



FORUM: UN Security Council (UNSC)

AGENDA: The Weaponization of Humanitarian Aid in Proxy Conflicts.

INTRODUCTION.....3

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS.....3

 Proxy Conflicts.....3

 Weaponization of Humanitarian Aid.....4

BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....4

 CURRENT SITUATION.....5

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED.....6

 ● The United States:.....6

 ● Russia:.....6

 ● Iran:.....7

 ● Saudi Arabia:.....7

 ● Israel:.....7

 ● Syria:.....8

 ● Houthi Movement - In Yemen:.....8

 ● Hamas - In Gaza:.....8

 ● MAGA Movement - In US:.....9

 ● ICE - In US:.....9

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS.....9

SOLUTION ALTERNATIVES.....10

USEFUL LINKS.....12

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....13

Esteemed Delegates and Honorable Advisors,

It is my utmost honor and immense pleasure to welcome every single one of you to TTMUN'26.

Ever since its first session in 2015, TTMUN Conferences have been an undeniable portrayal of unity, collaboration, and resilience by the fellow members of the TTMUN Club. As the executive team of TTMUN'26, we have dedicated countless hours to organize the 11th annual session of TTMUN; while doing so, we have maintained the same passion and dedication with every step we have taken to sustain the quality of TTMUN. That being said, as the Secretary-General of TTMUN'26, I would like to thank my fellow executive team members and our remarkable advisor, Vesile Acar, whose support made it possible to organize this conference and host you here at our school on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of April. Yet, beyond its tradition, TTMUN'26 is shaped by its purpose.

Our mission in TTMUN Club is to foster mutual growth in a collaborative environment where we are not only discussing real-world issues but also work towards solutions. Therefore, in correlation with our mission, we have chosen the theme of TTMUN'26 to be "Bridging Divides in Human Rights". The significance of the theme lies in the unfortunate irony of the persistence of human rights violations. Today, our world is witnessing and turning a blind eye to human rights violations that the United Nations was initially established to ensure that the world would never witness and do so again. Acknowledging this, we, the youth shall not only wait for our turn to come tomorrow but shape it today. Hence, as the executive team, we hope for a fruitful conference where everyone, regardless of their role, contributes to the debates, lobbying, and discussions, bearing the urgency of our global reality in mind.

As we embark on this journey, this mission will be in action over the course of three days as the delegates will have the opportunity to be active in one of nine committees of TTMUN'26 with fifteen diverse agenda items that seek to solve the serious issues that our world is facing. While doing so, let's embrace the unparalleled value of collaboration, respect, and empathy for a better future. Finally, I hope that you have an incomparable MUN experience and once again as the Secretary General, I wholeheartedly welcome everyone to the TTMUN'26.

“All my hope is in youth!”

—Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Yours sincerely,

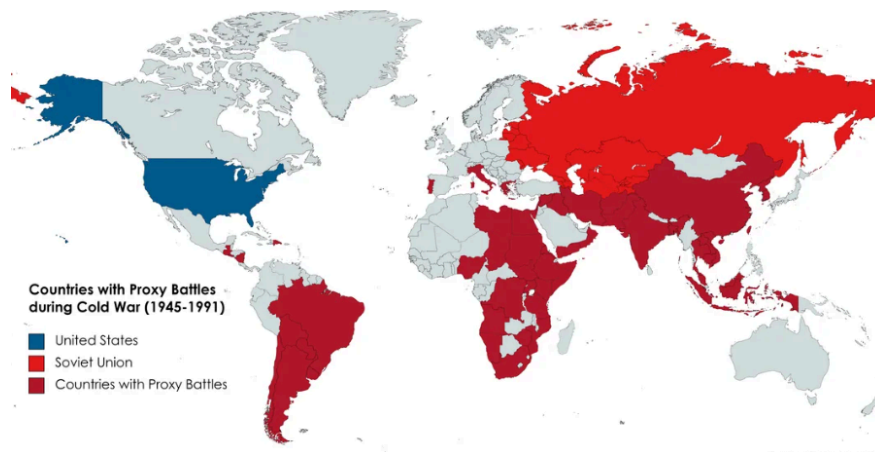
Derin Halatçı - Secretary General

INTRODUCTION

A major problem in modern international security is the weaponization of humanitarian aid, especially in the setting of proxy wars. Humanitarian aid, which is meant to alleviate human suffering, is increasingly being used by state and non-state actors to further political, military, or strategic goals. This is a problem that the UN, and particularly the Security Council, has had to deal with. Proxy wars have been a substantial conflict type through history and today, mostly preferred by people in power who refuse to get in direct conflict in order to reach certain goals, goals may consist of: gaining materialistic advantage, causing the opposing side to lose power and undermining the opposing side's goals in general (Baugh). The weaponization of humanitarian aid in proxy conflicts occurs through one side attacking and/or manipulating the opponent side's relief supplies such as food, medicine or causing political divisions of one side's combatants and initiating a conflict in-between them.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Proxy Conflicts



According to L. Sue Baugh, the writer of the article found in Britannica, proxy wars are defined as, “The military conflicts in which one or more third parties directly or indirectly support one or more state or nonstate combatants in an effort to influence the conflict's outcome and thereby to

advance their own strategic interests or undermine those of their opponents.” (Baugh) One of the greatest examples of proxy wars have happened during the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union; though no direct wars between the two countries have happened, other states have been involved such as Cuba and Vietnam as a result of both American and Russian politics (Ghantous). The main reason for the non-occurring war between the United States and the Soviet Union is due to the existence of the atomic bomb, if such a war happened during the time, the possible consequences would cause irreparable damages to both of the countries, so indirect conflicts have been preferred, which are called proxy conflicts.

Weaponization of Humanitarian Aid



According to the Human Rights Research Center, humanitarian aid is described as, “A form of assistance, often food, money, healthcare, or other support, that aims to save lives and ease suffering during and after a crisis.” (Sayal) Weaponization of humanitarian aids is when these aids are manipulated in ways to affect the focused groups in bad ways by one of the conflicting sides. For example, after nine (9) weeks of total blockade the possibility for survival is fast decreasing as starvation and disease spread rapidly in Gaza.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza fifty seven (57) children have already died from malnutrition (Verhoeven). The blockade of access to consumable food and/or drinkable clean water to children in Gaza by the powers and implementation of Israeli forces is weaponizing humanitarian aids.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In international issues, proxy conflicts are not new. They have been employed as military and foreign policy tactics by nations and empires to sway or even conquer neighboring states. For instance, the Byzantine Empire (330–1453) purposefully fueled animosity between various



factions within adversarial countries in order to start proxy conflicts. When a civil war broke out, it supported the side that was strongest. Britain and France supported the Arab Revolt (1916–18) against the Ottoman Empire during World War I, employing a similar tactic. Similar to this, the Spanish Civil War

(1936–1939) was a proxy war between Nationalist troops backed by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy and Republican forces backed by the Soviet Union. Notably, Germany tested new weaponry systems on the Spanish populace during the civil war (Baugh).

As briefly explained previously, the fierce rivalry between the US and the USSR during the 1950s and 1960s increased their nuclear arsenals, raising the possibility that direct confrontation might result in the destruction of the entire world. The two superpowers started using proxy wars as a more acceptable means of competing for global dominance. The Angolan civil war (1975–2002) was one of the many proxy conflicts that the US, the USSR, and China fought during the Cold War. The Soviet-Chinese alliance, which backed North Vietnam and the Viet Cong, used the Vietnam War (1954–75) as a significant proxy conflict. The coalition's objectives of reducing American influence in the area and expanding its own were eventually accomplished with the withdrawal of American forces and the collapse of South Vietnam.

