# *Gaza's Board of Pieces Morphs into War on Iran* *Continued from page 1*

million tons of rubble, including nine million tons of hazardous waste that includes asbestos, industrial waste, and heavy metals, in addition to unexploded ordnance, and an estimated 10,000 decaying corpses. Israel has demolished some 1,500 buildings since the ceasefire went into effect.

How can anyone believe that Israel, intent on leveling Gaza, will reverse itself to allow Palestinians to rebuild what it spent so much time, money and blood to destroy?

Retired Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland, a former head of Israel's National Security Council, echoed this sentiment [August 9] on Israel's 103FM radio station. "Israel has no interest in Gaza being rebuilt, it is better for us that it be destroyed for generations to come," Eiland said.

"The greater the despair in Gaza and the greater the destruction, and the greater the monument to what they did on October 7, years to come, that is good," he added.

Israel will never permit reconstruction in Gaza. It will never restore health facilities or water treatment systems. It will never turn over authority to an International Stabilization Force (ISF), one which only exists on paper. It will never permit the creation of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza or agree to Palestinian self-determination and statehood. Trump promises a Gaza Riviera that will function as a "special economic zone" — a territory operating outside of state law governed entirely by private investors, such as the Peter Thiel-backed charter city in Honduras. But Trump's Gaza Riviera is nothing more than a pathetic temporary camp along the ceasefire line near Rafah. It consists of "portable cabins" under Palestinian administration and a tiny international security force, according to *The Guardian*. It is touted, in desperation, as a pilot scheme.

Despite some $17 billion in pledges to the Board of Peace, as of late May 2026 not a single dollar had reached its official World Bank-administered Gaza reconstruction fund. Only about $23 million had been received through alternative channels for operating costs, with a further $100 million pledged by the United Arab Emirates that was earmarked for a future Palestinian police force, though it remains "frozen," according to *The Financial Times*.

This amounts to about $0.72 for every $100 pledged.

Given the heavy economic costs incurred by Gulf and regional donor countries because of the U.S. and Israeli war on Iran — including Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and the UAE — it is very unlikely the pledged funds will be paid.

The European Union, the U.N. and the World Bank, in an assessment published in April, estimated that $71.4 billion is needed for recovery in Gaza.

The Board of Peace, for which Bulgarian diplomat Nickolay Mladenov is the principal official, is desperate for funds. The U.S. attempted to pilfer $11 billion in Palestinian tax revenues and frozen bank funds withheld by Israel, which was rejected by the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Israeli withholding of tax revenues has deepened the financial crisis in the West Bank, with the PA slashing salaries in half of thousands of Palestinian civil servants. The ISF, a multinational peacekeeping force that is supposed to be composed of troops from Albania, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Uganda and Indonesia — the latter of which has since suspended its commitment, is also nonexistent.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Settlements and National Missions Minister Orit Strook have demanded that Netanyahu reconvene the Security Cabinet so that its July 26 vote authorizing the entry of ISF troops can be reversed.

The entire Trump project is an *Alice-in-Wonderland* fantasy.

Anyone in Gaza who strays close to the Yellow Line — which is constantly shifting and poorly marked — is shot. Police are shot. Hamas leaders, along with their families — including Azzam Khalil al-Hayya, the son of Khalil al-Hayya who was the head of Hamas' political bureau and the faction's lead negotiator — are assassinated. Palestinians lining up at food kitchens and those handing out aid to them are obliterated by Israeli bombs. Israel restricts food and humanitarian aid to half of the trucks stipulated in the ceasefire agreement.

Palestinians, 90 percent of whom have been displaced, continue to live in tent cities amid rubble and open pools of raw sewage. They lack toilets or electricity. There is an 80 percent unemployment rate. Tens of thousands of children suffer acute malnutrition in Gaza. A child, on average, is killed every day.

Tacitus understood. They made a desert and call it peace.

Trump's plan was not designed to end the conflict. It was not designed to provide an equitable settlement for the Palestinians. It was not designed to halt the ongoing mass slaughter. It was designed to allow Israel to complete its genocide and drive surviving Palestinians from their homeland — the culmination of the Zionist dream.

