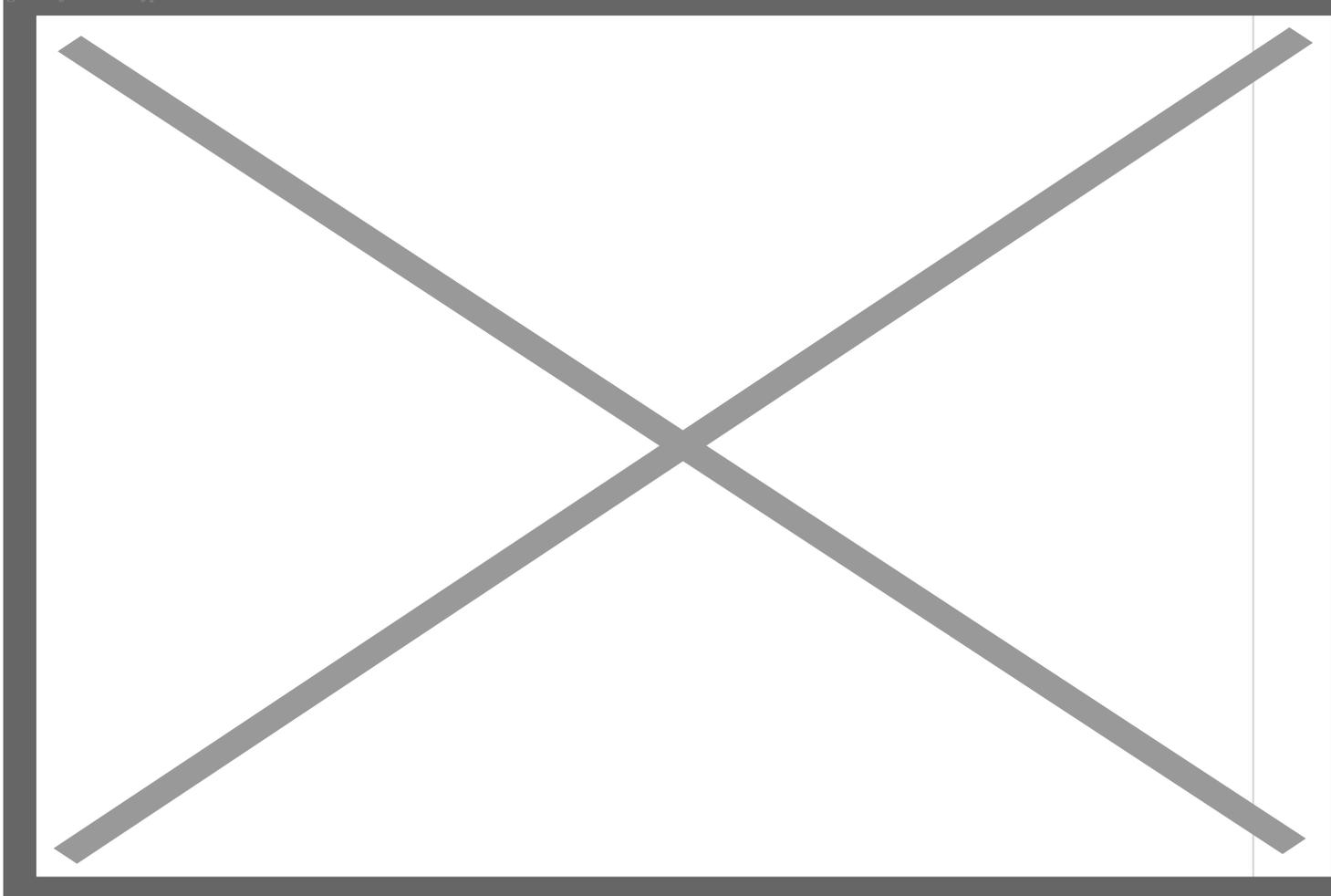# Israeli strikes batter Gaza hospitals as brutal siege and bombing intensify

Image not found or type unknown

A view of the completely destroyed courtyard of the European Hospital in Gaza following an Israeli army attack [Ali Jadallah/Anadolu Agency]

Gaza City, May 19 (RHC)-- In its latest assault on Gaza's decimated healthcare system, Israel has once again targeted the partially operating Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, this time with drones, as its forces are also carrying out a ground offensive in the north and south of the bombarded territory.

