

Xmas in Gaza: Peace on Earth?



Nearly 300,000 families lack proper shelter as a winter storm bears down on Gaza. (Ahmed Ibrahim / APA Images)

Israeli forces have killed 400 Palestinians in Gaza since the “ceasefire” on 10 October. As under 20% of the trucks promised in the agreement reached Gaza, the world stood by.

Now Storm Byron has killed at least 14 people as harsh winds, relentless rain and collapsing structures crush displaced families, according to Gaza's Ministry of Interior and National Security.

Five people died overnight after a house sheltering displaced civilians in northern Gaza collapsed. Two more were killed when a wall gave way and fell onto tents in Gaza City.

Medical staff report rising deaths linked to exposure. A newborn in al-Mawasi succumbed to freezing temperatures. Nine-year-old Hadeel al-Masri died in a shelter west of Gaza City, while baby Taim al-Khawaja died in Shati camp, Al Jazeera reports.

Rotting Garbage

Amin Sabri's battered tent sits at the foot of a hillside of rotting garbage towering some 25 feet in the middle of Gaza City. Barefoot children, their clothes caked in grime, scampered nearby.

“This is my tent and this is the garbage dump I’m living across from,” Sabri told Drop Site News. “We don’t sleep. The smell comes at us constantly, and our children are ill. They suffer from severe headaches. We’re dealing with an infestation of germs and insects.”

Civilian infrastructure including waste management has been systematically destroyed by the Israeli military over the past two years.

East Jerusalem raid on UN

In early December Israel raided the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA. Police motorcycles, trucks and forklifts were brought in and all communications were cut, while furniture, IT equipment and other property were seized.

UNRWA supplies have been waiting for months to enter Gaza, where people freeze to death.

The humanitarian crisis created by Israel is tolerated by the US and Britain whose weapons attack Gaza. It aims to convince Palestinians they have no future there. Christmas in Gaza is Hell on Earth, but Palestinians have not surrendered. They still need our support.