

Israel issues new displacement order for besieged northern Gaza town

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Photo shows tents housing displaced Palestinians in central Gaza on December 29, 2024

(Photo: AFP)

Beit Hanoun, December 30 (RHC)-- Israeli forces carrying a massive campaign of death and destruction in northern Gaza ordered residents remaining in Beit Hanoun to quit the town on Sunday, causing a new wave of displacement across the besieged Palestinian territory.

Local Palestinian media reports said the Israeli military announced its new push into the Beit Hanoun area on Saturday. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said it had lost communication with people still trapped in the town, and it was unable to send teams into the area because of the Israeli raids and attacks.

The residents said the latest forced expulsion has caused a new wave of displacement across the blockaded region.

Much of the area around the northern towns of Beit Hanoun, Jabalia and Beit Lahiya has already been cleared of people and razed in recent weeks. Palestinian and United Nations officials said no place is safe in Gaza and that evacuations worsen the humanitarian conditions of the population.

Thousands of Palestinians displaced from their homes have been living inside nylon, plastic, and makeshift tents along the coast and in the central area of the al-Mawasi evacuation zone.

Al-Mawasi, a coastal region west of Rafah, previously designated by Israel as a "humanitarian area," has repeatedly come under Israeli attacks.

The fear is this is going to worsen as weather forecasts warn of a cold front hitting the Gaza Strip in the coming days. Several Palestinian babies have died of hypothermia at the al-Mawasi refugee camp in southern Gaza in recent days. Children in Gaza are also dying of malnutrition amid Israel's chokehold on aid and necessities.

On Friday, Israeli forces stormed the Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza. The raid on the hospital, one of three medical facilities on the northern edge of Gaza, put the last major health facility in the area out of service, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a post on X.

On Sunday, health officials said an Israeli tank shell hit the upper floor of the Al-Ahly Arab Baptist Hospital in Gaza City near the X-ray division. Meanwhile, Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes across the besieged strip killed at least 22 people since early Sunday.

The second year of aggression in Gaza has drawn growing international condemnation, with officials and institutions labeling the attacks and blocking of aid deliveries as a deliberate attempt to destroy a population.

Last month, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its deadly war on Gaza.

The Israeli military campaign against Gaza began in October 2023. Since then, at least 45,500 Palestinians have been killed, mostly women and children.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES]



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