Dr Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director of al-Shifa Hospital in the besieged enclave's north, told Al Jazeera on Sunday that the latest strikes – which have been ongoing since Saturday – indicate that Israeli attacks on Gaza's hospitals are intensifying.

"The medical teams are really suffering, and we have a few numbers of medical teams and staff … and a lot of people are in need [of] more medical care," Abu Salmiya said by phone from the hospital on Sunday.

The Indonesian Hospital is one of the main medical facilities in the north, and now that it's largely out of service, this is severely impacting patients' chances for survival, he said. Thousands of sick and wounded people could die, he warned. Blood donations are urgently needed.

This has been underscored by Gaza's Health Ministry, which confirmed that Israeli forces besieged the facility in Beit Lahiya, adding that "a state of panic and confusion is prevailing".

The ministry later said that Israel had cut off the arrival of patients and staff, "effectively forcing the hospital out of service."   With "the shutdown of the Indonesian Hospital, all public hospitals in the North Gaza Governorate are now out of service", it said.

Gaza's healthcare facilities have been targeted repeatedly throughout Israel's deadly assault that began 18 months ago. Other facilities in the north that have been bombed, burned, and besieged by the Israeli military since the start of the war include Kamal Adwan Hospital, al-Shifa Hospital, al-Ahli Hospital, and al-Awda Hospital. Dozens of other medical clinics, stations, and vehicles have also come under attack.

The targeting of health facilities, medical personnel and patients is considered a war crime under the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Israel has also battered several hospitals in Gaza's central and southern areas, including Deir el-Balah's Al-Aqsa Hospital and the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis.

Earlier this week, Israel struck two hospitals in Khan Younis. queNine missiles slammed into and around the courtyard of the European Gaza Hospital, killing at least 16 people, while an attack on the Nasser Medical Complex killed two people, including a wounded journalist.

Incessant attacks on Gaza's healthcare sector have left it reeling, devastating its ability to function, while doctors say they are out of medicine to treat routine conditions.

Hospitals have also been on the verge of total collapse amid a brutal and ongoing blockade, where Israel continues to bar the entry of much-needed medical supplies, fuel, and other humanitarian aid including food and clean water.

The crisis in Gaza has reached one of its darkest periods, humanitarian officials warn, as famine also looms.

Israeli air strikes have killed hundreds of Palestinians in the last 72 hours. Strikes over the weekend have also put the European Hospital, the only remaining facility providing cancer treatments in Gaza, out of service.

Al Jazeera's Hind Khoudary, reporting from Deir el-Balah, said dozens of Palestinians have been wounded, and doctors say "they're facing numerous challenges in treating injuries because of a lack of medical supplies."

"Israeli air strikes in Gaza are still escalating as drones and fighter jets hover in the sky," Khoudary said.

The death toll has reached the same level of intensity as the earliest days of the war, said Emily Tripp, executive director of Airwars, an independent group in London that tracks recent conflicts.

She says preliminary data indicate the number of incidents where at least one person was killed or injured by Israeli fire hovered around 700 in April. It's a figure comparable only to October or December 2023 – one of the heaviest periods of bombardment.

In the last 10 days of March, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates, an average of 100 children were killed or maimed by Israeli air strikes every day.

Almost 3,000 of the estimated 53,000 killed by Israel since October 7, 2023, have lost their lives since Israel broke a fragile ceasefire on March 18, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

Among those killed in recent days include a volunteer pharmacist with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, who was killed with her family in a strike on Gaza City on May 4th. A midwife from Al Awda Health and Community Association was also killed with her family in another strike on May 7th.

A journalist working for Qatar-based television network Al Araby TV, along with 11 members of his family, was also killed.

[SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS and NEWS AGENCIES]

---

https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/internacionales/383133-israeli-strikes-batter-gaza-hospitals-as-brutal-siege-and-bombing-intensify

Radio Habana Cuba