CURRENT SITUATION

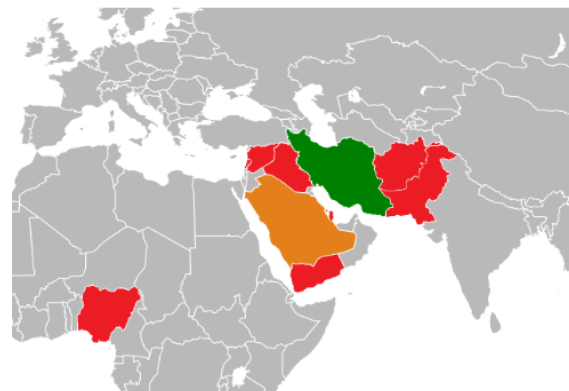
The weaponization of humanitarian aid in proxy conflicts are shown by several ongoing and recent events, where aid has been manipulated for strategic purposes. In Gaza, as briefly explained previously, the current war has started in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict; since late 2023 through 2025, restrictions on aid entry, control over crossings, and distribution systems have led to severe humanitarian shortages,



Israel-Palestine War Map (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect)

with no comprehensive resolution and continued instability (Verhoeven). In Syria, the civil war began in 2011, evolving into a proxy conflict involving powers such as Russia and the United States, where throughout the 2010s aid was restricted to opposition-held areas via combatants, and although a large portion of fighting has decreased, the country remains divided with ongoing humanitarian dependency (“Syria: Non-Renewal of Last Aid Corridor Risks Humanitarian Catastrophe for Millions”). In Yemen, the war began in 2014, by a Saudi-led coalition backed by external powers including Iran; since then, both sides have been accused of

instability (Verhoeven). In Syria, the civil war began in 2011, evolving into a proxy conflict involving powers such as Russia and the United States, where throughout the 2010s aid was restricted to opposition-held areas via combatants, and although a large portion of fighting has decreased, the country remains divided with ongoing humanitarian dependency (“Syria: Non-Renewal of Last Aid Corridor Risks Humanitarian Catastrophe for Millions”). In Yemen, the war began in 2014, by a Saudi-led coalition backed by external powers including Iran; since then, both sides have been accused of

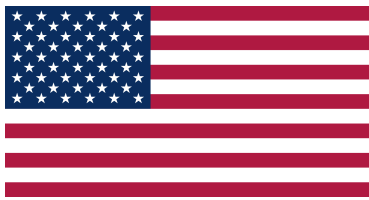


Iran-Saudi Arabia Proxy War (Omar)

diverting and restricting aid (“Conflict in Yemen and the Red Sea | Global Conflict Tracker”). More recently, in Sudan, a conflict erupted in 2023 between rival militaries after a failed democratic transition; humanitarian access has been prevented with no stable political resolution as of 2026 (SAMY MAGDY). Across these cases, frequently debated within the United Nations Security Council, the weaponization of humanitarian aid in proxy conflicts are being discussed in order to find resolutions.

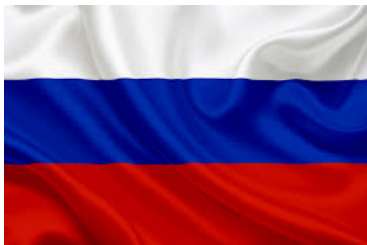
MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

The major parties involved may differ from one proxy conflict to another, however, in proxy conflicts that are currently on-going and are mentioned previously:



- **The United States:**

In the modern era, the United States is involved in several indirect conflicts where it supports allies rather than fighting directly. For example, in the Syrian Civil War, the U.S. has backed certain rebel and Kurdish groups while Russia and Iran support the Syrian government. In the Yemeni Civil War, the U.S. has provided support to Saudi-led forces against Iran-backed Houthis. Another major example is the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where the U.S. supplies military and financial aid to Ukraine in its fight against Russia. These conflicts reflect ongoing geopolitical rivalry, where major powers compete through regional partners instead of direct war.



- **Russia:**

In the modern era, Russia is involved in several proxy conflicts where it supports allied governments or groups to expand its influence. In the Syrian Civil War, Russia has provided military support to the Assad government against U.S.-backed and other rebel forces. In the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russia fights directly but also relies on allied militias and external support networks, making it partly a proxy-style conflict with Western-backed Ukraine. Russia has also been linked to indirect involvement in conflicts in places like Libya, backing forces opposed to the UN-recognized government, and in parts of Africa where it has supported regimes through private military groups. These

engagements reflect Russia's strategy of projecting power without always relying solely on conventional direct warfare.



