

Israeli airstrikes kill more Palestinians across Gaza amid 77-day aid blockade

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Displaced Palestinians fleeing Beit Lahiya amid continuing Israeli attacks against the Gaza Strip arrive in Jabalia, northern Gaza. (Photo by AP)

Gaza City, May 17 (RHC)-- The Israeli regime has intensified its bombardment across the Gaza Strip, killing at least 13 Palestinians since the early hours of Saturday, as reported by medical sources. The casualties included three members of the same family, reports added.

The indiscriminate Israeli air strikes have killed at least 115 people in the territory since Friday. Gaza's civil defense agency says due to "continuous Israeli bombardment" it is unable to reach Palestinians missing under destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip.

"The occupation targets everyone who moves in the northern areas of the Strip, and we find it difficult to reach those areas to save citizens," agency spokesman Mahmoud Basal said in a statement.

Dozens of people have been killed in the latest Israeli attacks and many remain under the rubble, Basal said, including from attacks on more than 10 inhabited homes in the Beit Lahiya and Jabalia areas.

"People keep moving from one place to another, seeking safety, which does not exist right now," reports said.

This comes as the Red Crescent has renewed calls for Israel to reopen crossings with Gaza for the delivery of humanitarian aid into the besieged territory, warning that the region has been "left to starve and ache."

The Israeli regime imposed an aid blockade on the Gaza Strip on March 2, marking the longest siege since the war began in October 2023.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification initiative released recently said the Gaza Strip "is still confronted with a critical risk of famine" after more than a year and a half of onslaught against Palestine, with the vast majority of its approximately 2.1 million people at severe risk. It has also found that 244,000 people in Gaza were experiencing "catastrophe/famine."

More than 19,000 Palestinians have been displaced in Gaza since Thursday afternoon, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). "Many with nothing but the clothes on their backs," the organization said in a post on X. "Nowhere is safe in Gaza."

Furthermore, the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump is working on a plan to relocate about one million Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Libya in exchange for the release of billions of dollars of Libyan funds frozen in the United States.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, Israel's atrocities against Gaza have killed at least 53,119 Palestinians. It has also wounded 120,214.

The Government Media Office in Gaza updated the death toll to 61,700, saying thousands of people missing under the rubble are presumed dead.

[SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS and NEWS AGENCIES]

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