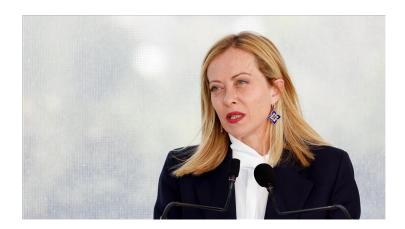


Italy condemns Israeli strike on Gaza church



Published on July 17, 2025

Document Date: Wed, Nov 12 2025 06:20:25 pm

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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ISTANBUL, July 17 — Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni strongly condemned Israel's deadly attack on a Catholic church in Gaza that killed two women, calling the continued assaults on civilians "unacceptable."

"Israeli raids on Gaza also hit the Holy Family Church. The attacks against the civilian population that Israel has been carrying out for months are unacceptable," Meloni wrote on X. "No military action can justify Israel's actions," she added.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also criticized the incident, describing it as "a serious act against a Christian place of worship."

He echoed Meloni's call for an end to violence: "The attacks by the Israeli army against the civilian population in Gaza are no longer acceptable," he posted on X. "It is time to stop and find peace."

The church, a longstanding religious sanctuary, was among the civilian sites struck during recent Israeli operations, drawing international condemnation from faith and human rights groups.