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Firm quits Gaza aid effort amid criticism

By Karen DeYoung and Cate Brown
WASHINGTON POST

A US- and Israeli-backed initiative to feed starving Gazans has struggled during its first week of operations, with the resignation of two top executives, allegations that the Israeli military has shot into crowds of civilians rushing to pick up aid packages, and the ongoing refusal of the United Nations and humanitarian partners to join the effort.

On Friday, a leading US management consulting firm based in Boston hired last fall to help design the program and run its business operations withdrew its team operating on the ground in Tel Aviv. A spokesperson for the firm, Boston Consulting Group, or BCG, said the company had terminated its contract with the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and placed one of the senior partners leading the project on leave, pending an internal review.

Three people closely connected to both the foundation and BCG, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter, said that it would be difficult for the foundation to continue to function without the consultants who helped create it. In addition to helping develop the initiative in close coordination with Israel, BCG set the prices for paying and equipping the array of contractors who built four distribution hubs in southern Gaza and to deliver the aid.

“They are actually making the wheels turn,” said one of the people of BCG’s involvement.

A spokesperson for BCG stated that the firm had provided “pro bono” support to the humanitarian operation and will not get paid for any of the work it has done on behalf of the foundation. Another person familiar with its operations contradicted the firm’s account, saying that BCG had presented monthly invoices of more than \$1 million.

The foundation said in an email early Tuesday that it had distributed more than 7 million meals during its first eight days of operations. “It proves our model is functional and is an effective means to deliver lifesaving assistance to the Gazan people under emergency conditions,” wrote John Acree, named last week as the foundation’s interim director.

Later Tuesday, the foundation announced a new executive director, Johnnie Moore, a Christian evangelical leader and public relations executive who is close to the Trump administration and was twice appointed during President Trump’s first term as a member of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Since the war in Gaza began following the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 — which killed about 1,200 people and saw around 250 taken hostage — deliveries of life-saving humanitarian assistance have been sporadic and woefully inadequate for the enclave’s more than 2 million inhabitants. Israel, which has tightly controlled humanitarian access through its border crossings, has charged —



EYAD BABA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

without evidence — that much of the distribution by the UN and other aid organizations in the past has been seized by Hamas.

The architects of the the foundation plan, including the Israeli government, private entrepreneurs, consultants, and some humanitarian actors, have said that the new aid mechanism was designed to protect against looting and seizures by the militant group. Armed US contractors have been hired to secure the aid convoys and oversee the distribution hubs.

The start of distribution followed an 11-week blockade, during which Israel prohibited any aid from entering Gaza. The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced plans to relocate virtually all of Gaza’s population to the southern part of the 141-square-mile enclave as it launches a new offensive in the north to eliminate Hamas’s remaining fighters. So far, more than 54,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli attacks in the 19-month war, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilian and combatants.

Three out of four distribution hubs are now operating in the south, usually only for several hours in the morning until the day’s packaged food deliveries have been exhausted.

No violent incidents have been reported inside the distribution hubs themselves, although Gazan health workers have reported dozens of people shot nearby.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces said that they were investigating an incident resulting in casualties, in which Israeli troops fired on “several suspects ... deviating from the designated access routes” to the distribution sites.

Gaza’s Health Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross said that 27 people were killed and dozens more injured near an aid distribution site in southern Gaza.

Previously, IDF spokespersons have said soldiers fired above the heads of crowds to disperse them but denied shooting directly at civilians, and they charged that reports of dead and wounded were Hamas disinformation. The IDF has distributed

its own videos that it says show Hamas militants shooting at civilians.

In a statement Tuesday, the foundation said that “while the aid distribution was conducted safely and without incident at our site today,” it was aware of the IDF investigation. The incident, the statement said, occurred in “an area well beyond our secure distribution site and operations area. We recognize the difficult nature of the situation and advise all civilians to remain in the safe corridor when traveling to our ... sites.”

The UN and other aid professionals, as well as some foreign aid donors, have long expressed concerns about the viability, morality, and safety of the foundation’s model, which confines food distribution to limited sites in the south and leaves Israel in control of how much aid enters the enclave.

Nearly all major humanitarian organizations have refused to participate on the grounds that it violates their rules of neutrality and appears designed to further Israel’s war aims. Even some senior Israeli defense officials have questioned the foundation model, anticipating that long lines could lead to stampedes, according to internal documents obtained by The Washington Post.

