

Spotlight



GAZA STARVATION

The celebrities taking a stand

From Hollywood actors and music stars to sports personalities and entertainers, famous figures are condemning Israel

Arab News Riyadh

As Israel's assault on Gaza continues, a growing number of cultural figures are using their global platform to demand a ceasefire, speak out against war crimes, and support Palestinian civilians.

Almost 22 months since the Hamas-led attack on Israel triggered the war in Gaza, celebrities who once remained silent have joined the growing condemnation of what many now describe as genocide.

Ariana Grande

On July 17, American pop singer Ariana Grande posted two Instagram stories backing the Red Line for Gaza campaign, which demands unrestricted access to humanitarian aid.

In one story, Grande shared a message that read: "Starving people to death is a red line. The Israeli government is crossing this red line before our eyes."

Angelina Jolie

In April, American actress Angelina Jolie, who spent 20 years as a goodwill ambassador for UNHCR, reaffirmed her support for Gaza by

sharing a Medecins Sans Frontiers report on Instagram.

The report described the situation in Gaza as a "mass grave for Palestinians and those helping them."

Jolie has been an advocate for Palestinian rights since the conflict began in October 2023. She wrote in an Instagram post on Oct. 28 that year: "What happened in Israel is an act of terror.

"But that cannot justify the innocent lives lost in bombing a civilian population in Gaza that has nowhere to go, no access to food or water, no possibility of evacuation and not even the basic human right to cross a border to seek refuge."

Susan Sarandon

In an Artists4Ceasefire post on Instagram in February, American actress Susan Sarandon said: "Palestinians have the right to return, rebuild, and live in freedom on their land.

"Gaza was destroyed with our weapons — now Trump wants to ethnically cleanse Palestinian survivors to create resort properties for his developer friends and family.

"We must rise up together, use everything we have, to finally end the suffering our government

inflicts. Peace and justice are for all of us, or for none of us. What we allow in Gaza, we allow everywhere."

Mark Ruffalo

In February 2024, at the Directors Guild of America Awards in Beverly Hills, American actor Mark Ruffalo called for a ceasefire.

He said: "We've come to understand this bombing isn't working, we're not going to bomb our way to peace, and all we're saying is, what's wrong with giving a ceasefire a chance?"

Piers Morgan

British journalist Piers Morgan has publicly called on US President Donald Trump to intervene and demand Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu end the war in Gaza.

In a post on X in June, Morgan wrote: "Now is the time for you to tell (Netanyahu) to end this terrible war ... and stop the incessant daily slaughter of civilians."

Once a staunch defender of Israel's right to retaliate after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack, Morgan has since shifted tone. Speaking with Mehdi Hasan, he said he could "resist no more" in criticizing Israel's actions,

describing them as the "starvation of the people."

Dua Lipa

British Kosovan singer Dua Lipa publicly condemned the war in Gaza, calling it "Israeli genocide." The Guardian reported in May 2024.

Sharing a graphic from the Artists4Ceasefire campaign alongside the hashtag #AllEyesOnRafah, Lipa wrote: "Burning children alive can never be justified. The whole world is mobilizing to stop the Israeli genocide. Please show your solidarity with Gaza."

Amir Khan

In the days after the Oct. 7 attack, British Pakistani former boxer Amir Khan took to X to say that "Palestinian lives matter" and that he has "never been scared to speak" his mind.

"Recently when Ukraine was attacked by Russia, I personally flew to Poland to support the Ukrainian refugees who had been displaced by the effects of war," he said.

"So many people spoke up about these atrocities, but as the world watches what is unfolding in Palestine, I see so many of my peers, friends and colleagues who are remaining silent. Why?"

Benedict Cumberbatch

The British actor was among 300 UK public figures who signed an open letter to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, urging the UK to end its "complicity in the horrors in Gaza."

The letter, organized by campaign group Choose Love, stated: "Right now, children in Gaza are starving while food and medicine sit just minutes away, blocked at the border. Words won't feed Palestinian children — we need action. Every single one of Gaza's 2.1 million people is at risk of starvation, as you read this."

Steve Coogan

After signing the UK entertainment industry letter, British actor Steve Coogan publicly read the names of children killed in Gaza at a Westminster vigil. He told Sky News: "They're all children who had lives, who had nothing to do with the conflict ... this has to stop."

As the "mass, indiscriminate killing of innocent people" has continued, he added, "more and more people are realizing that this has to stop."

Paloma Faith

Faith delivered a speech at a protest outside the Israeli

Embassy in London in March, vowing she "won't fall silent until Palestine is free."

"I know that Israel has violated every ceasefire agreement it has ever signed, but even with that knowledge and that fear, even after watching months of that genocide, I wasn't prepared for these new depths of brutality to which Israel has descended," she said.

"A child is slaughtered every eight minutes, we should stand in silence for a minute for every child killed in Gaza in this genocide but if we did that, we'd be silent for over 300 hours so I won't fall silent."

Andrew Garfield

On the Happy Sad Confused podcast in October 2024, American actor Garfield was blunt: "We should be putting our energy towards something that actually matters — maybe the lives of Palestinians in Gaza right now.

"Maybe that's where we put our hearts and our energy in, and oppressed, anyone suffering under the weight of the horrors of our world right now, anyone who doesn't have a choice in living lives of dignity. That's where our energy should be going right now."