

*Reports show Israel has
encroached on 32% of Gaza*

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

GAZA STRIP

Jabalia
Gaza

Deir
al Balah

Khan Yunis

Rafah

Rafah Border
Crossing

Kerem Shalom
Border Crossing

1950 Armistice Agreement Line

I S R A

Ein HaBesor

N e g e v

○ Ash

○ Zikim

○ Yad Morc

○ Netiv HaAs

● Check Point Erez

○ Sd

○ Mefalsim

Tkuma

○

○ Ne

○ Ofak

E G Y P T

Gaza City, June 1 (RHC)-- Israel has taken over some 32 percent of Gaza's area by "systematically demolishing neighbourhoods" to create a buffer zone and a central axis dividing it, according to Al Jazeera's Sanad Verification Agency. This does not include the area of the Philadelphi Corridor on Egypt's border, of which Israel declared it had taken control earlier this week.

The complete destruction of areas in Gaza has come fast and slow, via air raids, artillery attacks and bulldozers. "There is no safe place in Gaza" and dignified human life is "a near impossibility", Martin Griffiths, under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, said. "Even if people were able to return home, many no longer have homes to go to."

Approximately 85 percent of Gaza's population, or 1.9 million people, have been displaced, according to the United Nations. Half of them were displaced this month alone. During the Nakba in 1948, some 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes and villages by Zionist gangs to make way for the creation of the state of Israel.

More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed since last October 7th, already more than double the number killed during the years 1947-1949. Many more are thought to be dead under the rubble and destruction.

With Israel's assault on Gaza not yet over, the territory could be further diminished. A map constructed by Sanad shows that Gaza's boundaries have been pushed inward and a 1.5km-wide (0.93-mile) strip that runs 6.5km (four miles) across the middle in the Juhor ad-Dik area, known as the Nezarim axis. It also identifies the depth of destruction and bulldozing the Israeli military has conducted in border areas and across central Gaza.

The analysis shows that areas in the embattled and besieged strip have been "completely bulldozed and demolished" and that "removal operations took place in a regular pattern" to turn what the UN once called "danger zones" into a buffer zone.

In the northern governorate, Sanad found that the area of destruction committed by Israeli forces in Beit Hanoon city stretched 2.5 km (1.5 miles) from Gaza's boundary, while five kilometres (3.1 miles) has been eaten away in Beit Lahiya and three kilometres (1.9 miles) in Jabalia camp.

The Kissufim and Bani Suhaila areas, both east of Khan Younis, have seen the destruction stretch 3.7 (2.3 miles) and four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the border respectively. In Rafah city, destruction stretches 5.1 km (3.2 miles) from the border to the as-Salam neighbourhood.

The Israeli military has claimed they are trying to disarm Hamas, but has given little indication or verifiable evidence that their efforts are having any strategic impact.

On January 23, U.S Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the U.S. opposed any permanent change in the territorial composition of Gaza and rejected the permanent displacement of its population.

However, extensive bulldozing and removal operations continue. Israel has previously requested 100 D9 bulldozers to expand and accelerate the establishment of the buffer zone.

"These findings and facts reveal the colonialist methodology that the Israeli army is working on, by shrinking the area of Gaza, creating new borders within the borders, and imposing them as a new reality inside and outside the besieged Gaza Strip," Sanad said.

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