

Israel massacres scores in strikes on Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza



(File photo)

Gaza City, May 15 (RHC)-- At least 60 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip after the regime's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the military would enter the war-battered territory "with full force."

Medical sources said at least 56 people have been killed in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza since dawn Wednesday. The heavy airstrikes have also left more than 100 people injured, with several houses being targeted and collapsed on their residents. Another four people were killed in a strike on the southern city of Khan Yunis, civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

The ferocious aggression came after the release of Israeli-American Edan Alexander, who had been in Hamas captivity since October 2023, offered a brief pause in the war on Gaza on Monday.

But the strikes resumed amid fierce new criticism of Israel's tactics in the war. "In the very coming days, we are going in with full force to complete the operation," Netanyahu was quoted as saying in a statement released on Tuesday. "There will be no situation where we stop the war. A temporary ceasefire might happen, but we are going all the way," he added.

On Tuesday, Israeli strikes close to the European hospital in Khan Yunis killed at least 28 people, including prominent journalist Hassan Aslih whom Israel accused of participating in Hamas's October 7, 2023 operation inside southern Israeli settlements. Footage showed large craters gouged into the ground and cracks in the courtyard outside the hospital.

Netanyahu's belligerent remarks came after UN relief chief Tom Fletcher called on the UN Security Council to take action "to prevent genocide" in Gaza as he gave a scathing account of Israel's aggression in the territory. "Will you act -- decisively -- to prevent genocide and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law?" he said to UN ambassadors in New York.

Late Tuesday, the Israeli military urged civilians in several parts of northern Gaza to evacuate after "two projectiles" were fired from the territory. The armed wing of Hamas ally Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for rocket fire into the Israeli occupied territories.

Israel resumed intensified aggression across Gaza on March 18th in violation of a January 19th ceasefire.

The Israeli regime this month approved plans to expand its onslaught, with officials talking of retaining a long-term presence in Gaza. The new massacres came as U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to start a Persian Gulf tour that will also take him to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Netanyahu said late Monday that Israel was working to find countries willing to take in Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Israeli ministers have seized on a proposal initially floated by Trump for relocating Gazans to neighboring countries such as Jordan or Egypt, which have flatly rejected the proposal.

Since the Israeli military broke the two-month ceasefire agreement with Hamas in mid-March, the occupying entity has blocked the entry of all humanitarian aid, including medicine, fuel, and food supplies into Gaza. Dozens of people, mostly children, have died from starvation.

In Paris, President Emmanuel Macron said in critical remarks not typical of France that Netanyahu's actions in blocking aid to Gaza were "shameful." Meanwhile, Russia, China and the UK rejected Israel's plans for distributing aid in Gaza, instead urging Tel Aviv to lift its two-month blockade on the territory.

Nearly all of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has been displaced, often multiple times, since the regime launched its genocidal war on the territory in October 2023.

Over 52,900 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in the brutal Israeli onslaught since October 2023, most of them women and children.

[SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS and NEWS AGENCIES]

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