

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2023*

**Statement on the Delivery of Humanitarian Aid to Gaza, Palestinian Territories**  
*October 21, 2023*

Today the first convoy of humanitarian assistance since Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack on Israel crossed the border into Gaza and reached Palestinians in need. The opening of this essential supply route was the result of days of diplomatic engagement at the highest levels. I made it clear from the outset of this crisis—in both my public statements and private conversations—that humanitarian assistance was a critical and urgent need that had to get moving, and I express my deep personal appreciation for the leadership of President Al-Sisi of Egypt, Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel, and the United Nations to allow the resumption of this assistance.

The United States remains committed to ensuring that civilians in Gaza will continue to have access to food, water, medical care, and other assistance, without diversion by Hamas. We will continue to work with all parties to keep the Rafah crossing in operation to enable the continued movement of aid that is imperative to the welfare of the people of Gaza and to continue working to protect civilians, consistent with obligations under international humanitarian law.

We also continue to work around the clock, in partnership with Egypt and Israel, to facilitate the ability of U.S. citizens and their immediate family members to exit Gaza safely and travel via Egypt to their final destinations.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Gaza, Palestinian Territories, delivery of humanitarian aid.

*Names:* Elsis, Abdelfattah Said; Netanyahu, Benjamin.

*Subjects:* Egypt, President; Gaza, departure of U.S. citizens and family members; Gaza, humanitarian situation; Gaza, international assistance; Israel, Prime Minister.

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