

White House brags that it has given Israel \$6.5 billion in weapons since October 7

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26 June 2024

The United States has provided Israel with more than \$6.5 billion in weapons since October 7, the White House said Wednesday, underscoring the scale of the Biden administration's support for the continuing genocide in Gaza.

Doled out over just nine months, this figure is nearly double the US's typical annual Israel military aid budget of \$3.4 billion and will be further supplemented by \$14 billion in weapons funding allocated by Congress this year.

The White House admitted the scale of its arms shipments to Israel in a closed briefing to reporters, with neither a video nor transcript made available to the public.

Washington Post reporter John Hudson described the content of the briefing on X: "The US has flooded Israel with more than \$6.5 billion in security assistance since Oct. 7, said a senior administration official, a massive transfer of equipment and firepower despite recurring disagreements between the two nations over civilian casualties and aid access."

The US official declared, "This is a massive, massive undertaking, and nothing is paused other than that one shipment" of 2,000-pound bombs.

Amid continuing mass protests against the Biden administration's complicity in the Gaza bloodbath, the White House has sought to keep the scale of its arms transfers a secret. For this reason, it has broken up its arms shipments into more than 100 chunks in order to bypass congressional reporting requirements.

The announcement came the same day that Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant met with senior White House officials.

Gallant was welcomed by senior White House officials Wednesday, after the lead prosecutor of the International Criminal Court applied for charges

against him last month, accusing the Israeli defense minister, alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity."

The visit follows last week's assertion by a UN investigative committee that the Israeli government is responsible for the "extermination" of the Palestinian population, with commission member Chris Sidoti declaring that the "Israeli army is one of the most criminal armies in the world."

Gallant's trip sets the stage for the visit by Netanyahu to Washington on July 24, when he is set to address both houses of Congress.

In a readout of the meeting between Gallant and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, the White House wrote, "Mr. Sullivan reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security, including in the face of threats from Iranian-backed terrorist groups such as Lebanese Hezbollah."

The statement continued, "The two also discussed President Biden's unprecedented support for Israel since the Hamas attacks of October 7th. Mr. Sullivan reaffirmed President Biden's commitment to ensure that Israel has all it needs to defend itself militarily and confront its Iranian-backed adversaries."

The White House praised the purported humanitarian efforts of Gallant, the man who has pushed the population of the narrow enclave to the brink of starvation by declaring a "complete blockade" of food into Gaza because the Palestinians are, in his words, "human animals."

The readout declared:

Mr. Sullivan and Minister Gallant discussed the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the need to

increase and sustain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. Mr. Sullivan recognized Minister Gallant's personal efforts and leadership to support these efforts.

In a separate meeting with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the defense secretary "underscored the ironclad US commitment to Israel, as evidenced in part by the extraordinary defense of Israel against an unprecedented Iranian attack on April 13 and by the more than \$14 billion in assistance in the Bipartisan National Security Supplemental that President Biden signed on April 24."

Gallant, for his part, responded to the meetings by threatening war against Lebanon, declaring that Israel is "preparing for every scenario" and threatening to send Lebanon "back to the Stone Age."

Israeli massacres of civilians in Gaza continued Wednesday, with 15 Palestinian civilians killed in a strike on a home in northern Gaza.

Israeli forces killed Fadi Al-Wadiya, a doctor and member of Doctors Without Borders, while he was on his way to work in Gaza City.

MSF reported:

The attack killed Fadi, along with five other people including three children, while he was cycling to work, near the MSF clinic where he was providing care.

Fadi was a 33-year-old physiotherapist and father of three. He joined MSF in 2018. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones. Fadi's loss marks the sixth killing of an MSF staff member in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Meanwhile, famine is worsening in Gaza. In a Twitter statement, the United Nations Children's Fund wrote, "Malnutrition in Gaza is wreaking havoc on children" and "Lack of food, water, and medical supplies is worsening the already desperate situation for Gaza's children."

Mass starvation and hunger in Gaza have been massively intensified by the closure of the Rafah border crossing, as part of the US-backed Israeli attack on

Rafah. In a statement Wednesday, the World Health Organization said that no medical evacuations had taken place from Gaza since May.

Before the closure of the border, "approximately 50 critical patients a day left Gaza. ... It means that since the 7th of May at least 2,000 people have been unable to leave Gaza to receive medical care," said World Health Organization representative Rik Peepkorn.

Separately, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reported that at least 508 internally displaced people had been killed at its shelters in October.



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