Trump, however obtuse, has at least figured this out. ***— Hedges wrote this piece for his Chris Hedges Report, Aug. 10, 2026***

# *Questions Emerge over Infant Health near Diablo Canyon Nuclear Site*

**By Ella Heydenfeldt, *The Independent,* May 7, 2026**

***Edited for space by Nukewatch Staff***

A recent Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health analysis found higher cancer mortality rates in U.S. counties located closer to nuclear reactors, while a nonprofit-led report questioned whether decades of Diablo Canyon's operation may be tied to worsening infant health in surrounding San Luis Obispo [S.L.O.] County. Federal regulators and health officials, however, maintain that radiation exposure from the site is too low to pose a measurable risk.

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace members argue continued operation of the two pressurized water reactors poses unnecessary risks and costs. They point to roughly $700 million in state support, the growing accumulation of radioactive waste, the negative effects on sea life from the reactors' once-through cooling system, and their discharge of heated seawater into the ocean.

**Declining Infant Health: Correlation or Causation?**

On April 29 Radiation and Public Health Project epidemiologist Joseph Mangano presented an analysis of state data showing San Luis Obispo County's infant health and mortality have been negatively impacted since reactor startup.




**San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace has been opposing dangers posed by Diablo Canyon and nuclear reactors, nuclear weapons, and rad waste since 1969. Photo: Mothers for Peace.**

Based on publicly available health statistics, the report — "Local Newborn Health Declined As California Nuclear Plant Operates" — states that infant mortality has shifted from a healthy 16-22 percent below the state average in 1968, which is the year reactor construction started and such record-keeping began, to 14 percent below average after Diablo Canyon went into operation in 1985, to about one percent above average today. (Statewide, infant mortality declined from roughly 21 deaths per 1,000 births in 1968 to about 5 per 1,000.) Premature births and birth defects followed similar patterns, with one category of defects reported at 114 percent above the state average.

"One does not find causation through epidemiology," Mangano said. His report does not establish that emissions from Diablo Canyon caused the changes. But, "the Harvard study changed everything," Mangano added.

That 2026 study examined nationwide data from 2000-2018 and found that counties closer to nuclear reactors, including S.L.O., had a "robust and consistent" higher rate of cancer mortality, even after adjusting for socioeconomic, demographic, and environmental factors. The association was strongest among older adult men with the most common form of cancer being lung cancer. The researchers emphasized that the study — the first this century to analyze nuclear reactor proximity and cancer deaths across affected counties — do not establish causation, did not measure radiation exposure directly, and pointed to the need for further study.

**The Radioactive Tooth Fairy**

For reactor operator PG&E, "Diablo Canyon, as with all nuclear [reactors] power plants in the U.S., is regulated and monitored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has found our operations meet all safety and security performance objectives," stated Carina Corral, head of communications for the power company.

Corral added, "PG&E does not consider this report credible. Mr. Mangano has launched similar false claims in the past, also debunked by medical experts, including those at the S.L.O. County Public Health Department as 'fundamentally flawed.'"

Looking specifically at individual radiation exposure differs from the Harvard analysis and Mangano's report, which rely on large-scale population and mortality data. This difference of approach complicates the effort to understand the effect of nuclear power plants on health, if any.

Mangano argues that observable shifts in public health data, combined with evidence of radioactive exposure, are enough to warrant concern and further investigation. Regulators and many scientists maintain that without clear causal evidence, the risks remain unproven.

***Jean Yamamura contributed reporting to this story.***




***Nukewatch Quarterly***
The Progressive Foundation & Nukewatch
740A Round Lake Rd., Luck, WI 54853
Phone: (715) 472-4185
disarm@nukewatchinfo.org / www.nukewatchinfo.org
ISSN: 1942-6305

~ Printed on 100% recycled paper ~
Please subscribe: $25/yr.

**Nukewatch is a project of The Progressive Foundation a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization**
founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

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