

Israeli warplanes launch fresh airstrikes on Gaza



Gaza City, February 4 (RHC)-- Israel warplanes have launched fresh airstrikes on the besieged Gaza Strip amid escalating tensions in the region over U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called 'Deal of the Century' on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Media sources in Palestine said the airstrikes on Tuesday targeted a position belonging to the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement in the city of Rafah, south of the coastal enclave. The warplanes also fired five missiles at Hamas positions in the city of Khan Yunis located in the southern besieged Gaza Strip.

Israel has carried out a number of airstrikes on Gaza in the past few days, with Palestinians having responded by launching several rockets into the occupied territories.

Since 2008, Israel has waged three wars against Gaza, where about two million Palestinians live under a 12-year Israeli blockade. Thousands of Gazans have been killed in each of these deadly wars

Tensions have escalated in the region since US President Donald Trump unveiled his so-called Middle East peace plan last week. The scheme — which all Palestinian groups have unanimously rejected — largely meets Israel's demands in the decades-old conflict, while creating a Palestinian state with limited control over its own security and borders.

Meanwhile, a draft UN Security Council resolution condemned on Tuesday an Israeli plan to annex its illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank following the Trump's proposed plan. The resolution "stresses the illegality of the annexation of any part" of occupied Palestinian territories and "condemns recent statements calling for annexation by Israel" of these territories, according to the draft seen by Reuters.

The draft text, circulated to council members by Tunisia and Indonesia, will surely face a U.S. veto. Diplomats said negotiations on the text would likely begin later this week and the Palestinian president is expected to speak to the council next week about the plan, which would possibly coincide with a vote on the draft resolution.

The Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and have been condemned almost unanimously by the international community... except for the United States.

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