- **Iran:**

In the modern era, Iran is heavily involved in proxy wars across the Middle East by supporting allied militias and armed groups rather than relying on direct warfare. For example, in the Syrian Civil War, Iran backs the Syrian government, while in the Yemeni Civil War it supports Houthi rebels against Saudi-led forces. Iran also plays a key role in the long-running Iran–Israel proxy conflict by supporting groups like Hezbollah and Hamas against Israel. Through organizations such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Iran provides funding, weapons, and training to these groups, allowing it to expand its regional influence while avoiding full-scale direct war.



- **Saudi Arabia:**

In the modern era, Saudi Arabia is involved in proxy conflicts primarily to counter Iran's regional influence. Its most prominent role is in the Yemeni Civil War, where it leads a coalition backing the Yemeni government against Iran-aligned Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia has also supported opposition groups in the Syrian Civil War and has been involved in political struggles in countries like Lebanon, backing factions opposed to Hezbollah. These actions reflect Saudi Arabia's strategy of using regional allies and partners to compete with Iran without engaging in direct large-scale war.



- **Israel:**

In the modern era, Israel is involved in proxy-style conflicts mainly as part of its ongoing rivalry with Iran. In the Syrian Civil War, Israel has carried out strikes against Iranian-backed forces and Hezbollah positions to limit Iran's presence near its borders. It is also engaged in a long-running indirect conflict with groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza Strip, both of which receive support from Iran. These conflicts reflect Israel's strategy of countering

hostile actors and their backers through targeted operations rather than full-scale conventional war with Iran directly.



- **Syria:**

In the modern era, Syria is at the center of a major proxy conflict rather than acting as a primary sponsor itself. During the Syrian Civil War, the Syrian government—led by Bashar al-Assad—has been supported by Russia and Iran, while various rebel groups have received backing from the United States, Turkey, and Gulf states. This has turned Syria into a battleground where multiple external powers compete for influence through local forces, making it one of the most complex modern proxy wars.

Armed groups that are not states, also known as, local proxy groups that operate in the region:

- **Houthi Movement - In Yemen:**

The Houthi Movement has become a key player in modern proxy conflicts, primarily linked to the broader Iran–Saudi Arabia proxy conflict. Backed politically and militarily by Iran, the Houthis have fought against the internationally recognized Yemeni government, which has been supported by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates since 2015. This conflict is widely seen as part of a regional struggle for influence between Iran and its rivals. More recently, the Houthis have also targeted shipping in the Red Sea, tying their actions to the Israel– Hamas war, positioning themselves within a broader network of Iran-aligned groups opposing Israel and its allies, thus expanding their role in interconnected proxy wars across the Middle East.

- **Hamas - In Gaza:**

Hamas is a central actor in modern proxy conflicts tied to the broader Iran–Israel proxy conflict. It governs the Gaza Strip and has engaged in repeated wars with Israel, most notably the Israel– Hamas war. Hamas receives financial, military, and political support from Iran and maintains links with other Iran-aligned groups such as Hezbollah. These relationships place Hamas within a wider regional network opposing Israel and, indirectly, United States influence, making Gaza a focal point of overlapping proxy struggles in the Middle East.

- **MAGA Movement - In US:**



“MAGA” (Make America Great Again) is a political movement, not a state or military actor, so it is not involved in proxy wars. Proxy wars involve governments supporting armed groups in foreign conflicts, whereas MAGA is associated with domestic U.S. politics and figures like Donald Trump. While people sometimes use the term loosely to describe

political or ideological influence, MAGA itself does not fund, arm, or direct forces in overseas conflicts, so it doesn’t participate in proxy warfare in the traditional sense.



- **ICE - In US:**

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is not involved in proxy wars, because it is a domestic law enforcement agency, not a military or geopolitical actor. Its role is to enforce immigration laws, investigate cross-border crime, and handle deportations within the United States, rather than support armed groups in foreign conflicts. Proxy wars, by definition, involve states backing armed forces or militias in external conflicts, which is something carried out by national governments and militaries—not agencies like ICE.

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS

[IRRC- International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts](#)

Executive Summary of the document: This is the sixth report on international humanitarian law (IHL) and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (International Conference). Similar reports were submitted to the International Conferences held in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The aim of all these reports is to provide an overview of some of the challenges posed by contemporary armed conflicts for IHL; generate broader reflection on those challenges; and outline current or prospective ICRC action, positions and areas of interest, and bring them to the attention of members of the International Conference.

