

UN Human Rights Office Says IDF's Deadly Nuseirat Raid May Amount to War Crime

Israeli forces killed at least 274 Palestinians in the refugee camp on Saturday while conducting an operation to save four hostages.

By [Julia Conley](#)

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Citing the "principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution" that international humanitarian law demands military forces obey, the United Nations' top human rights office on Tuesday said the raid conducted at Nuseirat refugee camp in [Gaza](#) by the [Israel](#) Defense Forces over the weekend may amount to a war crime.

The IDF conducted the operation at the camp in the central Gaza Strip in order to free four Israeli hostages who were kidnapped by Hamas on October 7, and **Jeremy Laurence**, spokesperson for the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [told reporters](#) their release was "clearly very good news."

But the OHCHR, Laurence said, is "profoundly shocked at the impact on civilians of the Israeli forces' operation," which killed at least 274 Palestinians, including 64 children and 57 women, [according to](#) the [Palestine](#) Red Crescent Society.

"The manner in which the raid was conducted in such a densely populated area seriously calls into question whether the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution—as set out under the laws of war—were respected by the Israeli forces," said Laurence in a statement.

Actions by both the IDF and Hamas, he added, "may amount to war crimes."

As it has since beginning its bombardment of Gaza in October in retaliation for a Hamas-led

attack on southern Israel, the IDF blamed the civilian casualties on Saturday on the militant group, saying the hundreds of deaths were the result of Hamas operating in the densely populated Nuseirat camp.

But while Laurence said the OHCHR was “deeply distressed” by Hamas’ capture of hostages and its operating in densely population areas, Rutgers Law School professor Adil Haque concurred with the office that Israel is obligated to protect civilian lives in Gaza regardless of Hamas’ conduct.

“The fact that your adversary is breaking international humanitarian law does not change your obligations,” Haque [told](#) *The Washington Post*. “The foreseeable harm to civilians was disproportionate to the legitimate aim of rescuing the four hostages.”

Eyewitnesses and aid groups have said the attack began in broad daylight and [started](#) after IDF soldiers entered the camp in a humanitarian aid truck. The operation was carried out with jets, drones, and tanks and included strikes in the vicinity of a maternity clinic that has been converted to a hospital to help care for people wounded in Israeli attacks since October.

Paramedic Abdel Hamid Ghorab told the *Post* he witnessed “random and continuous bombing in the vicinity of the hospital with unprecedented intensity.”

“All they cared about was carrying out the operation, even if it was at the expense of all these lives,” said Ghorab.

Israeli lawyer Michael Sfard told the *Post* that the 274 casualties “is enough to raise questions about whether the use of fire was indiscriminate,” which would be a violation of international humanitarian law.

“Was the air power used on a prospected military objective, or was it a random, indiscriminate use of bombardment in a very densely populated area?” he asked.

As the OHCHR made its statement, Writers Against the War on Gaza condemned *The New York Times*’ publication of “a whitewashed puff piece on the Nuseirat refugee camp massacre,” authored by former IDF soldier Ronen Bergman, which they said was aimed at dehumanizing Palestinian civilians while including no context about potential war crimes by the IDF.



The New York War Crimes
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We will also note, again, that imagery is critical to dehumanization. 274 Palestinians murdered and the cover image of this article is two smiling Israelis.



The New York War Crimes @nywarcrimes · Jun 10

Propaganda lives through imagery just as much as language.

The @nytimes front page today: smiling Israeli hostage (referenced by name), accompanied by triumphant soldiers. Headline devoted to rescue "mission," while 300 murdered Palestinians are relegated to a footnote.

The New York Times

“All the News That’s Fit to Print”

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Trump's Ideas To Drop Prices May Lift Them

Economists See Costs in 3 Key Proposals

This article is by **Charlie Savage, Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan**.

Former President Donald J. Trump routinely blames President Biden for higher prices at the grocery store and everywhere else Americans shop, and promises to “fix it.”

But Mr. Trump has offered little explanation about how his plans would lower prices. And several of his policies — whatever their merits on other grounds — would instead put new upward pressure on prices, according to interviews with half a dozen economists.

Mr. Trump says he plans the “largest domestic deportation in American history,” which would most likely increase the cost of labor. He intends to impose a new tariff on nearly all imported goods, which would probably raise their prices and those of any domestic-made competitors.

And he not only wants to make permanent the entire deficit-financed tax cut law he and congressional Republicans enacted in 2017, but also to add some kind of

ISRAELI MILITARY FREES 4 HOSTAGES IN GAZA MISSION

OVER 100 STILL CAPTIVE

Official Says Scores of Palestinians Killed in Intense Operation

This article is by **Aaron Berman, Raja Abdulrahim and Steve Lohr**.

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers and special operations police rescued four hostages from Gaza on Saturday amid a heavy air and ground assault and flew them back to Israel by helicopter to be reunited with their families. The news was met with jubilation in Israel, where anxieties over the fate of the roughly 120 remaining captives have been rising after eight months of war.

Residents in the town of Nuqsirat, where the hostages were being held, reported intense bombardments during the rescue operation. Khalil al-Daqran, an official at a hospital in the city, told reporters that scores of Palestinians had been killed and that the hospital’s wards and corridors were

Almog Meir Jan, 22, was one of hundreds of people kidnapped by Palestinian militants during a music festival on Oct. 7 in Israel.

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“The framing of this article, typical of *New York Times* coverage of the massacre, foregrounds four (alive) Israelis over hundreds of dead Palestinians, and presents the IDF as swashbuckling heroes,” the group wrote on the X account of its project, The New York War Crimes. “This prefigures the reader to accept the justification for IDF butchery.”

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Julia Conley is a staff writer for Common Dreams.

Featured image: Palestinians survey the debris after Israeli warplanes attacked the Nuseirat camp [Ashraf Amra/Anadolu]

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