

Hamas says Israel deliberately targeted captives in Gaza to get rid of them

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Rescuers and people search the rubble for casualties following an Israeli strike on the municipality building in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on December 14, 2024. (Photo: AFP)

Gaza City, December 15 (RHC)-- The Israeli military has recently pounded a location in the Gaza Strip "deliberately and repeatedly" to eliminate regime soldiers held captive by resistance groups, according to a statement by Hamas's armed wing.

Al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida said on Saturday that the regime's forces "targeted a location where some enemy captives were held, bombing it multiple times to ensure that they were killed." He said they bombed the place "with the intent to kill the captives and their guards."

According to the statement, the resistance fighters "made attempts to rescue the Israeli prisoners, successfully extracting one of them, but his fate remains unknown."

In a separate post on Telegram, Qassam Brigades released a footage showing a wounded Israeli captive, who was struggling to move amid the rubble most probably caused by the regime's airstrike.

In a message along the footage, it said that prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli military's chief of staff Herzi Halevi "are seeking to get rid of their captives in Gaza by all means."

Hamas held captive around 250 people during its unprecedented operation against the occupied territories on October 7, 2023. The resistance released 105 of the captives during a week-long truce last November.

Six captives were killed in an Israeli airstrike on the southern Gaza Strip in September. Hamas said at the time that Netanyahu "is directly responsible for the killing of dozens of captives due to bringing the ceasefire efforts to a failure."

It has repeatedly said that there is no alternative other than "a ceasefire, the withdrawal of the occupation forces, and the implementation of a prisoner exchange agreement" in exchange for the release of the Israeli captives.

Netanyahu has long been obstructing mediation for a truce and a deal to release the captives still held by Palestinian groups in Gaza.

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