



# The stench of death hangs everywhere in Gaza, killing of civilians must stop immediately



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Israel-Palestinian Territory



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**Geneva** – Scenes of killing and destruction are pervasive across all areas of the Gaza Strip, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor stated, with the stench of death permeating in the shadow of Israeli

aggression. Civilians shed blood, said the organisation, against a backdrop of mounting evidence of international complicity in war crimes against humanity.

Euro-Med Monitor called for urgent action to support rescue operations to retrieve victims trapped under the rubble of demolished residential buildings, citing the massive need for protection of rescue workers, who are unequipped with the necessary resources for their immediate mission.

The human rights organisation strongly condemned the Israeli airstrike on the headquarters of the Civil Defense apparatus in Gaza, which killed five of its crew members and injured eight others in a violation of all international agreements and conventions.

The Israeli targeting of the Civil Defense came after it announced that more than a thousand people were missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings—likely a mix of wounded and dead—amidst the intensity of the brutal airstrikes on entire residential areas.

Mahmoud Basal, a Palestinian Civil Defence spokesperson, informed the Euro-Med Monitor team that the Civil Defense faces a severe lack of logistical resources, including heavy machinery needed to extract injured people from beneath the rubble.

Euro-Med Monitor called on the Israeli army to cease its ongoing campaign of terrorising civilians in Gaza, which is compelling Gazans to evacuate their homes and even hospitals, and putting all forms of life in the governorates of Gaza and North Gaza at risk of total destruction.

The organisation warned that the Israeli army has resorted to intensifying airstrikes in the vicinity of Al-Quds Hospital—affiliated with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society—as part of the pressure it is exerting on hospital administrators in an attempt to get them to evacuate the facility.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross announced that it has received reports that several hospitals in the Gaza Strip have received evacuation orders, with many of these evacuations being deemed impossible. This is because it is impossible to transfer critically injured patients requiring special machines to stay alive, or to simply

evacuate them within such short notice, especially in the absence of any guarantees of safety or return.

Notably, Israel issues evacuation warnings to civilians in Gaza without declaring an end to airstrikes and aerial attacks, said Euro-Med Monitor, and also in the absence of guarantees of safety or return. This reaches the level of a war crime, represented in forced displacement.

The human rights group reiterated that the civilians of Gaza are left without any shelter, escaping one death, then another, in an utterly inhumane reality. This comes at a time when electricity, water, communications, and Internet services are all scarce, reaching an unprecedented and highly dangerous level for food security in particular.

The Israeli political and security cabinet approved a declaration of war on the Gaza Strip on Saturday night. The approval allowed the army to carry out extensive military operations in response to the recent armed attack by the Hamas movement, which it referred to as Al-Aqsa Flood, resulting in the killing of nearly 1,300 Israelis and the capture of dozens.

Since Saturday, the Israeli army has carried out thousands of airstrikes and artillery attacks targeting residential neighbourhoods and multi-storey buildings inhabited by civilians in the Gaza Strip.

According to documentation by Euro-Med Monitor, at least 2,920 Palestinians have been killed, including 920 children and 469 women, with the number of civilian casualties reaching approximately 2,233 civilians. More than 12,000 others have been injured, with over half of them being children and women.

Euro-Med Monitor highlighted the fact that Israel continues to intensify its aerial and artillery attacks throughout the Gaza Strip. The attacks have so far included the complete destruction of some residential neighbourhoods, resulting in the decimation of no less than 84 families, who have lost four or more of their members in these horrific mass killings.

The international human rights group documented that Israel's attacks have destroyed 17,300 residential buildings, severely damaging about 87,000 housing

units, while 85 government buildings were destroyed.

Additionally, the Israeli attacks have caused destruction to no less than 73 schools, the destruction of 165 industrial facilities, 61 media outlets, in addition to the demolition of 18 mosques, and causing damage to dozens of ancient historic mosques and churches.

Euro-Med Monitor reiterated its call for an urgent international move to ensure the supply of electricity, water, and basic necessities in Gaza, and for the lifting of the illegal Israeli blockade has imposed on the Strip since 2006, which constitutes a major cause of the ongoing conflict.

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor emphasised that the continued collective punishment of civilians in Gaza rises to the level of a war crime, while Israel is bound as the occupying power to ensure the meeting of civilians' basic needs under international law.

The organisation warned that any legitimate international parties granting Israel the ability to implement its policy of imposing collective sanctions on the Gaza Strip and killing its people, apparently by any means, represents the explicit complicity of those countries in committing war crimes against civilians in unlawful and horrific attacks.



## EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

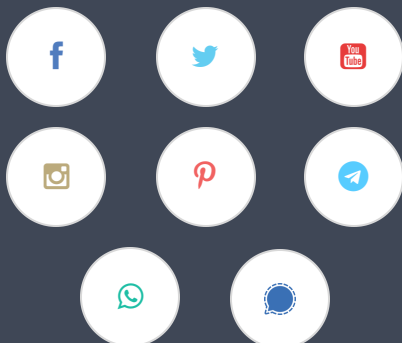
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