

A pictorial of death and destruction

After maintaining a blockade on the Gaza Strip for nearly 16 years, Israel has now left a trail of death and destruction in the Palestinian territory under the pretext of battling Hamas fighters. Israel's relentless airstrikes have flattened thousands of Palestinians homes, badly damaged several hospitals and destroyed the coastal enclave's infrastructure. According to the Gaza Health Ministry, at least 5,800 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli bombardment since October 7 when the conflict flared up. These photos, all captured by AFP, illustrate the dire situation faced by the people of Gaza amid Israel's ongoing attacks.



A relative mourns by the bodies of members of the Abu Morad family who died following Israeli strikes earlier, during their funeral in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2023. MAHMUD HAMS/AFP



Palestinian Christians take part in rally in solidarity with the people of Gaza in the village of Jifna, north of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on October 23, 2023. JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP



Rescuers look for survivors in the rubble of a building following Israeli strikes in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2023. MAHMUD HAMS/AFP



Palestinians line up to refill their water containers in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2023, amid the ongoing attacks by the Israeli regime on Gaza. MOHAMMED ABED/AFP



A Palestinian medic carries the body of a child killed in an Israeli strike, at Najjar hospital in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2023. MOHAMMED ABED/AFP



A woman reacts next to the rubble of a building following Israeli strikes on Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on October 24, 2023. MOHAMMED ABED/AFP



An Israeli artillery crew prepare to fire from a field near the southern city of Sderot toward the Gaza Strip, On October 23, 2023. THOMAS COEX/AFP



Palestinian children receive food at a UN-run school in Rafah, on the southern Gaza Strip on October 23, 2023. MOHAMMED ABED/AFP



Ayman Abu Shamalah stands next to his daughter Mecca, as she receives care inside an incubator at a hospital in Rafah on October 23, 2023. Ayman Abu Chamalah, a 34-year-old Palestinian, and his family fled Israeli bombings on Gaza City to take refuge with relatives in Rafah, in the south of territory controlled by Hamas. A strike killed his children and his wife, Dureen Abu Shamalah, 28, who was pregnant at the start of the ninth month of pregnancy. The couple had already chosen a name for the baby, Mecca. MAI YAGHI/AFP