

*Half of Jabalia ethnically
cleansed by Israeli army as
schools burned and men
kidnapped*



Palestinians have given harrowing accounts of the situation in northern parts of the enclave, where Israel shut off food and water supplies more than two weeks ago

Displaced families ethnically cleansed by the Israeli army attacks from Jabalia in northern Gaza take the main Salah al-Din road towards Gaza City on 23 October 2024 (AFP)

Gaza City, October 24 (RHC)-- Israeli troops are going door to door in Jabalia and nearby areas to forcibly remove unarmed, starved and besieged Palestinian civilians from their homes as the military campaign to ethnically cleanse north Gaza nears its third week, eyewitnesses have told Middle East Eye.

Under the cover of heavy air strikes and artillery shelling, large Israeli ground forces directly and systematically attack homes and buildings used as shelters by displaced families, forcing everyone out at gunpoint.

The buildings, including UN schools and houses, are subsequently either razed or burned by Israeli soldiers to prevent people from returning.

Troops then separate men from women, before taking them to humiliating field interrogations and later abducting many of them to unknown locations. Women and children are forced to head south of Jabalia refugee camp. Some were bombed and killed as they fled, according to media reports.

Refusing to comply with Israeli orders, many of them went west of Jabalia to Beit Lahia while others arrived at the nearest points in the adjacent Gaza City. One Jabalia resident, Yahya, said: "I will only leave Jabalia a dead body, no other way."

Hasan, a resident of the north Gaza, said he saw scores of bodies strewn across the streets in Jabalia as civil defence teams and paramedics were prevented by Israeli forces from rescuing the wounded.

"This is a genocide. They're starving people, blockading people. There are still tens of thousands of people here in Jabalia," he told MEE.

The Israeli military launched its latest offensive on north Gaza on 5 October, claiming it was rooting out Hamas fighters who had regrouped there. Hundreds of Palestinians are reported to have been killed since, and tens of thousands displaced.

Local reporters estimate nearly half of north Gaza, which was home to over 1m people before the war, have been removed from their homes so far, warning the rest could face a similar fate in coming days.

The offensive began after a controversial proposal named the "Generals' Plan" was presented to the Israeli government, which would see areas north of the Netzarim Corridor, which cuts Gaza in two, emptied of its residents so Israel could establish a "closed military zone."

"Those who leave will receive food and water," Giora Eiland, a retired Israeli military general and former head of the National Security Council, who is spearheading the proposal, said in a video posted about the plan last month.

Israel displaces Palestinians from north to southern Gaza

According to the plan, anyone who chooses to stay would be considered a Hamas operative and could be killed. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Unrwa, estimates that about 400,000 people remain in Gaza's north, including Gaza City.

Meanwhile, the besieged areas remained under a debilitating siege and media blackout, with Israeli forces accused of exacerbating starvation and malnutrition as part of a plan to ethnically cleanse Palestinians.

Palestinians are denied access to food and water, whilst Israeli forces are indiscriminately killing anyone venturing out from their homes, residents and eyewitnesses say.

[SOURCE: MIDDLE EAST EYE]

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