

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -- Israeli forces killed at least three Palestinians during military raids across the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, Palestinian medics said, as the Israeli army continues its near-daily operations in the territory.

The Palestinian Health Ministry confirmed the deaths, identifying two of the killed as 22-year-old Ahmad Jamil al-Najjar and 18-year-old Muhammad Ibrahim Zama'ara, both shot during an Israeli incursion into the Jenin refugee camp. A third Palestinian was killed in clashes near Tulkarm, medics said.

Israel Unleashes Carnage in Gaza Neighborhood to Extract Special Forces



Palestinians gather at the site of Israeli strikes and gunfire in Gaza City, September 1, 2026.

GAZA (Dispatches) - Israeli airstrikes martyred at least six Palestinian civilians, including three children, in a massacre in the al-Katiba area of Gaza City, after a terrorist undercover Israeli unit operating deep inside the enclave was discovered and came under fire.

The Israeli military unleashed a barrage of airstrikes, drone fire and smoke bombs on the densely populated neighborhood to cover the withdrawal of the infiltrating special forces unit, according to Ismail Thawabta, director of the Gaza Government Media Office.

Witnesses described scenes of car-

nage, with rescue workers pulling the bodies of children from the rubble of buildings hit by the strikes.

"It was a massacre. They struck without warning in a residential area," said a Palestinian resident who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals. "We saw body parts scattered in the street."

Local media reported that the undercover unit had entered the area near the American Hospital and a UN shelter using a bus and electric motorcycles, triggering clashes when it was detected by Palestinian fighters. Hamas fighters attempted to capture the Israeli personnel, but were prevented by heavy air

cover, Palestinian sources said.

The latest bloodshed occurred despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire in place since October 2025. Terrorist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, illegally visiting Gaza on Wednesday, rejected a full U.S.-backed ceasefire agreement, insisting Israeli forces would maintain their presence in the territory - a stance Hamas has ruled out as a precondition for any lasting truce.

More than 1,300 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire took effect, according to Gaza health authorities. The overall death toll from more

than two years of genocide, which began in October 2023, has exceeded 73,000, though officials and medical researchers say the true figure may be in the hundreds of thousands when accounting for indirect deaths from the collapse of healthcare and aid systems.

Aid flows into the enclave remain severely restricted, and Israeli strikes on Wednesday killed at least two more Palestinians in the Jabalia area of northern Gaza, medics said. A newly built desalination plant in Gaza City was also destroyed in recent attacks, deepening the territory's water crisis.

Ansarullah Forces Repel Saudi Mercenary Assault, Inflict Heavy Casualties

SANA'A (Dispatches) - Yemeni forces led by Ansarullah said on Wednesday they had repelled a Saudi mercenary assault in the country's northern provinces, inflicting heavy casualties on the Saudi-backed militias as clashes intensify across multiple frontlines.

According to Al-Masirah TV, the Yemeni forces targeted Saudi mercenary positions in Al-Jawf province with artillery and drone strikes, killing and wounding dozens of the Saudi-paid militias. The report said the mercenaries had attempted to advance on Ansarullah-controlled areas but were forced to retreat after suffering significant losses.

Ansarullah military spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree confirmed the operation in a televised statement, saying the Yemeni forces had successfully defended their positions against "aggressive movements by Saudi mercenaries and their coalition backers."

"Our heroic forces are fully prepared to confront any escalation by the Saudi-led coalition and its mercenaries," Saree said. "The Yemeni people will not surrender their sovereignty to foreign aggressors."

The Ansarullah statement came as Yemen's naval forces separately announced that they had killed four Saudi mercenaries in recent clashes.

The escalation on Wednesday follows weeks of intensified fighting, with Ansarullah forces claiming multiple drone and missile strikes on Saudi territory in recent weeks, including a successful attack on Jizan province on Monday. The group has also announced a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia since July.

Ansarullah, which has administered the capital Sana'a and large parts of the country since 2014, has repeatedly accused Saudi Arabia of prolonging Yemen's devastating war by funding and arming mercenary militias. The group says the Saudi-led coalition's blockade and airstrikes have killed tens of thousands of civilians

and destroyed the country's infrastructure.

The latest clashes come as UN peace efforts remain stalled. Ansarullah has insisted on the full reopening of Sanaa International Airport and the Hudaydah port as prerequisites for any renewed negotiations - demands that Saudi-backed authorities have rejected.

Yemen's humanitarian crisis continues to worsen, with over 21 million people - two-thirds of the population - in need of aid. The country remains divided, with Ansarullah controlling the north while Saudi mercenaries hold much of the south and east, including the interim capital Aden.

China Pushes Pakistan, Afghanistan Toward Fresh Peace Talks

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- China has intensified diplomatic efforts to ease growing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, seeking to bring Islamabad and Afghanistan's Taliban authorities back to the negotiating table amid continuing concerns over cross-border security.

Beijing's latest initiative comes as relations between the two neighbors remain strained over militant activity and border clashes. China is seeking to use its growing diplomatic influence in the region to encourage dialogue and establish a more structured mechanism for addressing border security and militant threats.

China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Yue Xiaoyong, recently held high-level discussions in Islamabad, according to News18, marking his second visit to Pakistan in five weeks. During the visit, Yue discussed the possibility of convening a second round of China-mediated talks in Urumqi, the capital of China's Xinjiang region.

Yue held consultations with senior Pakistani of-

ficials, including Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan Ambassador Asif Durrani. The discussions focused on reviving diplomatic efforts and preventing further military escalation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Beijing is promoting negotiations as an alternative to unilateral military action, with a potential Urumqi meeting expected to build on earlier discussions and seek concrete commitments on border management and security cooperation.

Counter-terrorism is expected to remain a key issue in any new round of negotiations.

