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US Faces Pressure Anew to Recognize Palestinian State Amid Gaza Crisis

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The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has intensified, with global attention turning to the dire situation unfolding in the region. Recent images of malnourished children have sparked outrage, amplifying calls for the United States to recognize a Palestinian state, following the lead of French President Emmanuel Macron.

In a recent interview with *Newsweek*, Green Party 2024 presidential candidate Jill Stein urged the U.S. to act swiftly. “Palestine deserves statehood, as the United Nations has long affirmed,” Stein said. “But the immediate priority must be addressing the catastrophic starvation campaign in Gaza, which the U.N. Rapporteur on Food has called the fastest in modern history.” She pointed to Israel’s restrictions on food, water, electricity, and fuel, referencing a statement by former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in October 2023, which described Gazans as “human animals.” Stein argued that these measures have deliberately endangered over 2 million lives, more than half of them children.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has rejected claims of intentional starvation, calling them false. Over the weekend, Israel implemented temporary pauses in fighting across three areas of Gaza for 10 hours daily, alongside aid airdrops and the establishment of humanitarian corridors. These steps aim to alleviate the crisis, though their impact remains limited.

The push for Palestinian statehood, encompassing the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, has gained traction globally. More than 140 countries already recognize Palestine as a state, and Macron’s recent announcement that France will formalize its recognition at the U.N. General Assembly in September marks a significant step by a major Western power. The move, while symbolic, reflects growing frustration with the escalating death toll and starvation in Gaza.

Israel, however, remains staunchly opposed to Palestinian statehood, particularly after the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack that killed approximately 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage. Israel’s military response has resulted in over 59,000 Palestinian deaths, predominantly women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. Israel has also restricted aid, alleging, without substantiation, that Hamas diverts supplies to strengthen its position. The World Food Program reports that one-third of Gaza’s 2 million residents are skipping meals for days, with nearly half a million facing famine-like conditions.

Stein, who has made the Gaza conflict a cornerstone of her campaign, holds the U.S. accountable for its role. “The U.S. has provided 80% of the weapons, funding, and diplomatic cover for this assault,” she told *Newsweek*. “We must halt military and economic aid to Israel until it complies with international law, ends its siege, and agrees to a ceasefire.” Stein warned that the erosion of international norms threatens not only Palestinians but also Israelis and global stability, citing Holocaust scholar Omer Bartov’s concerns about Israel’s trajectory toward an “apartheid authoritarian state.”

Israel denies accusations of genocide, asserting that the war could end if Hamas surrenders, disarms, and goes into exile, demands that the group has rejected. Israeli U.N. Representative Danny Danon, in a statement to *Newsweek*, criticized France's move: "Recognizing a Palestinian state after the October 7 massacre rewards terrorism. Ignoring the lack of a viable peace partner undermines Israel and regional stability."

As the Gaza crisis deepens, the U.S. faces mounting pressure to reconsider its stance on Palestinian statehood. With global opinion shifting and the humanitarian toll rising, the debate over recognition and accountability remains fiercely divisive.