

Dozens of Palestinian bodies recovered from Israeli-built sand mounds in Gaza

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The bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli attack are brought to al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City on January 14, 2025. (Photo by Anadolu news agency)

Gaza City, February 7 (RHC)-- Civil defense teams have retrieved the bodies of at least 66 Palestinians from sand mounds constructed by Israeli military forces during their large-scale offensive in the northern Gaza Strip.

"Israeli bulldozing operations caused the burial of Palestinians under sand mounds used by the army for fortification in several areas of Gaza City and the north," spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza Mahmoud Basal said on Thursday.

He said 37 bodies were discovered in the northern Gaza city of Jabalia, whilst 29 others were found in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City along the Mediterranean Sea. "Many graves have yet to be discovered, as Palestinians were forced to bury their dead in streets, squares, and public parks during the Israeli ground operations," he added. "Civil defense teams and medical crews are working tirelessly to recover bodies from beneath the rubble and sand mounds, despite limited resources," Basal said.

Meanwhile, the official noted that stormy weather in Gaza has caused dozens of tents for displaced civilians across Gaza to blow away, while rainwater flooded many other tents. "Gaza urgently needs 120,000 tents to accommodate Palestinians whose homes have been destroyed in Gaza and the north alone," he added.

"The tents that have entered the Gaza Strip so far do not meet the minimum needs, either in terms of quantity or quality, and are unsuitable for the conditions faced by the displaced."

The spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza Mahmoud Basal demanded urgent international action "to rescue the displaced and provide the basic necessities of life, especially amid the ongoing suffering of the displaced who have lost their homes due to the Israeli genocide."

According to Gaza's Government Media Office, the Israeli military has destroyed nearly 88 per cent of Gaza's infrastructure, including homes, vital facilities and public services, over the course of the its genocidal war that killed at least 47,583 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured at least 111,633 others since early October 2023.

A ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement went into effect in Gaza on January 19, halting Israel's onslaught against the coastal region.

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