

Il blocco delle evacuazioni mediche da Gaza da parte dell'amministrazione Trump è una condanna a morte per i bambini palestinesi

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La decisione presa questa fine settimana dal Dipartimento di Stato americano di bloccare tutti i visti per visitatori provenienti da Gaza, inclusi i visti medico-umanitari che hanno portato bambini feriti negli ospedali americani, costerà vite umane ai palestinesi. I funzionari affermano che questo processo sarà soggetto a una "revisione completa e approfondita". Per un bambino con ustioni infette o una ferita traumatica profonda, una sospensione è un verdetto sulla sua vita. Il blocco non è derivato da nuove informazioni di intelligence o da nuove identificazioni di problemi nel percorso dei visti per visitatori temporanei. È seguito al panico sui social media con la circolazione di video mal caratterizzati di bambini feriti arrivati sotto le cure di un'organizzazione no-profit statunitense etichettati come una " [minaccia alla sicurezza](#) ", retorica amplificata dagli alleati politici. Il Dipartimento di Stato ha quindi annunciato che avrebbe bloccato i visti mentre riesamina le procedure.

Il razzismo e la disinformazione al centro di questo panico meritano di essere menzionati. Alcuni hanno etichettato il processo di evacuazione dei bambini con amputazioni e ustioni come potenzialmente collegato al terrorismo e hanno persino definito le loro grida di gioia come " [canti jihadisti](#) ". Questa è disumanizzazione da manuale: prendere una popolazione di bambini feriti e codificarli come una minaccia per giustificare l'esclusione. Molti hanno commentato la reazione a catena da tali post all'azione amministrativa. Il passaggio da una diffamazione virale a una politica federale che blocca la chemioterapia, gli innesti cutanei o le protesi per i bambini dovrebbe farci vergognare, così come la velocità con cui è avvenuto.

Inoltre, esagera enormemente la portata di ciò che è realmente accaduto. In totale, molte delle ONG che gestiscono questi trasferimenti dagli Stati Uniti segnalano fino ad oggi poche decine di bambini, non un'"inondazione". I resoconti delle singole città hanno parlato di gruppi di due o tre bambini: una coppia curata a Dallas; diversi bambini accolti a Boston. Questo è l'opposto di un canale su larga scala; è un corridoio stretto e altamente controllato che esiste perché il sistema sanitario di Gaza è stato distrutto.



A Palestinian child receiving medical care at Nasser Medical Complex due to injuries sustained from the Israeli war on Gaza. Many childrens' health conditions continue to deteriorate because of the severe shortage of medical resources, and they also suffer from an inability to travel for treatment outside the Strip due to border closures and the ongoing war, on June 4, 2025. (Photo: Doaa el-Baz/APA Images)

To understand how few make it here, you have to [understand the pathway](#). First, a physician in Gaza refers a child for care that no longer exists at home. The case goes to a Ministry of Health committee, then to the World Health Organization (WHO) for medical triage. Only after a receiving hospital issues a formal acceptance, often after weeks of back-and-forth with surgeons, translated records, and imaging, does the family usually even begin the paper chase: passports, exit permissions from the Israeli military's Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), Jordanian clearances when the bridge route is used, U.S. visa appointments, and finally a WHO-escorted convoy. Each step is a separate queue with its own failures and reversals; a single "not yet" in any queue can kill the case.

The numbers give us a picture of why this corridor matters. [According to WHO and OCHA](#), as of mid-August more than 14,800 people in Gaza need urgent medical evacuation outside the Strip. Since October 2023, about 7,560 patients, including roughly 5,248 children, have been medically evacuated abroad, with most of those transfers occurring before Israel's closure of Rafah last year made departures far rarer and slower – in fact, [a 92% decrease was recorded in successful evacuations thereafter](#). On August 13, the WHO managed to move 38 patients, 32 of them children, to care options in

Belgium, Italy, and Türkiye. Such operations are far smaller than the need. Pausing the U.S. share of that global effort may look like a minor adjustment from Washington, yet for an injured child in Gaza, it reads as a door slammed shut – and possibly a death sentence.

American hospitals have long accepted international charity cases. Pediatric centers have taken on many cases from around the world, because these are areas where some U.S. teams are among the best in the world and where outcomes can be life-changing and transformative. Now, it is only anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia that are preventing U.S. hospitals from playing a similar role with children from Gaza. Other countries and regions have been accepting far more cases than the United States. Since October 2023, the top five referral destinations have been Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, and EU countries. The cases include children with trauma wounds, patients with cancer, congenital anomalies, cardiovascular issues, and even ophthalmology-related needs.

Behind every statistic is a child and a clock. We have seen and heard of many such cases. For example, Fatima (anonymized name for safety), a child with multiple burn injuries, cleared one hurdle after another: hospital acceptance in the U.S., COGAT approval, a slot on a convoy list. Starvation and infection outpaced the paperwork. She died just days ago, after being pushed from one evacuation list date to another as her body gave way. Another girl whose cases moved with unusual speed from referral to hospital acceptance to even getting family clearances was now seeking an expedited passport to submit her DS-160s when the U.S. freeze hit. Try explaining to her mother that a stranger's tweet now stands between her child and a reconstructive surgeon.

And yet, these are not isolated incidents or tragedies. Gaza's health system has been bombed, besieged, and starved into dysfunction. Key Palestinian medical specialists have been killed or abducted by the Israeli military, and hospitals where care could have been provided have been repeatedly attacked. That is why children who could once be treated locally now need referrals abroad for prosthetics, complex orthopedics, neurosurgery, oncologic care, and skin reconstruction. The pathway is not some loophole, rather it is one of the only viable medical options for these children. Prior to the current genocide, 50-100 patients were leaving Gaza daily for medical treatment abroad.

The pathway is, in fact, fraught with ethical dilemmas. Children are frequently separated from their caregivers or loved ones, and families are separated or torn apart as some relatives are denied exit approval (often men) by Israel, leaving others to stay behind. We have met such families and children who have come to the U.S., have heard from their stories and the trauma they have endured – the physical scars and the psychological ones – and the ones that cannot even be named.



A Palestinian child receiving medical care at Nasser Medical Complex due to injuries sustained from the Israeli war on Gaza, on June 4, 2025. (Photo: Doaa el-Baz/APA Images)

What should happen now is simple. First, immediately reinstate the processing of medical-humanitarian visas for children and their companions. Second, we should push towards affirming the right of return for these children – many families fear never being able to return to Gaza after accepting treatment abroad, with some even choosing to stay in Gaza out of such fears. Third, restoration of medical corridors for Palestinian patients in Gaza to occupied East Jerusalem and the wider occupied West Bank, so that they do not need to leave their country and homeland just for treatment if it is available. Finally, stop letting demagogues dictate whether a Palestinian child gets to live. The moral bar here is not high.

Quanto è triste che il governo di Washington possa essere spinto da un tweet in malafede a chiudere un'ancora di salvezza per i bambini; qualsiasi briciolo di decenza, in quanto americani, dovrebbe costringerci ad aprirla.

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