

Israeli forces bombard refugee camps in central Gaza

International Desk

Israeli forces bombarded Palestinian refugee camps in central Gaza and issued orders telling residents to evacuate the area Tuesday, signs that the military plans to expand its ground offensive into a third section of the besieged territory. The opening of a potential new battle zone threatens to bring a new wave of destruction and displacement in a war that Israel has said will last for months as it vows to crush Hamas after its Oct. 7 attack. Israeli forces have been engaged in heavy urban fighting in northern Gaza and in the southern

city of Khan Younis, driving Palestinians into ever-smaller parts of the territory in search of refuge. A UN humanitarian team leader said on Monday that many Palestinians in the strip have followed the evacuation orders and sought safety in designated areas only to find there is little space left in the densely populated enclave. Gemma Connell, deployed in Gaza for several weeks now, described what she called a "human chess board" in which thousands of people, displaced many times already, are on the run again and there is no guarantee a destination will be safe.

"People were heading up south with mattresses and all of their belongings in vans and in trucks and in cars in order to try and find somewhere safe," said Connell, who on Monday visited the Deir al-Balah neighborhood in central Gaza.

Despite international pressure for a cease-fire and US calls for a reduction in civilian casualties, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday warned that the fight "isn't close to finished." Israel's offensive has been one of the most devastating military campaigns in recent history. More than 20,915 Palestinians, two-

thirds of them women and children, have been killed, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza, whose count doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants. Meanwhile, there were new signs of the Israel-Hamas war enflaming tensions around the region.

Residents of central Gaza on Tuesday described a night of shelling and airstrikes shaking the Nuseirat, Maghazi and Bureij camps. The camps are built-up towns, housing Palestinians driven from their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 war and their descendants – and now are also crowded with people who fled the

north.

In the afternoon, the Israeli military issued an order calling on residents to evacuate a belt of territory the width of central Gaza, including Bureij, urging them to move to the nearby town of Deir al-Balah.

The UN Security Council last week called for immediately speeding up aid deliveries to Gaza. But so far there has been little concrete sign of a change in entry of aid, which the UN has said it struggles to distribute because many areas are cut off by fighting.

AP and REUTERS contributed to this report.



A smoke plume erupts over Khan Younis from Rafah in the southern Gaza strip during Israeli bombardment on December 26, 2023.
● SAID KHATIB/AFP

Israel will see its retribution, Raisi warns after IRGC adviser's assassination

Resistance vows tough response



National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the Israel will definitely pay the price for its criminal act of killing a senior military adviser of the Islamic Revolution

Guards Corps (IRGC) in Syria.

In a message on Monday, Raisi said the vicious act of assassinating the IRGC military adviser in a missile attack in Syria was yet another sign of the usurping

Zionist regime's desperation, Press TV reported.

Seyyed Razi Mousavi, who was serving as a military adviser in Syria, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Sayyeda Zeinab neighborhood of the Syrian capital

of Damascus earlier on Monday.

He added that the brave military adviser, who was one of the companions of Iran's top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, was killed while "safeguarding lofty Islamic values."

Iran maintains an advisory mission in Syria at the request of Damascus, with the aim of helping the war-torn Arab country get rid of the foreign-backed militants who have been fighting the democratically-elected Syrian government since 2011.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kannaani strongly condemned the Israeli regime's terrorist measure to assassinate the IRGC adviser in Damascus.

He said the vicious and cowardly act was another

indication of the terrorist nature of the Israeli regime.

The spokesman emphasized that Iran reserves the right to adopt necessary strategies and give a response to the move in due time and place.

Addressing an open session of Parliament in Tehran, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also blasted the US and the West for the support they extended to Israel, stressing that nothing can rescue the Zionists from the quagmire they have been stuck in.

"Continuation of this inhumane behavior will lead to a major scandal across the world and will defame them even in the eyes of their own people," the speaker added.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian

also expressed his condolences to Mousavi's family as well as the Iranian and Syrian nations on the occasion of his martyrdom.

In a post on X social media platform, Iran's top diplomat said, "This honorable martyr fought bravely against terrorists for many years alongside Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani to ensure security of Iran and the region."

"Tel Aviv must await a hard countdown," he added.

Tough response

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movements have strongly condemned Israel's move, vowing tough response.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad said the occupying regime should await a decisive response to its cowardly act.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Islamic Jihad said the IRGC commander played a pivotal role in supporting regional resistance forces as well as the Palestinian nation, resistance and cause.

"We reiterate that the crimes of the occupying Zionist regime and its encroachment on regional stability and security will lead to its defeat at the hands of resistance forces." Lebanon's Hezbollah also condemned in the strongest terms the regime's assassination of the senior military adviser, describing it as a blatant violation.

"We consider the assassination of Brigadier General Seyyed Razi Mousavi in Syria to be a flagrant and shameless violation, which is off limits," Hezbollah said in a statement on Monday.

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company—Tender for Oven Online Graph

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase an oven online graph. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached file on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswco.com by January 02 2024.

For further information please contact Mr. Zanganeh: +989123162409

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company—Tender for Forklift Trucks

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase 10 forklift trucks. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached file on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswco.com by January 02 2024.

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Iran's defense industry witnesses 31% surge in production

National Desk

Iran's defense industry production has surged by 31% during the past nine months compared to last year, the spokesperson for Iran's Defense Ministry said. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Brigadier General Reza Talaee Nik provided insights into the ministry's activities over the past nine months, stating that over 1,000 research projects, as well as emerging research and enhancement of

defense technology capabilities are underway.

The spokesman highlighted monthly unveilings of several developments in various fields, adding, however, that only a portion of them is covered by the media, Tasnim news agency reported.

He noted that dozens of core technologies and hundreds of subsystem technologies are involved in acquiring innovative defense capabilities for the ministry.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