Pakistan has repeatedly accused the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) of using Afghan territory to plan and launch attacks against Pakistan. Islamabad has called on the Taliban authorities to take verifiable action against militant groups and prevent Afghan soil from being used for attacks against its neighbor.

The Taliban government has rejected accusations that it allows militants to operate from Afghani-

stan and has stressed its commitment to preventing threats from Afghan territory.

China has its own security concerns, particularly regarding the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which Beijing regards as a threat. Instability in Afghanistan and along its borders could also put Chinese nationals, infrastructure projects and economic investments in the region at risk.

Any future talks are therefore expected to address intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism cooperation and measures to strengthen border security.

A second meeting in Urumqi could explore practical measures including stronger border monitoring, security guarantees and mechanisms for responding to militant threats.

For China, reducing tensions is also closely tied to protecting regional trade routes and its broader economic and strategic interests. Sustained instability could threaten connectivity projects and undermine Beijing's efforts to deepen its influence across South and Central Asia.

Israel's 'Pilot Zones' in Lebanon Becomes Cover for Permanent Occupation

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Israel has informed the United States that a pilot program for phased withdrawal from southern Lebanon has failed, blaming the Lebanese Armed Forces for failing to dismantle Hezbollah military structures, according to Israeli media reports.

Israeli officials expressed dissatisfaction with the army's performance and are in no hurry to approve additional withdrawal zones, Israeli reporting said. The claim came as negotiations over a verification mechanism to inspect Lebanese compliance remain unresolved, with no final agreement on who will assess the army's work on the ground.

Lebanese officials have sharply rejected Israel's assessment, accusing Tel Aviv of deliberately wasting time and obstructing negotiations. A senior Lebanese source told Al Jazeera that Israel appeared intent on postponing major decisions until after its domestic elections, rather than producing tangible results now.

The dispute centers on a fundamental question: who decides whether the Lebanese army has fulfilled its obligations, and on what evidence? Under the proposed system, an agreed third party would inspect each zone, determine whether proscribed weapons and installations remain, and report its findings. That mechanism has yet to be finalized.

"We have completed all tasks assigned to us wherever we have been able to deploy," a senior Lebanese military source told Reuters. The source stressed that the army's access to the south is neither unrestricted nor entirely under Lebanese control, with Israeli forces still occupying territory and restricting movement.

The first test at Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh exposed the contradiction, when Israeli troops fired warning shots near Leb-

nese soldiers during their deployment while Israeli forces remained nearby in Zawtar al-Sharqiyeh.

Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon continued on Wednesday, with Lebanese state media reporting air raids on the outskirts of Naqoura and Majdal Zoun, areas near the border.

The pilot zones were established under a June 26 framework agreement - deemed "null and void" by Hezbollah - under which occupation forces were to withdraw gradually, allowing the Lebanese army to deploy and facilitate the return of displaced residents.

Israel's terrorist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reportedly rejected proposals to include Bint Jbeil or Khiam in subsequent withdrawal phases, according to Lebanese reports.

Residents attempting to return to southern areas have faced inspections and movement restrictions, while Israeli demolitions and detonations have continued during negotiations. The Lebanese army has warned that continuing attacks obstruct deployment and prevent residents' return.

The proposed verification mechanism - which could involve Italian or other European participation - has stalled over disputes about who would inspect the LAF's work and declare areas free of weapons. Israel has raised reservations about French and Italian involvement while seeking a role in the monitoring process itself.

For residents unable to return, the cost of delay is measured in destroyed homes and another month of displacement. The pilot zones were presented as a means of restoring Lebanese authority - but with every deployment bringing another Israeli condition, Beirut risks negotiating indefinitely over land whose return should never have depended on the occupier's approval.

Iraq Completes Questioning of 5,700 Daesh Suspects Transferred From Syria

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi authorities have completed preliminary questioning of 5,700 Daesh suspects transferred from Syria, judicial officials said on Wednesday, as Baghdad faces mounting U.S. pressure to disarm resistance factions while simultaneously being urged to extend the American troop presence beyond the agreed deadline.

The suspects, who include Iraqi nationals and foreign fighters, were handed over by Syrian authorities following the fall of the Assad government in December 2025. Iraqi judicial sources said the questioning focused on determining the degree of involvement of each suspect in Daesh operations, with cases referred to specialized courts for further proceedings.

"All suspects have been subjected to thorough preliminary investigations," a senior Iraqi judicial official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Those found to have directly participated in terrorist activities will face trial, while others may be released or transferred to their home countries."

The mass transfer comes as Iraq continues to grapple with the legacy of Daesh, which overran large parts of the country in 2014 before being defeated by Iraqi resistance forces, including the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), with support from Iran.

The relationship between Baghdad and Washington has grown increasingly strained over the fate of anti-terror forces. US officials have been pressuring the Iraqi government to disarm and dismantle the PMF and other resistance factions. The PMF, now integrated into Iraq's state security apparatus, has rejected U.S. demands, insisting that its forces are a legitimate part of the Iraqi military.

At the same time, Washington has reportedly requested an extension of the U.S. troop presence in Iraq beyond the December 2026 deadline agreed for withdrawal. The United States currently maintains approximately 2,500 troops in Iraq, primarily in bases in Baghdad and Erbil, as part of the ongoing anti-Daesh mission.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi has found himself caught between U.S. pressure and the demands of political factions allied with the PMF, who have called for a complete U.S. withdrawal.

"The Americans want us to disarm our resistance forces while asking to stay longer on our soil," a senior Iraqi official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Iraq's sovereignty is not negotiable. Our forces defeated Daesh, and we are capable of securing our own country."

Iraq has repeatedly stated that the U.S. troop presence is no longer necessary, with Iraqi forces now capable of maintaining internal security.