

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL TARGETS MORE  
GAZA CITY HIGH-RISES



JEHAD ALSHRAFI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza carry their belongings in a car Friday along the coastal road toward southern Gaza.

Army officials order famine-stricken residents to evacuate

WAFAA SHURAFU AND BASSEM MROUE  
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli army issued evacuation orders and targeted high-rise buildings Saturday in famine-stricken Gaza City, calling on Palestinians to move to the territory's south as it escalates operations ahead of a new offensive to seize the city of nearly 1 million.

Aid groups warn that a large-scale evacuation would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza City, which the world's leading hunger watchdog says is suffering from famine as a result of Israel's restrictions on food into the territory.

Most families already were displaced several times over the nearly 2-year-long Israel-Hamas war and say they have nowhere left to go, as the Israeli military repeatedly bombed tent encampments that it designated as humanitarian zones.

"There is no safe tent, no safe house, no safe place, no safety at all," said Nadia Marouf, who fled Israel's offensive in the north with her children and resettled in Gaza City — only to have her tent destroyed

Saturday in an Israeli airstrike that wiped out a 15-story building and surrounding encampment.

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee urged Palestinians to flee Saturday to the southern Gaza Strip, announcing on social media that the army designated the overcrowded tent encampment of Muwasi and parts of the southern town of Khan Younis as a humanitarian zone.

Aid groups raised alarm about woefully inadequate shelter, sanitation, water and food in Muwasi. Months of bombardment decimated civilian infrastructure in Khan Younis.

The military said it would work to provide field hospitals, water pipelines and food supplies within what it called the humanitarian zone.

Exhausted and despairing, many Palestinians refused to pack up and leave. Others were too weak or injured to uproot themselves again.

"I can't walk, I am in pain, and I do not know what to do or where to go," said Ala Alfarani, whose tent was crushed beneath a

pile of rubble in Israel's strike on a high-rise in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of south Gaza City.

Israel issued evacuation warnings Saturday for two high-rises in Gaza City and surrounding tents, with Adraee, the military spokesperson, saying the buildings were targets because Hamas had infrastructure inside or near them. Soon after, Adraee said the military struck one of the buildings.

Hamas called the Israeli allegations "baseless lies" and insisted the high-rises were residential towers.

Residents of Sousi Tower, a prominent 15-story building, said the Israeli army gave them about 20 minutes to grab their belongings and flee before warplanes razed the building to the ground.

"Suddenly, we were sitting at home and people started shouting," said resident Aida Abu Kas, recalling the panic and confusion rippling through the building. "Some said it was a lie and other said it was real. We went out and didn't know what to do."

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AMANDA MCCOY, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Community members rally outside the G.K. Maenius Administration Building on June 3 to protest the proposed redistricting of Tarrant County, Texas.

Redistricting poised to  
spread ahead of midterms

Following Texas battle, other states consider redrawing congressional maps

MICHAEL MACAGNONE AND  
MARY ELLEN MCINTIRE  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — A tit-for-tat partisan congressional redistricting fight Republicans started in Texas appears likely to expand in the next few months, with some states poised to redraw their congressional maps and officials in others publicly considering doing so.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed a new map into law that targets five Democrat-held seats for the midterm elections

in 2026, and California, Ohio and Utah also appear to be headed to new maps.

Political one-upmanship may also spark new maps in states such as Illinois, Indiana, New York and Maryland. Missouri's Republican governor has just called a new legislative session for redistricting.

Adam Kincaid, executive director of the National Republican Redistricting Trust, said many states are still in limbo about their redistricting plans, putting the country in an "interesting purgatory."

"There will be maps that are different in 2026 than we have now; we just don't know where all those maps will be yet. I think that'll play out over the course of the next three months," Kincaid said.

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