DAVID MUIR: Also, our team inside Gaza, the healthcare system collapsing. And what about the hundreds of U.S. citizens inside Gaza?

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MUIR: The other major news tonight involves Israel’s war with Hamas. Tonight, we have learned Israel holding off its ground invasion of Gaza for now amid pressure from the U.S. What we’re learning about the delay and what this could mean for the hostages still being held by Hamas. In the meantime, Israel’s air assault pounding Gaza, the healthcare system collapsing. Our team inside Gaza tonight where a third of all Gaza hospitals are closed. Just eight trucks of aid getting through the border from Egypt. Now, before the war, at least 400 trucks would travel through a day in aid. And what about the hundreds of American citizens still inside Gaza? ABC’s Matt Gutman tonight from Tel Aviv.

GUTMAN: Tonight, Israel, amid significant pressure from the U.S., deciding to hold off on that ground invasion for now, urgently pushing to free more hostages as Israel’s aerial bombardment rocked Gaza for the 19th consecutive day. Gaza’s healthcare system collapsing. 12 of the 35 hospitals no longer functioning. Officials claiming more facilities are only hours away from running out of fuel for generators. Medicine also in short supply. Reports of surgeries being performed with no anesthesia. Doctors like Mohammed Ghandil unable to keep up with the crush of patients.

NASSER HOSPITAL CRITICAL CARE DR. MOHAMMED GHANDIL: The hospital door is open, but the health care is not provided. If the fuel is zero, simply the doctors and the nurses will go home and the hospital will turn to a big morgue.

GUTMAN: And the wounded keep coming. Our team on the ground in Gaza, filming medics rushing the injured, including babies, to the emergency room. Al-Jazeera’s bureau chief Wael Dahdouh here sobbing over the bodies of his wife, daughter, and son, all killed in a strike in central Gaza where Israel has told civilians to flee. Today, for the fourth day in a row, a convoy
of aid making it into Gaza, but just eight trucks. Before the war, more than 400 trucks arrived daily. [TO LERNER] Is still Israel to still prohibiting fuel from coming in and how long will that last?

PETER LERNER: Hamas has over a million litres of fuel in their stockpiles in Gaza. They’re actually not far away from Rafah, their tanks full of fuel. All they need to do is give it to the hospitals.

MUIR: The Hamas-run health ministry claiming 1,400 Palestinians were killed in the past 48 hours alone, the deadliest days of this war for the Palestinians. President Biden has repeatedly talked about the civilian toll, but today, he questioned the source of Hamas’s numbers and reiterated America’s support of Israel.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Israel-Hamas War Rages; Biden: We Will Ensure Israel Has What It Needs]

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Israel has the right and I would add responsibility to respond to the slaughter of their people. And we will ensure Israel has what it needs to defend itself against these terrorists. That’s a guarantee.

(....)

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19 seconds

GUTMAN: And tonight, as the situation worsens inside Gaza, it’s not just the concern for the hostages, or the innocent civilians caught in the middle, there are still up to 600 American citizens trapped in Gaza.

MUIR: Yeah, that’s another key part of this story. We can’t forget about the hundreds of American citizens inside Gaza waiting to get out.