Palestinian journalist among two killed in Israeli attack on Gaza hospital

Khan Younis, May 13 (RHC)-- Israel's army has admitted to carrying out "a targeted attack" on the Nasser Medical Complex in the city of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, killing two people, including Palestinian

journalist Hassan Eslaih.

Gaza's Government Media Office on Tuesday confirmed the killing of Eslaih, who was receiving treatment at the hospital's burn unit for severe injuries sustained during an April 7 Israeli strike on a media tent located next to the hospital.

The AFP news agency footage from Nasser Hospital after Tuesday's strike showed smoke rising from the facility as rescuers searched through the rubble by the light of torches. A hospital worker who gave his name as Abu Ghali said the Israeli bombardment "does not differentiate between civilians and military targets." "This is a civilian hospital that receives injured people around the clock," he told AFP.

Eslaih was the director of the Alam24 News Agency and a freelancer who contributed to international news organizations, including photos of the Hamas-led October 7 attack. Israel has claimed Eslaih was a Hamas fighter who participated in the October 7 attack, an allegation he vehemently denied.

At least 178 journalists and media workers have been killed in Palestine, Israel, and Lebanon since the war began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Gaza's Government Media Office put the death toll at 215.

Israel's military said in a post on Telegram that the strike targeted a Hamas "command and control complex" at the hospital – the largest in southern Gaza – without providing further evidence.

"The compound was used by the terrorists to plan and execute terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians and [military] troops," the post said, in what appeared to be a reference to Eslaih and Hamas.

Gaza's Health Ministry on Tuesday condemned "the repeated targeting of hospitals and the pursuit and killing of wounded patients inside treatment rooms", saying it "confirms Israel's deliberate intent to inflict greater damage to the healthcare system."

Hospitals in Gaza have been a frequent target of Israeli attacks since the war began in October 2023, although attacking health facilities, medical personnel and patients is illegal under the 1949 Geneva Convention. According to officials in Gaza, Israel has bombed and burned at least 36 hospitals across the enclave since the war erupted.

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