nor should we accept arguments that because Hamas is the primary reason many Gazans are either starving or on the verge of starving, that the Jewish State is not also

culpable in this human disaster.”

### RABBIS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

Over the past few weeks, as images and reports of starvation and violence in Gaza dominated the news cycle, Rabbi Jon Roos felt a shift in how the Israel-Hamas war is discussed in Jewish circles.

“There was a real change in the tone of the conversation, but also in the depth and content of it,” said Roos, who leads Temple Sinai, a Reform synagogue in Washington, D.C. “I felt it from members of the congregation. I’ve felt it in the Jewish communal world.”

The clergy of Temple Sinai signed onto a letter with more than 1,000 Jewish clergy calling on the Israeli government to “allow extensive humanitarian aid” to enter Gaza. It stated that “we cannot condone the mass killings of civilians ... or the use of starvation as a weapon of war.”

Roos said the Jewish community can hold two truths at once: that Oct. 7 was deplorable and so is the situation in Gaza.

“One of the critical parts of Judaism is that we really value that ability to hold nuance and two truths, even if they’re both incredibly challenging and self-critical,” Roos said.

Rabbi Aaron Weininger in Minnetonka, Minnesota, also signed the clergy letter. He leads Adath Jeshurun, a Conservative Jewish congregation.

“Zionism is big enough and strong enough to care about the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of Israelis and Palestinians. Naming their suffering doesn’t weaken Zionism nor does calling on members of the government not to occupy Gaza.

Signing the letter honors Zionism as compassionate and just,” he wrote in an email.

The response of his community has been largely positive, with some disagreement — “both with the idea of publicly disagreeing with the Israeli government and with the characterization of suffering in Gaza,” he wrote. “But taking moral stands and holding disagreement have always been part of what it means to be a faith community.”

### VOICES OF PROTEST

On Tuesday, more than two dozen rabbis were arrested in the office of the Senate majority leader, John Thune, R-S.D., while demanding action by Congress to provide food aid for Gaza.

“All life is sacred, but Palestinian lives are not treated as such, and that is a blot on our collective humanity,” said one of the protesters, Alissa Wise, who is founding director of Rabbis for Ceasefire. “We are here to insist on the sanctity of life of every Palestinian, of every Israeli, of all of us.”

Also arrested was a New York-based rabbi, Andru Kahn. He is executive director of the American Council for Judaism, which rejects the concept of Zionism.

In an email, Kahn said an increasing number of U.S. Jews, including rabbis, are now more willing to speak out about Gaza’s plight and demand policy changes from Israel.

“The horrors of starvation of so many people ... has led to the dam bursting for many people, and the political spectrum of those speaking out has broadened,” he wrote.

### DEFENDERS OF NETANYAHU’S POLICIES

A Jewish member of Congress, Rep. Randy Fine, R-Fla., incurred criticism after suggesting in a post on X last week that the reports of a Gaza food crisis were false.

“Release the hostages. Until then, starve away. (This is all a lie anyway. It amazes me that the media continues to regurgitate Muslim terror propaganda.)” his post said.

Two U.S.-based Jewish news outlets also have depicted the food crisis as exaggerated.

“The reality is clear — food and medicine are entering Gaza, but Hamas seizes them for its own purposes.

## OBITUARIES

Daily News obituaries are paid content and are published as submitted

### CHARLES ALLEN ‘C.A.’ MCCCHESNEY

Charles Allen “C.A.” McChesney, 73, of Bowling Green, passed away on July 25, 2025 at Tristar Skyline Medical Center after a brief illness.

C.A. was born on May 22, 1952 in Bowling Green, KY to the late Damon and Ruth McChesney. He was also preceded in death by a nephew, Jason McChesney.

A Warren County native, C.A. worked as a mechanic for a number of implement companies. Throughout the years, he has been employed by John Deere, Green River Ford New Holland and most recently, Hobdy, Dye and Read,

where he retired in 2022. He was also a member of Oakland Baptist Church.

C.A. loved to work. If he wasn’t at his regular 9-5, he was mowing his yard, landscaping, or building a train or plane in his shop out of nothing. He was amazing like that. Everything that he did was meticulous and his attention to detail was unrivaled.

To know C.A. was to love him. He could keep you in stitches telling hilarious story after story which usually ended with him being the punchline. He never minded to laugh at himself. He was one of the most generous people that you could ever meet. He would give you the shirt off of his back and he will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Survivors include three brothers, Richard and his wife Kathy, John and his wife Vickie, both of Smiths Grove, and Larry and his wife Cheryl, of Bowling Green; nieces and nephews, Christie Strode and her husband John, Kim Doyle and her husband Duane, Latasha Meredith and Robert, Jonathan McChesney and his wife Lana, and Justin McChesney and his wife Michelle; great nieces and nephews, Dawson Doyle and his wife Maddie, Connor, Cooper and Ellie Doyle, Wesley McChesney and his wife Natalie, McKenna McChesney, Owsley McChesney, Matthew Strode, Evy and Claudia McChesney, Lauren and Blayne McChesney, and Madison Willoughby and her husband Gabe and one great great niece, Morgan Ruth McChesney; special friend Gail Givens.