Calling the overall situation a “tragedy,” the World Food Program’s executive director, Cindy McCain, told ABC News on Sunday: “What we need right now is an immediate cease-fire, complete, unfettered access, along with the safe ... roads, every gate open, to feed people and stop this catastrophe from happening.”

Although Israel has allowed a limited number of UN aid convoys to enter Israel in the past week, the World Food Program has reported that desperate Gazans have stopped and looted them before they could reach WFP distribution points.

“Whether we like it or not, Israel is calling the shots in Gaza right now. We can either posture and be outraged, or accept it: Aid will never be provided in a neutral manner because of the heavy hand of the Israelis,” said one aid professional who was approached to assume a leading role in the foundation but ultimately declined to join it.



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Arthur T. Demoulas addressed workers outside of Market Basket headquarters in Tewksbury in 2014.

Justine Griffin, a spokesperson for Arthur T. Demoulas, said he has not only discussed succession with the board “on many occasions,” but has also recommended that his son and daughter succeed him.

“The bottom line is — it is not that he has not offered a succession plan,” Griffin said. “It is that other shareholders do not like it.”

So how will the latest Demoulas drama end? Kochan of MIT expects the

warring factions to end up in court, which has become a family tradition. But that could take a toll on the company, both emotionally and financially, if lawsuits drag on indefinitely. He thinks the best solution is to bring in a mediator to resolve family differences.

“We need fewer lawyers here,” he added.

Shirley Leung is a Business columnist. She can be reached at shirley.leung@globe.com.

AI drug startup touts promising advance in treating lung disease

By Amber Tong
BLOOMBERG NEWS

A drug developed using artificial intelligence showed signs of efficacy in treating an incurable lung disease in what its developer calls a clinical first.

Insilico Medicine, the biotech company with twin headquarters in Boston and Hong Kong, said it’s the first time an AI-created drug, working on an approach identified by AI, passed a mid-stage clinical study.

The company’s lead drug, named rentosertib, when given at the highest dose spurred improvement in lung function in a small group of patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis — lung scarring that makes breathing difficult, according to a paper published in Nature Medicine on Tuesday. A biomarker analysis showed it worked exactly as envisioned on a molecular level, cutting a protein that AI hypothesized was tied to the disease.

“This is one of the best results people have ever seen” for the lung condition, Insilico chief executive Alex Zhavoronkov said in an interview.

The promise of AI to make drug discovery more efficient has inspired billions of dollars in investment from large drugmakers and startups alike. While some have made progress with drugs selected or optimized by AI — with Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. aiming to launch one such drug within the next two years — early efforts to conceive and design treatments using AI have largely fallen short.

Plans are still being formulated for larger trials needed to substantiate

rentosertib’s effect and pave the way for regulatory approval, which is at least two years away under the best-case scenario. Zhavoronkov said Insilico has the funding for the trials, but needs to collect feedback from both regulators and potential pharma partners before deciding on the path forward.

The data will serve as a demo for Insilico’s 30-plus programs, and help improve its AI model, he said.

But data on some other metrics were inconclusive. Plus, the study enrolled only 71 patients, all in China, and ran for just 12 weeks. A few patients taking the drug saw their condition get worse, and several others developed liver injury, which Insilico researchers said will need to be watched in future trials. Zhavoronkov believes the side effects are manageable and the drug is “reasonably safe” given it tackles a serious and deadly disease.

By his estimates, it takes 4.5 years to deliver a drug candidate ready for clinical trials using traditional methods. With rentosertib, the timeline was 18 months.

It will take much longer to prove the drug works in humans. Insilico is running a parallel mid-stage study in the United States, and will continue to explore clinical trials in both China and the United States. “The speed of traffic is the same for everybody,” he said.

Founded in 2013 to provide soup-to-nuts solutions, from disease hypothesis and drug optimization to pre-clinical testing, Insilico recently filed to list in Hong Kong.



INSILICO MEDICINE

Insilico CEO Alex Zhavoronkov hailed the rentosertib study results.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Darlene Marble to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Mortgage Corporation, dated March 7, 2013 and recorded in the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61374, Page 34, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on June 24, 2024, in Book No. 82922, at Page 236.

