

Gaza Death Toll Climbs as Israeli Bombing Leaves Jabalia Refugee Camp ‘Completely Destroyed’

"What we are watching today is one of the darkest hours of our time," said one scholar. "We are watching genocide live."

By [Brett Wilkins](#)

Global Research, November 01, 2023

[Common Dreams](#) 31 October 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

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Israeli bombardment of Gaza's largest refugee camp killed and wounded hundreds of people—many of them women and children—on Tuesday, Palestinian officials said.

Ahmad al-Kahlout, a spokesperson for Gaza's Interior Ministry, told reporters that the attack "completely destroyed" the [Jabalia refugee camp](#) in the northern Gaza Strip. Jabalia, along with the nearby al-Shati refugee camp, is located in an Israeli-designated evacuation zone.

"These buildings house hundreds of citizens. The occupation's air force destroyed this district with six U.S.-made bombs," said al-Kahlout. "It is the latest massacre caused by Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip."

The director of the nearby Indonesian Hospital said at least 50 people were killed in the strike.

A separate Israeli strike on a home in the al-Shati camp on Tuesday killed at least 10 people, Palestinian media reported.

□ GAZA INTERIOR MINISTRY: Jabalyia camp was bombed with 6 bombs, each weighing a ton of explosives. The initial number of victims of the Jabalia camp massacre is estimated at 400, including martyrs and wounded.

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— The Palestine Chronicle (@PalestineChron) [October 31, 2023](#)

“There aren’t enough beds. The dead and wounded are on the floor,” al-Khalout continued. “If we don’t have fuel, operations will completely stop. The intensive care units, the kidney care patients, will all lose their lives.”

“In this case,” he added, “the world is signing the death warrant of those people.”

Jabalia—with more than 116,000 registered residents packed in just 1.4 square kilometers—is the largest of Gaza’s eight refugee camps and one of the most densely populated areas on Earth.

The camp, which was established in the wake of the [ethnic cleansing](#) of over 750,000 Arabs from Palestine during the founding of the modern state of Israel in 1948, was the birthplace of the 1987-93 intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation and oppression.

Israeli forces bombed a United Nations school in Jabalia during the 2014 war on Gaza, [killing](#) 15 people—mostly women and children—sheltering there.

Where is the International Criminal Court?!

Israel just carpet bombed an entire neighborhood of 15-30 houses in densely packed Jabalia refugee camp, Gaza, using American bombs.

More than 400 Palestinians killed and wounded so far.

This is not “self-defense”. This is genocide. pic.twitter.com/Pf3ZE55pVw

— sarah (@sahouraxo) [October 31, 2023](#)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **Filippo Grandi** said Tuesday that

“the past three weeks have provided devastating proof that disregarding the basic rules of law, international humanitarian law, is increasingly becoming the norm—and not the exception—with innocent civilians killed in unprecedented numbers in the Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians, and in the killing of Palestinian civilians and massive destruction of infrastructure caused by the ongoing Israeli military operation.”

“As we speak... over 2 million Gazans, half of them children, are going through... hell on Earth,” Grandi continued.

“A humanitarian cease-fire, coupled with substantive delivery of humanitarian aid inside Gaza can at least stop this spiral of death,” he added.

Earlier on Tuesday, Gaza health officials said 8,525 people have been killed by Israeli forces in Gaza since October 7, when Hamas-led militants infiltrated southern Israel and killed more than 1,400 civilians and soldiers while taking over 200 hostages.

“The victims include 3,542 children and 2,187 women, while 21,543 other people were injured,” Gaza Health Ministry spokesman **Ashraf al-Qudra** told reporters in Gaza City.

Some survivors for the Jabalya camp massacre in Gaza, carried out by US-

backed Israeli forces only hours ago with US-made weapons. The devastation is beyond words—hundreds murdered, injured, traumatized, and displaced. They were already refugees. pic.twitter.com/XMzgFSI4Rx

— Good Shepherd Collective (@Shepherds4Good) [October 31, 2023](#)

Nearly half of all homes in Gaza have also been destroyed or damaged, while more than 1.4 million residents have fled for their lives amid a nascent Israeli ground invasion and [genocidal threats and statements](#) from Israel’s leaders.

Israeli public broadcaster *Kan* said Monday that 1,538 Israeli civilians and troops have been killed by Palestinian militants since October 7.

Aicha Elbasri, a researcher at the Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies, told *Al Jazeera* after the Jabalia bombing that “what we are watching today is one of the darkest hours of our time.”

“We are watching genocide live,” she added.

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Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for *Common Dreams*.

Featured image: A view from the area after Israeli airstrikes on Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, on October 31, 2023. [Stringer - Anadolu Agency]

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