Response To Common Inaccuracy: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Inaccuracy: Israel is imposing a humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Response
Israel enables the flow of essential goods into Gaza. Given the ongoing threat from Hamas, Israel does restrict certain dual-use goods which could be used for military purposes (Egypt does as well). Following the Israel-Hamas 2014 conflict in Gaza, Israel and the Palestinians agreed to allow the import of some previously suspended building materials into Gaza, to be overseen by United Nations monitors. This includes 600 tons of cement, 400 tons of steel and 50 tons of gravel.

Each month on average, over 5,000 trucks carrying approximately 150,000 tons of goods enter Gaza from Israel. These trucks carry food, medicine and medical equipment, building materials and other assorted items. Electricity continues to flow freely from Israel into Gaza.

Additionally, each month dozens of truckloads carrying goods produced in Gaza, including flowers and spices, are transferred to international markets via Israel.

Hamas is ultimately responsible for the difficult conditions the people of Gaza endure. Its refusal to comply with international demands to recognize Israel’s right to exist and cease terrorist operations has led to the isolation of Gaza by the international community. It deliberately puts ordinary Palestinians in harm’s way by misusing domestic items for military purposes, establishing its terrorist
infrastructure – manufacturing, storage, training and strategic planning – within densely populated areas, in the midst of homes, schools, mosques and hospitals. It has cynically exploited the harsh conditions in Gaza for public relations purposes, while continuing to expand the hostile activities that created and exacerbated these conditions.