

Join Letter to Biden Administration Regarding Reportedly Imminent Invasion of Rafah

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Request for Signature(s)

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Current Co-Signers: Castro, Raskin, Schakowsky

Endorsing Organizations: Americans for Peace Now, J Street, Foreign Policy 4 America, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Dear Colleagues:

Please join us in sending a letter to President Biden expressing our deep sense of urgency and alarm about the potentially devastating consequences of a ground invasion of Rafah and urging the President to use every tool he has at his disposal to ensure that the norms of American and international law are observed throughout this conflict.

As you know, the north of Gaza has become increasingly dangerous for civilians, and Rafah has served as the least dangerous place of refuge in all of Gaza for the over one million displaced Palestinians seeking a modicum of safety. Conditions in northern and central Gaza are dire, leaving refugees with no other viable alternatives for shelter and safety.

Any further expansion into Rafah will compound the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where more than half the population is on the brink of famine. The densely populated character of the city and the presence of a significant number of displaced and homeless Palestinians raise profound concerns about potential civilian casualties and the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver vital humanitarian aid under already desperate conditions if widespread violence comes to Rafah.

As we note in the letter, further expansion into Rafah could also potentially contravene the principles set forth in the National Security Memorandum 20 (NSM-20) on Safeguards and Accountability with Respect to Transferred Defense Articles and Defense Services, as the memorandum emphasizes the importance of credible assurances from recipient countries regarding the use of U.S. weapons in strict adherence to international humanitarian law. A ground invasion lacking a clear plan for civilian protection raises questions about the credibility and reliability of these assurances.

Please join us in the critical moment to ensure that all recipients of U.S. aid are bound to the commitments demanded by NSM-20.