

Report: Ove 20,000 Kids Killed by Israeli Forces in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israel has systematically targeted children in the Gaza Strip, an Israeli newspaper says, noting that the regime is covering up its crimes with sham investigations after more than 20,000 Palestinian kids have been killed in the besieged strip.

In an analytical report, Haaretz said the number of children, under the age of 18, killed in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 20,000, an average of approximately 28 children per day.

Hezbollah Says ‘Force Is the Only Answer’ as Israel Razes South Lebanon



An extensive investigation by the Financial Times and Lighthouse Reports reveals that the Israeli military is following a “scorched earth” policy in southern Lebanon.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- For the fifth consecutive night, Israeli occupation forces subjected southern Lebanon to barbaric bombardment on Friday.

Warplanes carried out airstrikes and artillery attacks targeting the Ali al-Taher heights, the Dabsha hill area, and the Dawhet Kfar Rumman area in the Nabatieh district. Low-flying jets flew extensively over the region as Merkava tanks targeted residential homes in al-Mansouri and Sarbin.

At least 11 people were killed in the latest wave of attacks, including three children and two women from a single family. Local sources reported that Israeli forces used incendiary materials and phosphorus bombs, setting woodlands ablaze and burning over 120 hectares of centuries-old olive groves.

White phosphorus attacks put civilians at grave risk, causing intensely painful injuries including necrosis, acute lung injuries, severe eye damage, and second- or third-degree burns.

An extensive investigation by the Financial Times and Lighthouse Reports reveals that the Israeli military is following a “scorched earth” policy in southern Lebanon.

Satellite imagery confirms that most damage occurred after Israeli forces took control of depopulated villages. Israeli war minister Israel Katz openly boasted that the military is implementing the “Rafah and Beit Hanoun model” for southern Lebanon, with all buildings in 24 Lebanese villages destroyed.

In Zawtar al-Shariqiya alone, occupation

forces demolished the municipal building, a public school, a health clinic, a children’s nursery, and essential water projects. Satellite analysis shows entire municipalities reduced to gray ruins.

The military has destroyed 2,500 kilometers of water infrastructure, all bridges over the Litani River, and over 20% of agricultural land. Historic mosques, libraries, Roman ruins, and Crusader castles have been targeted in a systematic erasure of Lebanese cultural heritage.

The human toll continues to rise. According to the Lebanese Health Ministry, 4,346 people have been killed and more than 12,000 injured since the Israeli aggression began on March 2. At least 135 healthcare workers have been killed while performing

their duties. Over 1.5 million Lebanese citizens have been displaced.

The international community, particularly Western powers, has remained largely silent. Despite a U.S.-brokered framework agreement signed in June calling for Israel’s withdrawal, the United States has instead pressured Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah, allowing occupation forces a free hand to continue their systematic destruction.

Senior Hezbollah official Nawaf Mousawi has asserted that force, not diplomacy, is the only path to liberating south Lebanon.

“Is there international pressure that would compel the Israelis to withdraw? So far, there is not,” Moussawi stated. “Therefore, we have no choice but to continue fighting the Israeli occupier until it withdraws.”

Funeral for 50 Gaza Victims Held as West Bank Families Enter 14th Day of Siege

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -- From the rubble of Gaza to the besieged homes of the West Bank, Palestinian families continue to endure Israeli military aggression and settler violence, with 50 bodies recovered and buried in Gaza City this week while 15 Palestinians remain trapped and starving in Qusra as soldiers block food deliveries.

A funeral procession was held in Gaza City for the 50 Palestinians whose bodies were recovered from beneath the rubble nearly three years after they were killed in an Israeli attack.

All 50 victims were martyred in a single Israeli strike in December 2023 that targeted a residential neighborhood sheltering displaced Pales-

tinians. Their remains had remained trapped under the debris for nearly three years before recovery efforts finally brought them to light, allowing families to finally lay their loved ones to rest.

Meanwhile, in the occupied West Bank, a dire humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the town of Qusra, south of Nablus. The settler blockade on three Palestinian houses in the Ras al-Ain area, where around 15 people live, has entered its 14th day.

Palestinian families trapped inside are running out of food as extremist settlers maintain their siege and Israeli forces block food deliveries.

