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David Lammy Condemns Gaza Famine as Man-Made Catastrophe

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— *Categories: General News*

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy has strongly condemned the United Nations' declaration of famine in Gaza City and surrounding areas, describing the situation as “utterly horrifying” and warning that it constitutes a preventable, “man-made catastrophe” caused by restricted access to aid.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed global hunger monitoring body, officially declared famine in Gaza, marking the first such declaration outside Africa. The IPC cited severe food shortages, widespread malnutrition, and rising mortality as meeting its criteria. Currently, around 514,000 people in Gaza face catastrophic hunger, a figure expected to increase to 641,000 by the end of September.

In a statement, Lammy called on the Israeli government to immediately allow unhindered delivery of food, medicine, fuel, and other humanitarian supplies. He said the restrictions imposed on aid access had directly caused the crisis, which he termed “a moral outrage.”

The famine declaration follows months of escalating humanitarian warnings. Aid agencies have reported deteriorating medical facilities, water shortages, and compromised sanitation in the territory amid ongoing conflict and logistical barriers. International organisations, including UN agencies, have repeatedly called for a ceasefire and restoration of essential services to prevent further loss of life.

Lammy also urged that humanitarian organisations be permitted to operate freely and safely to deliver life-saving aid to civilians trapped in conflict zones. The UK government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, has already suspended 30 of the 350 arms export licenses to

Israel, citing concerns that some military equipment could be used in violation of international humanitarian standards.

The Foreign Secretary's remarks underscore mounting international pressure for immediate and coordinated humanitarian intervention. Observers note that the crisis highlights the urgent need for unrestricted access to aid, with experts warning that further delays could exacerbate famine conditions and increase mortality rates.

Lammy's statement reinforces the UK government's position on upholding humanitarian standards while urging both parties and international actors to prioritise the protection of civilians. The situation in Gaza remains critical, with urgent action required to prevent further loss of life.