

United Nations affirms humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza continues despite ceasefire

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A man sits on the rubble of a building amid destruction in al-Mughraqa in the central Gaza Strip,

on February 13, 2025. (Photo by AFP)

United Nations, February 14 (RHC)-- The head of the United Nations infrastructure agency has warned that a humanitarian catastrophe continues in the Gaza Strip despite a ceasefire agreement that brought a "much-needed respite."

Jorge Moreira da Silva, head of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), made a warning following a visit to the besieged Gaza Strip where a truce between Israel and Hamas has been in effect since January 19th.

"In addition to immense human suffering, I also witnessed an unimaginable degree of the destruction of infrastructure and houses, and an overwhelming volume of rubble," da Silva was quoted as saying.

The ceasefire suspended Israel's genocidal war that has killed more than 48,200 people, mostly women and children, and left the besieged strip in ruins.

The lack of aid before the ceasefire agreement had devastating effects on the people of Gaza, who endured critical food insecurity and the prospect of famine. The situation has been particularly dire in the north of Gaza, where humanitarian access significantly deteriorated since September 2024.

In a statement, the Hamas resistance group said a delegation headed by top negotiator Khalil al-Haya, held talks with the mediators to review the process of implementing the agreement.

It added that the negotiating team emphasized the implementation of all provisions, especially the delivery of shelters, prefabricated houses, tents, heavy equipment, medical supplies, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Hamas spokesperson Abdul Latif al-Qanou also pointed out that the group's mediators are exerting pressure to complete the full implementation of the agreement, obliging Israel to abide by the humanitarian protocol and resume the prisoner-captive exchange process on Saturday.

He stressed that the language of threats and intimidation used by US President Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu does not serve the interests of the implementation of the ceasefire.

Hamas earlier announced that it would postpone the exchange due to Israeli violations of the deal. Israel has reportedly promised to put in place a humanitarian protocol starting this morning.

Israel has turned Gaza into the world's largest open-air prison, maintaining an 18-year blockade and forcing nearly 2 million of its 2.3 million residents into displacement amid dire shortages of food, water, and medicine due to deliberate restrictions.

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