

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

Los Angeles, CA. Feb.21, 2024 Contact: info@LAJewsforPeace.org

The U.S. Must Stop Israel's Invasion of Rafah

It has been over three weeks since January 26 when the U.N.'s International Court of Justice (ICJ), commonly called the World Court, ordered Israel to "take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts" of genocide against the Palestinian population in Gaza¹. Yet Israel persists in committing egregious violations that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.²

Now Israel is about to compound its violations of the ICJ ruling with a ground invasion of Rafah, a small city in Gaza against the Egyptian boundary that now holds 1 million Gazan who were forced there by Israel's destruction of Gaza City and Khan Yunis. On Feb.16, with Rafah under siege, the ICJ reiterated its Jan.26 ruling.³

An analysis of power politics in the Middle East leads **LA Jews for Peace** to conclude that the United States is the only state that has a chance to stop Israel's impending invasion of Rafah. That influence comes from the U.S. being Israel's prime supplier of weapons and other means of waging war.

The Biden Administration is calling on Israel not to invade Rafah⁴ to prevent both the slaughter of many of the 1 million Gazans now in Rafah and/or their expulsion across the border into the Sinai desert in Egypt.

But Israel political leadership⁵ seems intent on invading Rafah⁵ in a futile attempt to eliminate Hamas.⁶ The IDF is already attacking Rafah.

The United States has the power to stop Israel's planned invasion of Rafah by exercising a "nuclear option," namely, for the U.S. to cut its supply of weapons of war to Israel. A direct action prompted to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Rafah and that is required by the Leahy Law that prohibits the U.S. from supplying weapons to countries that consistently violate human rights.

LA Jews for Peace recognizes that cutting off Israel's supply of weapons will face intense opposition from the Israel Lobby. But it is urgent for the U.S. to act to stop a humanitarian catastrophe from happening.

¹ International Court of Justice Order of Jan.26, 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>

² *TeliefWeb*, Feb.11, 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/fifteen-days-after-icj-ruling-israels-genocide-gaza-strip-continues-same-scale-enar>

³ *Common Dreams*, Feb.16, 2024. <https://www.commondreams.org/news/rafah-gaza>

⁴ *Politico*, Feb.15, 2024. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/national-security-daily/2024/02/15/bidens-options-to-prevent-catastrophic-rafah-invasion-00141485>

⁵ *NYTimes*, Feb.17, 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/17/world/middleeast/israel-rafah-international-court-gaza-strip.html>.

⁶ *Times of Israel*, Feb.16, 2024. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-idf-intel-assesses-that-hamas-will-survive-as-terror-group-post-war/>