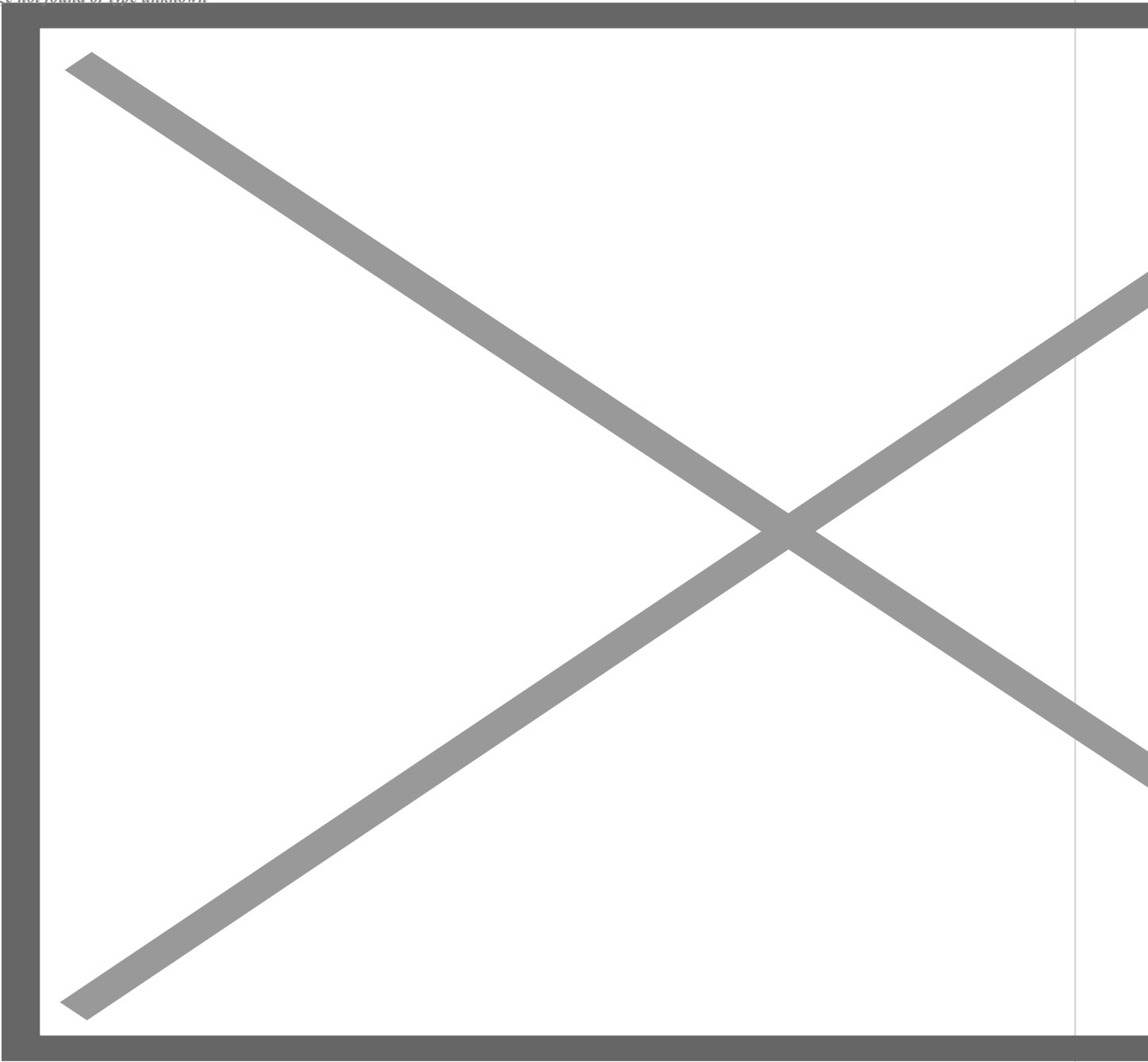


Nearly 300 killed in Gaza in past 24 hours

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Gaza City, December 11 (RHC)-- Tel Aviv's war machine has killed nearly 300 Palestinians in the past 24 hours in Gaza as the Palestinian armed group Hamas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exchanged threats.

Israeli raids continued across the besieged territory on Sunday, including in northern Gaza where entire neighbourhoods have been flattened by air strikes and where ground troops that have been operating for more than six weeks continue to face heavy resistance from Hamas fighters.

Gaza's health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told Al Jazeera in a telephone interview that 297 people were killed and more than 550 wounded in the past 24 hours in Gaza, bringing the death toll since the start of the war on October 7 to more than 18,000 – the majority of them women and children.

Israeli attacks on Gaza continued for the 65th day on Sunday, with Hamas warning that no captives it took on October 7 would leave Gaza alive unless its demands were met. "Neither the fascist enemy and its arrogant leadership... nor its supporters... can take their prisoners alive without an exchange and negotiation and meeting the demands of the resistance," Hamas spokesman Abu Obeida said in a televised broadcast.

Hamas earlier said Israel launched a series of "very violent raids" targeting the southern city of Khan Younis and the road linking it to Rafah near the border with Egypt. Gaza residents also reported fierce fighting in Gaza City's neighbourhood of Shujayea and in the Jabalia refugee camp, a dense urban area.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) said Israeli forces raided an area near the UNRWA clinic in the heart of the Jabalia camp where its emergency teams and medics are operating a medical post. "The team consists of nine doctors, nurses, and volunteers. The surrounding area is currently under bombardment, posing a constant threat to the lives of medical teams and the wounded," the Red Crescent said in a post on X on Sunday evening.

In Shujayea – where Israeli snipers and tanks positioned themselves among the abandoned buildings – residents said the dead and wounded were left in the streets as ambulances could no longer reach the area. "They are attacking anything that moves," Hamza Abu Fatouh told the Associated Press.

Israel had ordered the evacuation of northern Gaza early in the war but tens of thousands of people have remained, fearing that the south would be no safer or that they would never be allowed to return home.

Heavy fighting was also under way in and around the southern city of Khan Younis on Sunday.

"The mass exodus continues. Those fleeing northern Gaza in order to survive are describing it as the 'journey of death'," said Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Azzoum, reporting from Rafah in southern Gaza. "Those in Khan Younis have been ordered to flee to al-Mawasi on the coastline – an area considered to be very dangerous," he added.

"It's also a region without any infrastructure – including access to water, food and electricity. There's also no access to toilets. The situation is deteriorating extremely fast now."



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