

Calls resound for international action as Palestinians die from severe cold in Gaza

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Yehia al-Batran grieves as he holds the body of his 20-day-old son Jomaa, who died from

hypothermia, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza, on December 30, 2024. (Photo by AP)

United Nations, January 1 (RHC)-- Calls are resounding around the world for urgent action as Palestinians are dying from severe cold weather in Gaza.

The Palestinian Hamas resistance group has called on the international community and the United Nations to intervene as Palestinians are succumbing to winter weather in the Gaza Strip amid a genocidal Israeli war on the besieged territory.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Hamas said that "relief supplies and tents" are needed to protect hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians from the cold and the "disastrous effects" of Israel's nearly 15-month-long aggression.

"The humanitarian and legal duty of the international community and the UN requires urgent action to provide relief to our people in the Gaza Strip, who have been subjected to a Zionist crime of genocide and ethnic cleansing," it added.

The statement came at a time, when winter has worsened the toll on a population traumatized by the bloody Israeli onslaught. At least seven Palestinians have died of hypothermia, including six babies, within a two-week period in Gaza.

Israel launched its brutal Gaza offensive on October 7, 2023, after Hamas carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

So far, the occupying regime has killed at least 45,541 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 108,338 others, in Gaza.

The Israeli war has forced the Palestinians already displaced, often multiple times, into living in tents, most of which are made from cloth. Latest videos from Gaza show the tents completely soaked in rainwater or submerged in flood-stricken areas.

On Monday, Gaza's Government Media Office said 81 percent of the tents housing displaced Palestinians—110,000 out of 135,000—are no longer functional and urgently need replacement.

"We have warned more than once of the danger of the arrival of depressions, winter, and frost waves, coinciding with the tragic reality experienced by our people, who are being subjected to killing, genocide, and the destruction of homes and vital sectors," the media office said in a statement.

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