

Charred bodies found in school as Israeli strikes kill dozens in Gaza

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Gaza City, April 24 (RHC)-- Two dozen Palestinians have been killed in new Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, while civil defense agency crew have recovered charred bodies from a school-turned-shelter for displaced people.

Medical sources said at least 24 people had been killed in Israeli air raids since dawn Wednesday, 20 of whom lost their lives in the northern part of the strip.

Mahmud Bassal, the spokesman for Gaza's civil defense agency, said 11 of the victims, which included women and children, died in an airstrike that sparked a fire at the Yafa School building in the al-Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza City.

Emergency workers recovered the body of a child who had been burned to death in the blaze. A large number of people were also injured, the civil defense said in a post on the Telegram messaging platform.

Video footage shared on social media after the attack on the school-turned-shelter showed flames engulfing tent structures and canvas covering melting onto the remains of burning chairs and what appeared to be a bed frame.

The civil defense also issued an urgent appeal for assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help rescue people trapped under the rubble following Israel's bombing of two homes in Gaza City.

"Trapped people are calling for help to rescue them from under the rubble of homes," the civil defense said in a statement, adding that emergency workers were unable to reach the area because it was too dangerous, as the area is designated a "no-go" zone by Israeli forces.

Additional fatalities were reported in other parts of Gaza on Wednesday. A child was killed in an airstrike on a home in the northern Jabalia area, and another individual was killed in a similar incident in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

Four more people were killed in Israeli shelling of homes in eastern Gaza City. Several others remain trapped beneath the rubble, according to the civil defense. Bassal noted that his crew had received distress calls from several areas in Gaza. "We lack the necessary tools and equipment to carry out effective rescue operations or recover the bodies of martyrs," he said.

The relentless attacks came after a day of Israeli bombings killed at least 32 Palestinians, damaged the El Dorra Pediatric Hospital in Gaza City and destroyed bulldozers used in rescue operations across the Strip.

The Israeli military launched a surprise aerial campaign on the Gaza Strip on March 18, killing at least 1,600 Palestinians, injuring thousands more, and shattering the ceasefire agreement with the Palestinian group Hamas and the deal on the exchange of Israeli captives from Palestinian prisoners.

At least 51,305 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children, and another 117,096 individuals injured in the brutal Israeli military onslaught on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Hamas has emphasized that it is "approaching any proposals positively if they guarantee a permanent ceasefire, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, an end to the suffering of our Palestinian people, and a serious prisoner exchange deal."

[SOURCE: AL JAZEERA and NEW AGENCIES]

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