Aisha Hassan, sheltering in one of the besieged homes with her mother and brother, said they were “starv-

ing.”

“The municipal council tried to bring us food, but the soldiers prevented them, and the food was left outside,” Hassan told Middle East Eye. “UNICEF staff were able to deliver some food to us a few days ago, and now it’s starting to spoil.”

Israeli soldiers arrived last week, ostensibly to remove the settlers, but have since effectively contributed to the siege by blocking food deliveries. Abdul-Azim Wadi, Qusra’s mayor, said the Israeli military was deliberately obstructing the process.

Food boxes delivered by UNICEF were left outside for 24 hours before soldiers allowed the families to collect them, by which time some had spoiled.

Ruqaya Hassan, a Palestinian mother from Qusra, said the siege has been particularly difficult for her two young daughters who have developed bedwetting. She appealed to the international community to intervene.

“The settlers’ aggression and the Israeli army’s aggression against the Palestinians must stop,” she said.

Palestinians in the West Bank have been subjected to escalating Israeli military atrocities and settler violence amid the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip that has killed over 73,000 people since October 2023.

Since then, Israeli forces and illegal settlers have killed at least 1,182 Palestinians across the West Bank, injured thousands, and abducted around 24,000.

Yemeni Forces Strike Saudi Aramco Facilities, Najran Airport in Drone Attacks

TEHRAN -- Yemeni forces have carried out two drone operations targeting Najran airport and Saudi Aramco facilities in Saudi Arabia’s Najran region, spokesman for Yemen’s armed forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said.

“We carried out two military operations with two drones,” Saree said. “The first operation targeted a sensitive enemy Saudi target at Najran airport.

The second operation targeted the facilities of Aramco Najran, and thanks to God, both operations successfully achieved their objectives.”

Saree said the operations were carried out “in response to the violation of Saada province’s airspace by enemy Saudi drones,” adding that the Yemeni armed forces will continue to protect Yemen’s sovereignty against any intrusion and establish this equation of reciprocal response.

The operations came as a report said Yemen’s armed forces plan to intensify their retaliatory attacks against key targets in Saudi Arabia and tighten their blockade on the kingdom.

Lebanon’s Al-Akhbar newspaper quoted informed sources as saying that Yemeni forces have added dozens of vital targets in Saudi Arabia’s Jazan and Najran to their bank of targets.

According to the sources, Yemeni attacks are expected to increase in the coming period, in retaliation for escalating artillery strikes by Saudi forces on border villages in Sa’ada

Province.

The sources stressed that Yemen forces have placed Aramco, with all its facilities, oil storage tanks, crude oil pipelines, and export terminals, on their target list, warning that “Saudi Arabia’s obstinacy and refusal to implement legitimate Yemeni demands will cost it its oil lifeline.”

They noted that Yemen continues to isolate Saudi ports on the Red Sea and will continue to prevent Saudi ships from passing through until Riyadh lifts its naval and air blockade on Yemen and fulfills its obligations.

The source warned that all alternatives Saudi Arabia has resorted to, including diverting towards the Strait of Gibraltar or heading north towards the Mediterranean, “will not be safe if the armed forces decide to move to the second phase of the blockade-for-blockade equation.”

The source further said that the Yemeni blockade has halted the passage of 85% of the Kingdom’s oil exports to Asia via the southern Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandab Strait.

Yemeni forces have also expanded their tracking and surveillance of Saudi ships from the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea, hinting at new “surprises.”

Yemeni armed forces spokesman Saree on Wednesday noted that in the coming period, “more painful airstrikes” will be carried out against Saudi targets, warning that any all-out escalation will be met with a comprehensive response.

Israel Expands Syrian Incursions as Jolani Regime Offers Muted Response

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Israeli occupation forces have expanded their incursions into southern Syria, advancing with two tanks and three military vehicles toward Tal al-Dariyat in the southern countryside of Quneitra.

An Israeli patrol also moved into the Tal al-Karoum area in the province’s central countryside Friday, according to local Syrian sources cited by al-Mayadeen.

On Wednesday, Israeli forces raided the town of Jabata al-Khashab in Quneitra province with more than 100 personnel and 15 vehicles, abducting two residents and searching multiple homes.

