



As dead bodies remain scattered in streets and under rubble, a new health disaster looms over Gaza



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📍 Israel-Palestinian Territory

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Geneva - A health disaster looms in the Gaza Strip, warned Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, as dead bodies remain scattered in the streets and under the rubble of buildings destroyed by the Israeli aggression, which is in its seventh week now. The rights organisation pointed to the risk of diseases, such as cholera and disorders of the immune system, spreading throughout the Strip.

The humanitarian situation is dramatically deteriorating in the Gaza Strip due to the lack of access to water, electricity, and equipment needed to bury the bodies of the dead. This constitutes a dangerous threat to public health and the environment, Euro-Med Monitor stated, and may serve as breeding grounds not only for infectious and communicable diseases, but also for skin and respiratory problems.

Euro-Med Monitor estimated that 4,150 people are missing beneath the debris of buildings hit by Israeli air and artillery strikes, with little hope of survival. Hundreds of additional bodies that cannot be recovered remain on the roads, particularly in areas where the Israeli army has conducted ground incursions.

The Gaza Strip lacks the basic services required to search for bodies under the rubble, said the Geneva-based rights group, whether due to the lack of heavy machinery and equipment needed by rescue and civil defense teams or the complete paralysis of ambulances and medical teams. Additionally, the

power outage makes it challenging to place bodies in mortuaries, which is resulting in improper burials.

The public decomposition of dead bodies for long periods of time leads to the transmission of serious diseases, including blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis. Gastrointestinal infections like cholera can also be easily spread, said Euro-Med Monitor, through direct contact with dead bodies leaking excrement, soiled clothing, or contaminated tools or vehicles.

Improper burial and indiscriminate burial of corpses in mass graves may cause various diseases such as cholera, which may spread due to the presence of dead bodies near or in water supplies. The presence of dead bodies near or in water supplies is greatly concerning, said the rights group, as this can lead to health problems such as diarrhoea and other illnesses because the bodies may leak feces and contaminate water sources. Additionally, some bacteria and viruses may remain active in the body for a period of time after death, such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, and HIV.

Certain animals, including birds, rodents, and insects, can feed on dead bodies and spread diseases, added the organisation, like malaria-causing mosquitoes.

According to Euro-Med Monitor, Israel is systematically eradicating every aspect of life in the Gaza Strip and driving out its citizens with a barrage of weapons, and one such weapon is the

accumulation of bodies in the streets and beneath building debris. These crimes are being committed in violation of international humanitarian law, and with a flagrant disregard for the religious and cultural importance of respecting the dignity of the dead.

It is extremely painful to see the bodies of the dead, especially those of loved ones, children, and the elderly, and even more painful for people whose loved ones are trapped under the rubble and cannot be given a proper burial, Euro-Med Monitor said. The group called for immediate international intervention and support from relevant organisations to allow for specialised crews to retrieve the bodies and bury them properly and with dignity.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor stressed that keeping dead bodies unburied poses a serious threat to civilians, especially since the current situation in the Gaza Strip lacks the tools to combat disease vectors. Urgent action is required by the international community to open safe roads and corridors that allow the bodies to be delivered and buried in cemeteries.



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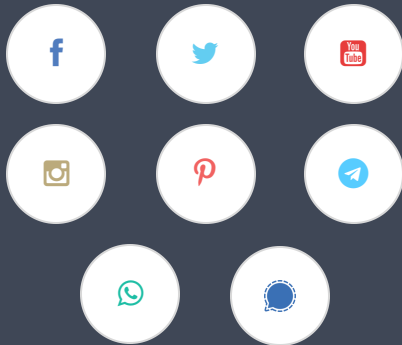
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