Like its predecessors, this report addresses only some of the contemporary challenges to IHL. It outlines a number of issues that are the focus of increased interest among states and other actors, as well as the ICRC: nuclear weapons; protection of people in the hands of parties to armed conflict; conduct of hostilities; new technologies of warfare; impartial humanitarian work; and implementation of IHL. These issues include matters not addressed in previous reports, such as separated family members, missing people and obligations on the handling of the dead, food security, military operations in outer space, and how respect for IHL can contribute, in a modest way, to building steps towards peace. This report also provides an update on some issues of concern that were addressed in previous reports and that remain high on the international agenda, such as the urbanization of warfare, autonomous weapon systems and other new technologies of warfare, and protection of people deprived of their liberty.

[The \(de\) Militarization of Humanitarian Aid: A Historical Perspective](#)

Abstract of the document: Humanitarian workers often complain that international aid to victims of armed conflicts is more and more militarized because relief organizations are embedded into peacekeeping operations, used as a “force multiplier”, or manipulated as an instrument of diplomacy by proxy. Historically, however, charity has always been a military issue in times of war. We can distinguish four types of militarization of relief organizations in this regard. First is the use of charities to make “war by proxy”, as in Afghanistan or Nicaragua in the 1980s. The second pattern is “embedding”, like the Red Cross during the two world wars. The third is “self-defense”, as with the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem (now Malta) in the 12th Century. The fourth, finally, is the model of “International Brigades” alongside the Spanish Republicans in 1936 or various liberation movements in the 1970s. In comparison, humanitarian aid today appears to be much less militarized. However, this perception also depends on the various definitions of the word “humanitarian”.

[Humanitarian Aid as a Weapon of War Pages 14-20 | Published online: 15 May 2019](#)

SOLUTION ALTERNATIVES

- Resuming aid supply to civilians in need...

A section of a speech from a united nations security council showcasing resuming aid supply to civilians can be offered as a solution alternative:

Our response as humanitarians is to make a single ask of the Council: let us work. The United Nations and our partners are desperate to resume humanitarian aid, at scale, across Gaza, in line with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. We have a plan. We have shown we can deliver, with tens of thousands of trucks reaching civilians during the ceasefire. We have lifesaving supplies ready at the borders. We can save hundreds of

thousands of survivors. We have rigorous mechanisms to ensure our aid gets to civilians, not Hamas.

- Constructing and providing basic human needs to civilians in need..

A section of a speech from a united nations security council showcasing constructing and providing basic human needs to civilians can be offered as a solution alternative:

Fourthly, we are opposed to the mechanism for distributing and managing humanitarian aid put forward by Israel. The envisaged modalities run counter to international law and would not meet the needs of the population. We reaffirm our support for the multilateral and humanitarian actors operating in Gaza, in particular the United Nations agencies and programmes, primary among them the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which have proved their effectiveness and reliability. Setting up field hospitals, delivering food aid, medical care, vaccinations, protection and assistance, education — that is their mandate, entrusted to them by international conventions and United Nations resolutions. It is their job, which they carry out with complete humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality. It is Israel's responsibility to allow them to operate.

- Opposing the side that exploits and weaponizes humanitarian aids in proxy wars...

A section of a speech from a united nations security council showcasing opposing to the side -Israel in this case- that exploits and weaponizes humanitarian aids in proxy wars can be offered as a solution alternative:

The catastrophic and deteriorating situation is coupled with Israel's announcement that it will expand its military operations in Gaza. We strongly oppose those plans, which risk having immense consequences in an already desperate humanitarian situation and displacing the majority of the civilian population. That does nothing to serve the long-term interests of peace and security in the region. At the same time, the Israeli Government has announced plans to establish a new mechanism for aid delivery to Gaza under the control of Israel, including Israeli military forces, and private contractors. The United Nations has decided not to participate in that modality, citing that it contradicts Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and disregards the International Court of Justice's provisional orders requiring unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance at scale to all civilians in need. Denmark supports the position of the United Nations. Denmark will only support an aid mechanism that adheres to humanitarian principles and is in line with international law. Humanitarian aid must never be politicized or used as a political bargaining chip or as part of a military strategy. Such militarization is not only contrary to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law — it sets a dangerous precedent for the future of humanitarian work in war zones around the world.

