



# Raisi urges Muslim countries to stop Israel's 'killing machine'

## International Desk

*Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called on all Muslim countries to use all means to stop Israel's "killing machine" in the Gaza Strip and its attacks on hospitals, schools and refugee camps. Speaking at a summit of Arab and Muslim leaders in the Saudi capital Riyadh, Raisi said that Israel's use of phosphorus bombs has turned Gaza into a pile of rubble. The Iranian president said that the regime's brutal actions have killed more than 11,000 people – most of them women and children. Raisi noted that 3,000 others are buried under rubble.*

## Netanyahu pushes back Western calls for protecting civilians

A child killed every 10 minutes in Gaza: *WHO*

### International Desk

Israel's prime minister pushed back Saturday against calls from Western allies to do more to protect civilians in Gaza, where a child is killed on average every 10 minutes in the be-

sieged strip, according to the World Health Organization. Israeli troops encircled Gaza's largest hospital where doctors said Saturday five patients died, including a premature baby, after the last generator ran out

offuel. The regime's deadly strike hit the hospital compound on Friday killing at least 13, as heavy fighting between Hamas and Israel has sent tens of thousands of civilians fleeing their homes. Israel has portrayed Shifa

Hospital as Hamas' main command post, claiming fighters that rampaged through southern Israel on October 7 were using civilians as human shields there and had set up elaborate bunkers underneath it. Hamas and Shifa staff deny the allegations. Hamas has asked the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to send missions to come to Shifa to investigate the Israeli allegations.

### Red Cross raises alarm

The director general of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Robert Mardini, has said the organization is "shocked and appalled" by the images and reports emerging from Shifa Hospital. He said the "unbearably desperate situation" must stop now and that patients and staff must be protected. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has said Israeli tanks are 20 meters away from Quds Hospital

in Gaza. "Direct shooting at the hospital, creating a state of extreme panic and fear among 14,000 displaced people," it posted to X on Saturday. In recent days, fighting near Shifa and other hospitals in the combat zone of northern Gaza has intensified and supplies have run out. Israeli tanks, which have been advancing through northern Gaza for almost two weeks, have taken up positions around the Nasser Rantissi and Quds hospitals, medical staff said earlier, raising the alarm. Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashrafal-Qidra said Israel had bombed Shifa hospital buildings five times. "There is no electricity. Medical devices stopped. Patients, especially those in intensive care, started to die," said Mohammed Abu Selmia, the director of Shifa, speaking by phone over the sound of gunfire and explosions.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the United Nations Security Council on Friday that a child is killed on average every 10 minutes in Gaza, warning: "No-where and no one is safe."

### Health care system 'on its knees'

He said that half of Gaza's 36 hospitals and two-thirds of its primary health care centers were not functioning and those that were operating were way beyond their capacities, describing the health care system as being "on its knees". "Hospital corridors crammed with the injured, the sick, the dying. Morgues overflowing. Surgery without anesthesia. Tens of thousands of displaced people sheltering at hospitals," Tedros told the 15-member council. Israel has struck Gaza - an enclave of 2.3 million people - from the air, imposed a siege and

launched a ground invasion, killing more than 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday that the responsibility for any harm to civilians lies with Hamas, repeating long-standing claims that the resistance group uses civilians in Gaza as human shields. He said that while Israel has urged civilians to leave combat zones, "Hamas is doing everything it can to prevent them from leaving."

### 'No justification' for bombing

His claims came after French President Emmanuel Macron pushed for a cease-fire and urged other leaders to join his call, telling the BBC there was "no justification" for Israel's ongoing bombing. He called on Israel to stop bombing civilians in Gaza, saying there was "no justification" and the deaths were causing

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