

Israel Intensifies Gaza City Strikes, Forcing mass Civilian displacement

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GAZA CITY, Palestine / ISTANBUL — Israel escalated its bombardment of Gaza City on Wednesday, destroying high-rise buildings and crowded shelters as part of its latest military offensive to seize full control of the city.

Explosions were heard across the metropolis of 1.2 million residents, with the heaviest strikes in the western districts where many displaced families have sought refuge. Witnesses reported the destruction of the “Tayba 2” tower, a seven-story residential block adjacent to camps for the displaced. Medics confirmed two deaths and several injuries, while hundreds were rendered homeless. The attack marked the seventh tower leveled in Gaza City since Friday.

Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee urged civilians to flee via al-Rashid Street toward al-Mawasi in southern Khan Younis, warning that remaining in Gaza City was “extremely dangerous.” He vowed that operations to “eliminate Hamas” would intensify in the coming days. Palestinian officials rejected the claim, accusing Israel of pursuing a systematic displacement plan. The Gaza Government Media Office said that over 1.2 million people remain trapped in the city despite

repeated evacuation orders. It warned that pushing nearly 1.7 million Palestinians into al-Mawasi and Rafah — areas without hospitals, infrastructure, or basic services — would create an unlivable humanitarian crisis.

Human Rights Watch estimates that almost 90% of Gaza's infrastructure has been destroyed since October 2023. Schools and universities now serve as makeshift shelters, while famine threatens the population.

The current ground assault, codenamed "Gideon's Chariots 2," began on Sept. 3. Israel's military campaign has so far killed at least 64,600 Palestinians, while international courts continue to investigate charges of war crimes and genocide against Israel's leadership.

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