

Hamas commander's reappearance on video belies Israeli claim of killing him

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Hamas commander Hussein Fayyad (L) appears in a video in Gaza, contradicting an Israeli military poster (R) that declared he was killed in May, 2024. (Photo via social media)

Gaza City, January 24 (RHC)-- The reappearance of a high-ranking commander of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in a video clip has belied the Israeli military's claim of killing him in the northern Gaza Strip last May.

The Palestinian media outlet Arab48 released footage of Hussein Fayyad at a funeral in northern Gaza on Wednesday as he was speaking among a group of people amid the ruins of a bombed-out building.

The video, which was widely shared on social media, showed Fayyad praising Gaza's resistance against the Israeli regime's months-long aggression and dismissing the onslaught as futile.

"When the strong do not achieve their goals, they are defeated, but the weak, which prevented the strong from achieving their goals, are the victors," the Hamas commander said. "Gaza has emerged unbreakable. We all saw yesterday how Gaza stood victorious with its head held high."

The Israeli occupation army claimed in May last year that Fayyad, the commander of the Beit Hanoun Brigade of the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, had been "eliminated" in an underground operation in Jabaliya tunnel, north of Gaza City.

Following the release of the footage on Wednesday, the Israeli military was forced to admit that its claim of killing the Hamas commander was based on flawed intelligence.

Fayyad's reappearance once again raised questions about Israel's battlefield claims in Gaza as the regime has in the past erroneously claimed the killing of key Palestinian figures.

The Israeli regime was forced to agree to a ceasefire agreement with Hamas on Sunday, which put an end to more than 15 months of merciless aggression on the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Israel's brutal onslaught on the besieged territory, which started on October 7, 2023, killed more than 47,000 Palestinians and wounded nearly 112,000 others.

The toll continues to climb as families return to the ruins of their former homes following the ceasefire, searching for the bodies of loved ones left in the aftermath. The Palestinian Ministry of Health has reported that around 10,000 bodies are still unaccounted for beneath the rubble.

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