

‘Desperate and scared’ Palestinians react as entire families wiped out in strikes

AL JAZEERA

Palestinians in Gaza were woken up by Israel unleashing a new wave of attacks on Gaza which killed at least 404 people and wounded 562.

The attacks on Tuesday not only shattered a period of relative calm in Gaza during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan but also the fragile ceasefire deal Israel had with Hamas.

Palestinians who had returned to their damaged and destroyed homes after the ceasefire came into effect were also targeted by Israel’s relentless bombing as entire families were wiped out in seconds.

“We were shocked late at night to see strikes and attacks on Gaza like in the early days of the war,” Momen Qoreiqeh, who lost 26 members of his family in the attacks, told Al Jazeera.

“I was with my family and suddenly there was a huge attack on our residential block. The attack killed so many people from my family, some of them we still



haven’t recovered from under the rubble.”

Ahmed Abu Rizq, a teacher, recounted the initial hours of the Israeli attacks, which added to the state of sheer horror and panic being witnessed at the hospitals.

“We woke up frightened, hearing Israeli strikes everywhere in Gaza. If you’re now in one of Gaza’s hospitals, you will see blood everywhere,” said Abu Rizq, adding that he had seen families arriving at hospital with the “remains of their children” in their hands.

Reporting from Gaza City, Al Jazeera’s Hani Mahmoud said that Israel’s strikes had once again turned Gaza into a “killing box”.

“Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City is overwhelmed with the number of mass casualties arriving,” said Mahmoud. “We’ve seen entire families [killed] brought here, including a family of 26, with women, children and elderly. We’ve seen a mother here, crying over the bodies of her two daughters.

Why has Israel resumed large-scale strikes on Gaza?

AGENCIES

Israel has resumed large-scale attacks in Gaza with a wave of airstrikes and artillery fire against targets throughout the devastated territory. More than 400 have been killed and hundreds more injured, according to Palestinian authorities.

The casualties include some high-ranking Hamas officials and many civilians, including women and children. Hospitals and civil defence teams say they have been overwhelmed.

Israel has also issued evacuation orders for parts of northern and central Gaza close to the perimeter, suggesting that some kind of attack involving troops on the ground is imminent. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of Palestinians in the territory who have only recently returned to their homes, often in ruins, are on the move again.

WHY IS IT HAPPENING NOW?

The Israeli government has been threatening to launch an offensive for weeks. Israeli officials say targeting the Hamas leadership, which has re-emerged in recent weeks to again take control of Gaza, will bring about the release of more hostages. Many hostage families in Israel dispute this.

More practically, Israel now has capabilities it lacked six weeks ago. Ammunition stocks have been replenished – partly due to US deliveries – and new potential targets among Hamas’ leaders identified. Planes and other equipment have been repaired. Troops have been rested.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CEASEFIRE?

The new offensive comes 16 days after the first of three phases of a ceasefire agreed in January ended. The three phases were supposed to lead to a definitive end to the war, a total Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of all remaining Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Indirect talks to prevent a return to violence have stalled. Israel has



Injured Palestinians mourn beside the body of a baby, who was killed in an Israeli strike, at the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

proposed extending the first phase of the ceasefire by 30 to 60 days to allow for the release of more hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Hamas has refused this.

WHAT REASONS ARE BEING CITED FOR THE NEW STRIKES?

Critics says Netanyahu never had any intention of moving to the second phase of the ceasefire, which would have meant Israeli forces withdrawing from Gaza, in effect leaving Hamas as its de facto ruler. Hamas has reasserted its control in recent weeks, humanitarian officials there say, with civilian officials returning to previous posts and the battered military wing finding thousands of new recruits.

A second reason cited is that Israel had the full backing of the Trump administration for renewed attacks against Hamas.

Then there are the domestic political factors. Netanyahu needs support from rightwing allies to win crucial votes in Israel’s parliament in coming days and weeks, and to maintain his grip on power. These allies have fiercely opposed a permanent end to hostilities in Gaza, with one resigning from

his ministerial post in protest at the January ceasefire. This vital support is now assured – at least in the short term.

Netanyahu is also on trial for corruption. If found guilty, he could face prison. On Tuesday, a court approved Netanyahu’s request not to appear at a hearing on Tuesday “due to the renewal of the war”, Israeli media reported.

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?

The grim reality is that the fragile two-month pause in hostilities between Israel and Hamas is now over. Israeli officials have made clear that the strikes are merely the beginning of a potentially much broader offensive that will continue until Hamas releases the 59 Israeli hostages still held in Gaza.

However, the move will not be welcomed by Egypt, which played a key role in the ceasefire negotiations, as well as Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

“The entire region is on the brink of something,” said an al Jazeera correspondent, “Clearly, this humiliation of [Egyptian] President [Abdel Fattah] el-Sisi cannot go by with total impunity.”

West will try to undermine us Says Putin ahead of talks with Trump on Ukraine

AFP, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said the West would try to undermine Russia regardless of whether it lifted sanctions, telling business leaders in Moscow they should look elsewhere to invest.

Delivering a broadly anti-Western speech ahead of a crunch phone call with US counterpart Donald Trump, Putin said the G7 group was too small to see “on a map” and that Western dominance was “slipping away”.

Western countries introduced sweeping sanctions on Russia in response to its full-scale military offensive against Ukraine in February 2022, restrictions that the Kremlin has called an “illegal” attempt to destroy its economy.