USEFUL LINKS

- [**The United Nations Security Council Document That the Given Sections are Taken From: UNSC Document**](#)
- [**IRRC- International humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts**](#): A detailed article about international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts
- [**The \(de\) Militarization of Humanitarian Aid: A Historical Perspective**](#): A detailed article about the demilitarization of humanitarian aid in history
- [**Humanitarian Aid as a Weapon of War Pages 14-20 | Published online: 15 May 2019**](#): A detailed article about humanitarian aid
- [**UN official says Sudan paramilitary group is preventing life-saving aid from famine-hit Darfur**](#): A UN official's words on a paramilitary group in Sudan that is preventing life-saving aid from places that extremely lack food
- [**Israel's weaponization of aid in Gaza**](#): Gaza's late situation and Israel's applications
- [**Britannica: Proxy Wars**](#): General information about proxy wars
- [**Conflict in Yemen and the Red Sea**](#): A report about the conflict in Yemen and the Red Sea

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baugh, Sue. “Proxy War | Armed Conflict.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/proxy-war.
- “Conflict in Yemen and the Red Sea | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Global Conflict Tracker*, 2015, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen?utm_
- Creative, Wide Eye. “Foreign Affairs: The Weaponization of Humanitarian Aid.” *Refugees International*, 9 Jan. 2023, www.refugeesinternational.org/foreign-affairs-the-weaponization-of-humanitarian-aid/.
- de Montclos, Marc-Antoine. “The (De) Militarization of Humanitarian Aid: A Historical Perspective.” *Humanities*, vol. 3, no. 2, 16 June 2014, pp. 232–243, <https://doi.org/10.3390/h3020232>.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Arab Spring.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 14 Jan. 2015, www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Spring.
- Ghantous, Nour. “Proxy Wars, Explained.” *FairPlanet*, 8 Dec. 2023, www.fairplanet.org/story/what-are-proxy-wars-and-where-are-they-happening/.
- Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. “Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect*, 1 Dec. 2024, www.globalr2p.org/countries/israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory/.
- “Humanitarian Aid as a Weapon of War.” *Armed Conflict Survey*, vol. 5, no. 1, 1 Jan. 2019, pp. 14–20, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23740973.2019.1603967>.
- IRRC. “International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts.” *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 106, no. 927, Dec. 2024, pp. 1357–1450, international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/reviews-pdf/2025-03/reports-and-documen

ts-ihl-and-the-challenges-of-contemporary-armed-conflicts-927.pdf,
<https://doi.org/10.1017/s181638312400064x>.

Omar. *Iran-Saudi Arabia Proxy War Map-Wikipedia*. June 2025.

SAMY MAGDY. “UN Official Says Sudan Paramilitary Group Is Preventing Life-Saving Aid from Famine-Hit Darfur.” *AP News*, 10 Feb. 2025, apnews.com/article/sudan-military-rsf-war-darfur-8b639960015074ac93f12b648349526c

Sayal, Trisha. “Leveraging Starvation: Studying the Weaponization of Humanitarian Aid in a Political World.” *Humanrightsresearch.org*, 2025, www.humanrightsresearch.org/post/leveraging-starvation-studying-the-weaponization-of-humanitarian-aid-in-a-political-world.

“Syria: Non-Renewal of Last Aid Corridor Risks Humanitarian Catastrophe for Millions.” *Amnesty International*, 5 July 2022, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/syria-non-renewal-of-last-aid-corridor-risks-humanitarian-catastrophe-for-millions/. Accessed 1 Apr. 2026.

Verhoeven, Juliette. “Israel’s Weaponization of Aid in Gaza | Dutch Relief Alliance.” *Dutch Relief Alliance*, 8 May 2025, dutchrelief.org/israels-weaponization-of-aid-in-gaza/.

“Weaponized Relief: Feminist Reflections on the Use of Aid as a Tool of War in Gaza.” *Nobel Women’s Initiative*, 26 May 2025, www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/weaponizedrelief. Accessed 31 Mar. 2026.