The overnight raid caused panic and intense fear among residents, particularly because of the size of the military force involved and the entry of military vehicles into residential neighborhoods.

Following the collapse of the Syrian government, Israel exploited the resulting security vacuum to expand its military presence inside Syrian territory.

Israeli forces have since maintained an almost daily presence in parts of Quneitra and Daraa, establishing temporary checkpoints, searching civilians and vehicles, raiding homes, and detaining and interrogating Syrians.

Satellite imagery and investigations have documented more than 800 Israeli incursions beyond the buffer zone since December 2024, with about 235 square kilometers of southern Syrian territory currently under direct Israeli military control.

On Tuesday, Israeli aircraft carried out eight strikes against the runway of Abu al-Duhur military airbase in the eastern countryside of Idlib, causing material damage to the facility.

The attack came just a day after a Turkish military delegation visited the airbase to inspect rehabilitation work underway, leaving hours before the unprovoked Israeli attack.

However, the response from Syria’s de facto president Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, whose extremist group Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham toppled Assad in December 2024, has been remarkably muted.

Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani merely expressed “concern” and said the attack “had no justification,” while also signaling Damascus’s continued openness to negotiations with Israel.

Israeli leaders have increasingly signaled that their military occupation in Syria is not temporary and could expand further.

Israeli war minister Israel Katz has said Israel plans to keep troops in Syria, with Israeli troops carrying out regular raids and erecting military infrastructure in water-rich southern Syria, while facing no resistance from Syria’s new authorities.

Analysts and regional observers have linked Israel’s actions in Syria to broader colonial ambitions, noting that Israeli officials have openly declared forces will remain in southern Syria “forever.”

U.S. Arms Deal with Qatar Raises Questions About Defensive Justification

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States has approved a potential \$4.5 billion arms deal with Qatar involving aerial refueling aircraft and military equipment, adding another major weapons package to the U.S. security architecture in the Persian Gulf amid continuing regional tensions.

The U.S. Department of State approved the possible military sale, which includes KC-46A Pegasus aerial refueling aircraft, along with engines, radar warning receivers and components for infrared countermeasure systems.

Under the proposed deal, Qatar would purchase up to four KC-46As, eight turbofan engines, radar warning receivers, and countermeasure systems, along with missile-warning sensors, navigation equipment, spare parts, training and other support.

The U.S. administration claimed the proposed sale would bolster Qatar’s ability to confront “current and future threats,” while improving its interoperability with U.S. and allied forces and reinforcing Doha’s strategic role in regional security.

Washington has also said the sale would not alter the basic military balance in the region, meaning it is committed to presumed military edge of the Israeli regime.

However, the stated justification raises fundamental questions. The KC-46A is not a conventional defensive weapons system.

Its central function is to refuel military aircraft in flight, allowing them to remain airborne longer and operate over greater distances without returning to base.

If the purpose is simply to protect Qatar’s territory, what specific re-

quirement necessitates a fleet of large aerial refueling aircraft capable of supporting extended air operations?

The question becomes even more significant because Qatar has traditionally relied on U.S. Air Force tankers operating in the region for its aerial-refueling requirements.

The proposed acquisition would therefore represent a significant change in Qatar’s military posture by giving Doha its own dedicated tanker capability.

Qatar has also spent years building a sophisticated combat-aircraft fleet, including F-15QA fighters, French Rafales and Eurofighter Typhoons.

The addition of four KC-46As would provide an independent capability to extend the endurance and reach of those combat aircraft.

Washington’s explanation that the aircraft will help Qatar confront “cur-

rent and future threats” leaves that question largely unanswered.

The phrase is broad enough to encompass almost any conceivable military contingency, but it does not identify a specific threat or explain why existing U.S. and allied aerial-refueling capabilities are insufficient.

The multibillion-dollar weapons package comes at a time when U.S. military infrastructure across the region has repeatedly come under Iranian fire, while Washington’s regional policies remain a major source of tension.

Washington portrays arms transfers as measures intended to protect regional partners from threats, yet the continued expansion of military capabilities also reinforces a security environment increasingly organized around American weapons, bases and military alliances.