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 10:00 AM on June 18, 2025, on the mortgage premises located at 33 Washington Street, Unit 33-1, The Washington Manor Condominium, Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: Seven unit known as Unit No. 33-1 in the Washington Manor Condominium, located in Medford, Middlesex South County, Massachusetts, and established pursuant to the M.G.L. Chapter 183A, by Master Deed dated 6/20/73 and recorded with the Middlesex South County Registry of Deeds at Book 61374, Page 34, to which is attached the plat of the said Unit, to which is attached the verified statement of a professional engineer in the form required by section 9 of said Chapter 183A. Subject to any conditions, covenants, easements, and restrictions of record insofar as the same are in force and applicable.

For mortgageor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41871, Page 218.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars by certified bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 14, 2025, or by mail to P.O. Box 61089, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys: HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 26929

(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 23 SM 001554 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Judith A. Bankowski as Personal Representative of the Estate of Joseph R. Bankowski; Judith A. Bankowski

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §901 (et seq):

Rocket Mortgage, LLC a/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dorchester Center (Boston), numbered 1241 Adams Street a/k/a 12514241 Adams Street, Unit F309, Baker Square Condominium, given by Joseph R. Bankowski, Suzanne O'Malley to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC 1/4/a Quicken Loans, LLC, dated February 26, 2022, and recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 67264, Page 1 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has now filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before July 14, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on May 21, 2025.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 27817

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CASE 25-010 + 554-556 FRANKLIN STREET

You are hereby notified that the Board of Appeals of the City of Melrose, MA will hold a public hearing remotely on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. for all interested parties in the application of Melrose Highlands Development LLC for a Comprehensive Permit pursuant to M.G.L. c.40B, s. 21 for an approx. 82,204 sq. ft. 5-story residential building with 60 residential units, of which 15 will be affordable as is required and regulated under the law, and 45 parking spaces at 554-556 Franklin Street, Melrose, MA, on a lot of land containing 25,468 sq ft and shown on Assessor's Map B12.0 61-63. Exemptions per statute are claimed for Melrose Zoning Ordinance §235-6.2 & 6.3 for dimensional regulations including front yard setback, side yard setback, rear yard setback, maximum height/stories, maximum building coverage, minimum open space requirements, and projections into required setbacks, §235-11.1, -11.2, -11.5, & -11.6 for off-street parking spaces, bicycle parking spaces, parking space dimensions and regulations, loading zone dimensions, parking in the front yard setback, previous pavement requirements, §235-3.2.6, 8, & -3.2.8 for site plan review and revision to approved plans requirements, & §235-5.1, & -5.2 for applicability of use regulations and permitted principal use in the U/A zoning district. Exemptions per statute are also claimed for Street & Sidewalks Code c. 202 and the Melrose Board of Appeals Comp Permit Rules.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Information for remote participation can be found at www.cityofmelrose.org/remotemeetings. Complete applications can be reviewed at www.cityofmelrose.org/boardappeals. Interested persons may provide comments to the Board during the hearing or by email to appeals@cityofmelrose.org, mail to OPD, 562 Main Street, Melrose, MA, or voicemail at 781-979-4195. A video recording or other record of proceedings will be posted to the City's website as soon as possible.

By Order of Chair, Bryan Thorp

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 25 SM 001562 ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Michael Carr

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §901 (et seq): Planet Home Lending, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property at 411 Chittick Rd, Hyde Park, MA 02136, given by Michael Carr to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC, d/b/a Veterans United Home Loans, dated June 23, 2024, and recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 69136, Page 325, has now filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 7/14/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/28/2025.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder

The Town of Lincoln is soliciting bids for the replacement of two existing Well-McMain gas boilers along with all associated piping and venting, and the supply of two (2) new Lochinvar knight KHN199N high efficiency boilers and pumps. Copies of bid specifications may be picked up in the Lincoln Select Board Office, 16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, MA 01773 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and are available for download at: www.lincolntown.org. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Lincoln Public Safety Building, 169 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Sealed Bid responses are due by Wednesday, June 27, at 12:00 pm to Lincoln Facilities Department or Lincoln Town Offices, 16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Bids can also be hand delivered between 8:30AM and 4PM. On June 27, at 12:00 pm, bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if deemed in the Town's best interest to do so, or to waive any informalities. MBE/WBE firms strongly encouraged to apply. EEO.

Applying for a flammable storage license with the Newton Fire Department in connection with our property located at 777 Winchester St, Newton, MA 02459. As part of the licensing process, we are providing notice in accordance with local requirements. A hearing on this application will be held at Newton City Hall on Wednesday, June 11 at 2:00 PM.

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