

Israel's Criminal Air Strike against the Gaza Jabalia Refugee Camp, Cratered Ground, Searching for Survivors

Guardian analysis of footage and imagery sheds more light on pulverising attack in Gaza

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Cratered ground and destroyed lives: piecing together the Jabalia camp airstrike

Excerpts from The Guardian article

On Tuesday afternoon, rescuers combed with their hands through surface layers of a tangled mass of concrete and steel, which hours earlier had been homes in the Jabalia refugee camp in [Gaza](#).

They were searching for survivors, or the bodies of victims, which the immense force of [an Israeli airstrike](#) had left near the surface. Those trapped deeper may be entombed for months.

After more than three weeks of intense bombardment of Gaza, heavy machinery can no longer reach bomb sites down damaged roads, and people on the ground say fuel to operate machines is running out.

Even so, body bags piled up with horrific speed at the morgue of the nearby Indonesian hospital in Beit Lahia, and then outside the building. The wounded filled its beds or were raced to Dar al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where medics from the Médecins Sans Frontiers aid group struggled to find space even for badly injured children.

"Young children arrived at the hospital with deep wounds and severe burns. They came

without their families,” said Mohammed Hawajreh, an MSF nurse who was quoted by the organisation in a statement condemning the attack.

“Many were screaming and asking for their parents. I stayed with them until we could find a place, as the hospital was full with patients.”

On Wednesday night, a Hamas-run government media office said at least 195 Palestinians had been killed in two rounds of Israeli airstrikes on Gaza’s Jabalia refugee camp, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Earlier, the surgical director of the Indonesian hospital, Mohamed el-Ron, told the BBC it received 400 casualties, including 120 dead, and the majority were women and children. Several of the most severely wounded were transferred to the Al-Shifa hospital “under fire”, he added.

The pulverising attack on Jabalia came as Israeli ground troops pushed into Gaza from at least three directions. A spokesman for the Israeli military said the attack had been authorised to assassinate a senior Hamas commander and destroy his base.

IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari named the target as Ibrahim Biari, commander of Central Jabaliya Battalion, who he said had been leading fighting in northern Gaza from a network of tunnels under the camp.

[Click here to read the full article on The Guardian.](#)

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Featured image: A view from the area after Israeli airstrikes on Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, on October 31, 2023. [Stringer – Anadolu Agency]

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