

Palestinian death toll surges as Israel intensifies strikes on Gaza



A man reacts as he carries the shrouded body of his child, in front of the Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir Balah in the central Gaza Strip, following an Israeli strike on October 22, 2023.
● MAHMUD HAMS/AFP



A mourner carries the body of a child, during the funeral of Palestinians, who were killed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, on October 22, 2023.
● REUTERS

International Desk

Gaza's Health Ministry said 266 Palestinians, including 117 children, had been killed by Israeli airstrikes in the past 24 hours in the enclave, to which Israel laid "total siege" after a deadly attack on Israel by Hamas resistance group on Oct. 7, Reuters reported.

The spokesman, Ashraf Al-Qudra, said that since October 7, Israeli strikes on Gaza have resulted in the deaths of 4,651 Palestinians, 40 percent of which were children. Deadly violence has also been surging in the West Bank, with at least 90 Palestinians killed in the Israeli-occupied territory in the past two weeks,

mainly in clashes with Israeli troops, AP reported. The tally includes five Palestinians killed in separate incidents on Sunday, including two who died in an airstrike on a mosque in the volatile Jenin refugee camp that Israel said was being used by fighters. Israel carried out an airstrike during a battle in another

West Bank refugee camp last week, in which 13 Palestinians, including five minors, and a member of Israel's paramilitary Border Police were killed. The intensified violence follows more than a year of escalating raids and arrests in the West Bank. Israel captured the West Bank, along with Gaza

and East Al-Quds, in the 1967 war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state. Over 500,000 Israelis live in settlements across the West Bank, which most of the international community considers illegal, while the territory's more than 2.5 million Palestinians live under Israeli military rule.

