

## Israel Bombs South Lebanon Municipality, Kills Mayor During Relief Work Meeting

Israeli warplanes have launched dozens of airstrikes across Lebanon over the past 24 hours despite US 'guarantees' that Tel Aviv would scale down its aggression

By The Cradle

Global Research, October 17, 2024

The Cradle 16 October 2024

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: Law and Justice

In-depth Report: THE WAR ON LEBANON

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Israel launched extremely violent raids on Nabatieh, south Lebanon, causing widespread destruction and casualties.

The municipality building was destroyed and the mayor of Nabatieh, Dr. Ahmad Kahil, was killed in the strikes, along with several others.

Reports of at least 5... pic.twitter.com/uvkViElhlu

— The Cradle (@TheCradleMedia) October 16, 2024

"The mayor of Nabatieh, among others... was martyred. It's a massacre," Nabatieh **Governor Howaida Turk** told AFP. "For now, 11 strikes have mainly hit Nabatieh but also its surroundings," Turk added, and described how the intense raids "formed a kind of belt of fire" in the area.

"The Israeli enemy raid ... on two buildings, that of the Nabatieh municipality and the union of municipalities, killed six people in a preliminary toll," Lebanon's Health Ministry said in a statement, adding that rescuers were searching for survivors under the rubble.

At least 43 others were injured in the attack.

Lebanese authorities announced on Tuesday that the death toll from Israeli attacks over the last year has reached 2,350, with 10,906 injured.

In response to the violent raid of the southern Lebanese town, caretaker **Prime Minister Najib Mikati** said Israeli jets "deliberately struck a municipal council meeting focused on addressing the city's relief and service needs."

"This new assault, along with the ongoing crimes committed by Israel against civilians, is a direct challenge to the international community, whose silence only emboldens the occupation to continue its violations and crimes," Mikati added.

The Lebanese premier also took aim at the "international community" for being "deliberately silent" about the Israeli aggressions. "What solution can be hoped for in light of this reality?" he said in a statement.

**Caretaker Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi** confirmed that the Nabatieh municipality was targeted during a meeting held to coordinate relief work and aid distribution for people who have remained in southern Lebanon. He said a civil defense member was killed and others injured in the strike.

The attack came just hours after Israel renewed its <u>bombing campaign</u> of Beirut's southern suburbs after a six-day pause. On Tuesday, Mikati claimed to have "received a kind of guarantee to reduce the escalation in the southern suburbs and Beirut."

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