

Dozen killed in attacks on Gaza hospital

Raisi writes to 50 world leaders to call for 'unified' action against Israel

International Desk

Israeli army strengthened its attacks on the Gaza Strip on Monday, killing more Palestinian civilians in the besieged territory. The Health Ministry in Gaza on Monday said 12 people, including patients and their companions, were killed in an Israeli strike on the Indonesian hospital in the north of the Palestinian territory. The ministry's spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said around 700 people

remain at the hospital where they are being "besieged" by Israeli forces. Meanwhile, twenty-nine premature babies arrived in Egypt on Monday after they were evacuated from Gaza's largest hospital, which has been raided by Israel in recent days. The World Health Organization has described the hospital as a "death zone" as Israel seeks to uncover what it claims are Hamas bases in tunnels underneath the facility.

Stop Israeli atrocities

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has called on 50 heads of state for unified action in exerting economic and political pressure on Israel to stop the regime's crimes in Gaza.

In a letter to 50 heads of state including Russia, China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Kenya, and Jordan, Raisi highlighted the continued brutal actions of Israel against the defenseless people of Gaza that have resulted in the loss of over 13,000 lives and the destruction of

infrastructure over the past 45 days.

He also criticized the double standards employed by certain Western governments that disregard intentional violations of humanitarian principles, ethics, and rights.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also said on Monday that the resistance groups in the region have repeatedly warned the US and Israel that they will not sit idly by if the occupying regime continues its attacks against the

Palestinian people in the besieged strip. Kanaani said that the growing opposition to Israeli crimes in Gaza and the US support for the regime's atrocities show that nations are dissatisfied with the war and want it to stop.

The Iranian diplomat also urged the US government to pay attention to global security and peace and stop its support for Israeli crimes in Gaza instead of asking others to do so, or end doing something.

Gaza graveyard of invaders

This is not the end of 'prized city'



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

Hayam Albetar, the head of research and studies at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Gaza, told Al-Monitor in 2015, "The northeastern area of Khan Yunis is known as 'Maabar al-Hijrat' [Passage of Immigration] because it was the gate to Gaza from the south — for the Canaanites, Persians, Romans, and Muslims. There were also Byzantine villages in this area." Khan Yunis is a city in the southern region of the Gaza Strip. Gaza, the home of great civilizations throughout history, is now on the tongues and headlines of the world media not only because of its 5000-year history that is full of ups and downs but also due to the tragedy imposed upon it by Israel.

Gaza, home of great civilizations

Perhaps this is a new chapter in the history of Gaza, a land with a rich and lengthy history that has witnessed civilizations and powers come and go and achieve victories and numerous defeats. It's not without reason that Jamal Al Shobaki, the Palestinian ambassador to Rabat, stated, "Israel has turned Gaza into a graveyard for children. This regime has not studied read history because [if it did, it would have known] Gaza is the graveyard of all invaders. All those who colonized Palestine vanished, while Gaza, Palestine, and Al-Quds (Jerusalem) remain." We're talking about a region of approximately 360 square kilometers called the "Gaza Strip," a narrow strip along the eastern Mediterranean Sea, with Gaza being one of its cities. The length of this area is 40 kilometers, and its width ranges from 10 to 15 kilometers. It borders the occupied lands to the north and east and is connected to Egypt to the south. The Gaza Strip, along with the western bank of the Jordan River, is currently Palestinian territory outside Israeli occupation and under Palestinian control. One of the most notable features associated with Gaza is its high population density. The Gaza Strip, with a population of over 2.3 million people, is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the world. This feature, however, is not natural or historical, but rather a result of Israel's occupation policies. The majority of the Gaza population consists of Arab refugees who fled during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. By 1967, the population of the Gaza Strip had multiplied sixfold, and since then, it has been steadily growing. Poverty, unemployment, and unfavorable living conditions are palpable phenomena in this area.

The land of Palestine and the port of Gaza, due to their geographical position as a connecting point between Asia and Africa, have historically been focal points of attention for major powers and witnessed the rise and fall of empires and shifts in power dynamics. Due to its long history and unique position as one

of the crucial ports in the Eastern Mediterranean, Gaza has been renowned as the "Prized City" in Egyptian.

Gaza was conquered by the Greeks, mainly the Cretans, in the late second millennium BCE. These Greeks, known as Mycenaean Greeks, who settled here, were called Philistines (seafaring people).

Until 1300 BCE, Canaanite Arabs inhabited Palestine. From that time, migrants from the island of Crete and the Aegean Sea arrived in the region, intermingling with the local Arabs and becoming known as Palestinians.

In 732 BCE, the Assyrians became rulers of Palestine, and in 605 BCE, the Chaldeans occupied the area. In 538 BCE, the rule of the Jews ended for the second time, and it is said that 50,000 Jews were exiled to Babylon. In 538 BCE, Cyrus the Great, the third Persian king of the Achaemenid Empire, conquered Palestine and liberated the exiled Jews in Babylon.

For about 200 years, Palestine, including Gaza, was under Iranian control until it was the turn of Alexander the Great to march and conquer the region. The Iranian garrison in Gaza withstood Alexander's siege, but due to the lack of reinforcements, it was defeated in the end. Two centuries later, the Romans ousted Alexander's successors from Gaza until the region came under Muslim control in 637 CE. Gaza saw other rulers come and go until, ultimately, in 1516 CE, the Muslim Ottomans took control of this region.

Britain is involved

In 1877, the first session of the Ottoman Parliament was held in Istanbul, and the first representatives of Palestine were elected to this assembly from the city of Al-Quds. In 1882, the Ottoman government prohibited the sale of lands in Palestine to foreign Jews.

In 1896, Abdul Hamid II, the then Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, rejected Herzl's proposal suggesting the granting of Palestine to the Jews, stating, "I cannot turn a blind eye to any part of the Ottoman Empire... I cannot consent to the vivisection of a living body."

In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was held in the Swiss city of Basel, marking the beginning of the activities of the World Zionist Organization.

In 1916, the Sykes-Picot Agreement was signed, splitting up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire between Britain and France.

In January 1918, following the Ottoman defeat by the British in World War I, all of Palestine was occupied under the command of Edmund Allenby, a British general of Jewish origin, and Palestine came under British administration until 1947. In 1920, the British civil administration in Palestine was established, and Herbert Samuel, a Jewish man, was selected as the first High Commissioner of Britain for Palestine.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized the presence of Zionists in Palestine by approving the Partition Plan. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its existence at 4:00 p.m. in Tel Aviv. Shortly after, the United States recognized it.

