

Why should we have words for inhumanity on this scale?

Published: January 12, 2026, 11:18 pm

As [The Guardian](#) has noted this afternoon:

The World Health Organization pleaded on Tuesday for fuel to be allowed into [Gaza](#) to keep its remaining hospitals running, warning the Palestinian territory's health system was at "breaking point", Agence France-Presse (AFP) reports.

Rik Peeperkorn, the WHO's representative in the [Palestinian territories](#), said:

For over 100 days, no fuel has entered Gaza and attempts to retrieve stocks from evacuation zones have been denied.

Combined with critical supply shortages, this is pushing the health system closer to the brink of collapse.

Peeperkorn said **only 17 of Gaza's 36 hospitals** were currently **minimally to partially functional**.

They have a total of about 1,500 beds – about 45% fewer than before the conflict began.

He said all hospitals and primary health centres in north Gaza were currently out of service.

In **Rafah** in southern Gaza, health services are provided through the Red Cross field hospital and two partially functioning medical points.

Speaking from **Jerusalem**, he said the 17 partially functioning hospitals and seven field hospitals were barely running on a minimum amount of daily fuel and "will soon have none left".

WHO trauma surgeon and emergency officer **Thanos Gargavanis**, said from the **Strip**:

We are walking already the fine line that separates disaster from saving lives. The shrinking humanitarian space makes every health activity way more difficult than the previous day.

Reports are also coming in this afternoon that maybe 60 people have been killed and many more injured by Israeli troops firing at desperate Palestinians at supposedly Israeli-organised feeding stations. This is mass murder of those already made desperate.

And despite all this, our prime minister is signing declarations supporting Israel's right to defend itself from a supposed threat from Iran that it has claimed exists for more than twelve years, but for which there is no evidential support of a current or even imminent threat, meaning that the war in Iran has been deliberately created as a diversionary tactic to prevent the world noticing the genocide in Gaza.

I am almost lost for words at this unfolding horror, and that is rare for me.

But why should we have words for inhumanity on this scale, and the totally inappropriate response from our politicians?