“Even if there is a gesture from the other side, like they suggest lifting or easing something, you can expect they will find another way of pressing down, to throw a spanner in the works,” Putin told business leaders at an event in Moscow.



“You should invest where it is profitable for you and Russia, where profits are high and investments are reliably protected. There are many such regions of the world,” the Russian leader said.

Dozens of Western companies pulled out of Russia in the wake of its conflict in Ukraine, while some of those that remained were seized by the Russian government.

While the Russian economy has overcome the initial shock of sanctions and found domestic alternatives to most Western brands, it wants the West to lift them as part of any Ukraine peace deal.

The Trump administration has declined to say whether it will ease sanctions on Moscow, saying only that both sides will need to make “concessions” for peace.

Washington and Moscow have expressed optimism about recent talks but it remains to be seen if Trump can convince Putin to agree to a US-proposed 30-day ceasefire, more than three years into Russia’s invasion.

Kyiv has agreed to halting fighting, but Putin instead set a string of conditions, with European countries criticising him for not committing to an immediate ceasefire.

ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT IN WEST BANK

Israel’s policy ‘a war crime’: UN

AFP, Geneva

Israel must evacuate all settlers from the West Bank and make reparations for decades of illegal settlement, the UN rights chief said yesterday, describing the policy as “a war crime”.

“The transfer by Israel of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies amounts to a war crime,” Volker Turk said in a statement.

“Israel must immediately and completely cease all settlement activities and evacuate all settlers, stop the forcible transfer of the Palestinian population, and prevent and punish attacks by its security forces and settlers.”

Violence in the West Bank, which has been occupied by Israel since 1967, has escalated since the start of the war in Gaza.

“Israel’s settlement policy, its acts of annexation, and related discriminatory legislation and measures are in breach of international law, as the International Court of Justice has confirmed, and violate Palestinians’ right to self-determination,” Turk said.

His comments came as his office released a new report on the situation in the West Bank between October 2023 and last November.

That timeline concludes before the Israeli military began conducting a sweeping offensive across multiple areas of the West Bank on January 21, two days after a fragile ceasefire took effect in the Gaza Strip, largely halting 15 months of war there.

The operation, dubbed “Iron Wall”, has resulted in dozens of deaths, including Palestinian children and Israeli soldiers, according to the UN.

Before that operation began, the UN rights office found that a total of 612 Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces and settlers in the West Bank during the period covered by its report, amid “a climate of revenge”.

During the same period, 24 Israelis were also killed in alleged attacks or clashes with Palestinians, it found.

The Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah has put the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank between October 7, 2023 and March 14 at 911.

Meanwhile, at least 32 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed in that period in Palestinian attacks or during military operations, according to official Israeli figures.



Dhaka South City Corporation

Office Of Superintending Engineer
Traffic Engineering Circle

Ref No: 46.207.000.09.27.000.2025/883

Dated: 17/03/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, Traffic Engineering Circle, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages, which will be available at e-GP website from 17/03/2025 at 17:00

S.L No	Tender ID, Ref No & package No	Name of works	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing date & Time
01	Tender ID- 1084803 Ref No: 46.207.000.09.27.754.2025 Date: 26/01/2025 Package No- egp/dscc/TEC/PS01	Construction and Repairing work of Bus stoppage in Dhaka South City Corporation Area.	09-Apr-2025 12:00	09-Apr-2025 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Rajib Khadem)
Superintending Engineer
Traffic Engineering Circle
Dhaka South City Corporation

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Ref. No. 03.06.0158.333.07.061.15-539

Date: 13 March 2025

Auction Notice (4th Call)

Sealed auctions are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/companies in order to sell Inventoried & Valuated Machinery, Equipment & other Assets by auction "as and where basis" of terminated industry named **M/s. Rich Time Enterprise Ltd., Mongla EPZ** (All goods are stored in a shed located inside Mongla EPZ). To participate in the auction the terms & conditions are stated below:

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Persons/Organizations/Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to purchase the Machinery, Equipment & other Assets "as and where basis" of the company by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard;
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty free imported Assets of existing Assets of industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA);
- Auction documents attached with a single pay order/bank draft/FDD from any schedule bank of an amount of 15% as earnest money (non-refundable for successful bidder & refundable for unsuccessful bidder) must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected;
- Inventoried Machineries, Equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen on **16-17 April 2025 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm**. Information regarding the visit and the list of Assets may be collected by contacting with the Executive Director, Mongla EPZ directly;
- If the auction is accepted by the Authority, the successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 85% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA through Pay Order/Bank Draft/FDD. Accordingly, the delivery of Machinery, Equipment & other Assets will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules;
- Auction Schedule may be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) **within 17 April 2025 during office hours** from the Accounts Department of Mongla-EPZ, Dhaka-EPZ, Chattogram EPZ, Adamjee-EPZ, Cumilla-EPZ, Karnaphuli EPZ, Ishwardi EPZ, Uttara EPZ & Accounts Department, BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka;
- Auction schedule may be dropped into the auction box kept at the office of Executive Director, Mongla EPZ on **24 April 2025 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** and Submitted Auction documents will be opened in the same date at 12:30 pm at the office of Executive Director, Mongla EPZ in presence of the bidders (if any). Updated copy of VAT, TIN and Trade License shall have to be attached with the Auction schedule;
- The Authority reserves the right to accept any auction or reject any or all of the submitted auctions without showing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.

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