

Israeli military tells Khan Younis residents to evacuate to area with few facilities

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Khan Younis, December 12 (RHC)-- The Israeli military has instructed residents of much of Khan Younis, the second-largest city in the Gaza Strip, to evacuate to the Al-Muwasi area, a strip of land with few facilities on the coast, as well as specified blocks shown on an IDF interactive map.

The Israel Defense Forces said: "The general instruction for residents is to move to the Al-Muwasi area, as well as blocks updated in the IDF interactive map published last week."

Earlier, the IDF issued what it called "an urgent appeal" for civilians to leave much of the area in and around Khan Younis where fierce fighting is underway. In a post on 'X,' the IDF's spokesperson for Arab

media, Avichay Adraee, urged residents of the "neighborhoods of Al-Katiba, Al Mahatta, and the city center in Khan Younis Governorate" to evacuate.

Adraee specified five blocks (47, 55, 104 – 106) on the map published by the IDF. "We call on you to leave where you are urgently and go toward known shelters west of Khan Younis," he said.

It's unclear how many people might be aware of the instruction given the lack of communications networks and internet availability in much of Gaza. It's also unclear what shelters Adraee is referring to.

Al-Muwasi is a strip of some 20 square kilometers on the coast. A statement last month by United Nations agencies and humanitarian groups such as Care International, Mercy Corps and the World Health Organization, said the area could not function as a safe zone until all sides pledged not to fight there.

Al-Muwasi is largely open land but has already seen an influx of people trying to escape from the fighting.

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