A memorial service will be held at Hardy & Son Funeral Home, Bowling green Chapel on Monday Aug 4. Visitation will be from 3-6 p.m. with service following.

C.A. had a passion for trains and airplanes, so in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to either Aviation Heritage Park and Museum, 1825 Three Springs Rd., Bowling green, KY 42104 or to the Historic Railpark and Train Museum, 401 Kentucky St., Bowling Green, KY 42101



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# Russian attack on Kyiv kills at least 13

By SAMYA KULLAB  
The Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian missile and drone attacks overnight on Ukraine’s capital city killed at least 13 people, including a 6-year-old boy, and wounded 132 others, authorities said Thursday.

A 5-month-old girl was among 14 children wounded, Ukraine’s Emergency Service said. It was the highest number of children injured in a single attack on Kyiv since the start of Russia’s invasion three years ago, according to public records consulted by The Associated Press.

A large part of a nine-story residential building collapsed in the attack, City Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko said. Rescue teams searched for people trapped under the rubble.

Yana Zhabborova, 35, a resident of the damaged building, woke up to the sound of thundering explosions, which blew off the doors and windows of her home.

“It is just stress and shock that there is nothing left,” said Zhabborova, a mother of a 5-month-old infant and a 5-year-old child.

Russia fired 309 Shahed and decoy drones, and eight Iskander-K cruise missiles overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. Ukrainian air defenses intercepted and jammed 288 strike drones and three missiles. Five missiles and 21 drones struck targets.

Russian troops also struck a residential 5-story building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk, according to the head of Donetsk regional military administration Vadym Filashkin. He said one person was killed and at least 11 more injured.

At least 27 locations across Kyiv were hit by the attack, Tkachenko said, with the heaviest damage seen in the Solomianskyi and Sviatoshynskyi districts. More than 100 buildings were damaged in Kyiv, including homes, schools, kindergartens, medical facilities and universities, he said.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said Thursday that it had shot down 32 Ukrainian drones overnight.

A drone attack had caused a fire at an industrial site in Russia’s Penza region, local Gov. Oleg Melnichenko said. He didn’t immediately give further details other than to say that there were no casualties.

In the Volgograd region, some trains were also halted after drone wreckage fell on local railway infrastructure, state rail operator Russian Railways said.

# Trump announces 90-day negotiating period with Mexico as 25% tariff rates stay in place

By JOSH BOAK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States will enter a 90-day negotiating period with Mexico over trade as 25% tariff rates stay in place, part of the rush of trade activity Thursday before President Donald Trump plans to impose a broad set of global import taxes starting Friday.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that his phone conversation with Mexican leader Claudia Sheinbaum was “very successful in that, more and more, we are getting to know and understand each other.”

The Republican president had threatened tariffs of 30% on goods from Mexico in a July letter, something that Sheinbaum said Mexico gets to stave off for the next three months.

“We avoided the tariff increase announced for tomorrow and we got 90 days to build a long-term

agreement through dialogue,” Sheinbaum wrote on X.

The leaders’ morning call came at a moment of pressure and uncertainty for the world economy. Nations are scrambling to finalize the outlines of a trade framework with Trump in order to avoid him simply imposing higher tariff rates that could upend economies and governments.

Trump reached a deal with South Korea on Wednesday, and earlier with the European Union, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines. His commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, said on Fox News’ “Hannity” that there were agreements with Cambodia and Thailand after they had agreed to a ceasefire to their border conflict.

Among those uncertain about their trade status were wealthy Switzerland and Norway.

Norwegian Finance Minister Jens Stoltenberg said it was “completely uncertain” whether a deal

would be completed before Trump’s deadline.

But even the public announcement of a deal can offer scant reassurance for an American trading partner.

EU officials are waiting to complete a crucial document outlining how the framework to tax imported autos and other goods from the 27-member state bloc would operate. Trump had announced a deal Sunday while he was in Scotland.

“The U.S. has made these commitments. Now it’s up to the U.S. to implement them. The ball is in their court,” EU commission spokesman Olof Gill said. The document would not be legally binding.

Trump said as part of the agreement with Mexico that goods imported into the U.S. would continue to face a 25% tariff that he has ostensibly linked toentanyl trafficking. He said autos would face a 25% tariff, while copper, aluminum and steel would be taxed at 50% during the negotiating period.

He said Mexico would end its “Non Tariff Trade Barriers,” but he didn’t provide specifics.

Some goods continue to be protected from the tariffs by the 2020 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, which Trump negotiated during his first term.

But Trump appeared to have soured on that deal, which is up for renegotiation next year. One of his first significant moves as president was to tariff goods from both Mexico and Canada earlier this year.

U.S. Census Bureau figures show that the U.S. ran a \$171.5 billion trade imbalance with Mexico last year. That means the U.S. bought more goods from Mexico than it sold to the country.

The imbalance with Mexico has grown in the aftermath of the USMCA as it was only \$63.3 billion in 2016, the year before Trump started his first term in office.

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