



IDF launches ground offensive in Gaza City, 101 reported killed

Jack Khoury, Rawan Suleiman, Yaniv Kubovich and Bar Peleg

The Israeli army announced on Tuesday that it had begun its ground incursion into Gaza City overnight, which, along with an increase of artillery and aerial strikes, killed at least 86 people in the city, local medical officials said. A total of 101 Gazans were reported killed Tuesday.

The officials said dozens were wounded, and dozens more have gone missing. Witnesses reported thousands fleeing south, though exits from the city were jammed and many residents spent the night in the streets, fearing their homes would be hit.

According to the IDF, two divisions began operating in Gaza City overnight, while another division is to besiege the city. The army said forces already hold around 40 percent of the city's territory.

Military officials said that conditions are set to occupy the city, and that the operation will expand in the coming days, in accordance with a plan approved by ministers.

Many reservists have been called up to join the fighting, and the IDF states that around 80 percent of those given notices have shown up for duty. The current reservist rotation is expected to last months, up to the first quarter of 2026.

IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir warned ministers and officials regarding the consequences of the operation, but declared he would act in accordance with the political echelon's decision.

Military officials said they



Displaced Gazans in the shadow of an Israeli strike in Gaza City, Tuesday.

Ali Jadallah / Anadolu / Reuters

do not know how long the operation will take, and that it will be extended as needed. The IDF argues that the plan has been drawn in a way that, at any moment, when a deal is agreed upon or negotiations are underway, the operation can be halted.

The Civil Defense Orga-

nization in Gaza said over 150,000 people have been displaced from Gaza City since the IDF launched its offensive last month, with 70,000 losing their homes.

IDF spokesperson Effi De- frin said that approximately 350,000 people have evacuated Gaza City so far.

Hamas' Information Ministry put the number of displaced people at 190,000, noting that around 800,000 people currently reside in the Muwasi area.

The ministry said, "Israel is trying to compress over 1.7 million people into this area, which lacks the basic infra-

structure necessary for survival – hospitals, water, food, shelter, electricity, or education."

Eyewitnesses said that thousands were forced to stay in the street overnight, fearing Israeli strikes on their homes.

Palestinian media re-

ported that many displaced residents cannot afford to transport their belongings and are forced to carry only what they can manage over long distances.

The IDF distributed leaflets calling for residents to

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A clear and immediate danger

The Israel Defense Forces began its ground invasion into the heart of Gaza City on Tuesday. The widescale operation – the current stage of which is proceeding after considerable disagreements and delays – has the participation of two regular army divisions at this stage, and will be joined later by another division. (Two more divisions are deployed defensively).

Although masses of Palestinians continue fleeing southward from the city toward the central Gaza Strip, there are still hundreds of thousands of civilians remaining in Gaza City. Despite officials at professional levels in the defense establishment gen-

erally oppose the operation and even though there is major skepticism among the Israeli public, there is currently no effective protest against this dangerous step that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is leading. This is perhaps his biggest gamble since the beginning of the war nearly two years ago.

Military forces are advancing relatively slowly at this stage and are doing so very cautiously. By comparison, when the IDF entered the Gaza Strip at the end of October 2023 following the massacre in Israeli border communities, the units moved quickly, deep on the ground, even though Hamas'

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'Reckless, appalling': U.K., Europe and UN condemn invasion

Liza Rozovsky and Rawan Suleiman

European governments, the UN and the Palestinian Authority condemned Israel's ground invasion of Gaza City, launched Monday night as part of Operation Gideon's Chariots 2. The U.K., Germany and the Netherlands warned the assault would deepen civilian suffering, while Turkey called it part of "genocidal plans." Gaza officials said at least 52 people have been killed, more than 40 injured and tens of thousands displaced since the operation began.

U.K. Foreign Secretary

Yvette Cooper denounced the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza City on Tuesday, calling it "utterly reckless and appalling." Writing on X, Cooper warned the assault "will only bring more bloodshed, kill more innocent civilians and endanger the remaining hostages. We need an immediate ceasefire, all hostages released, unrestricted humanitarian aid and a path to lasting peace."

Germany also condemned the offensive. Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said it was "completely the wrong approach" and urged

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Gazans fleeing south, Tuesday.

Mahmoud Issa/Reuters

'There is no safe place': Palestinians flee Gaza City

Jack Khoury

Gaza City today is no longer a city, but a scene of mass death and day-by-day survival. Residents who remained testify that Israel's intense strikes and ground invasion have only deepened the disaster.

"There is no safe place in Gaza," city spokesperson Hosni Mahna tells Radio

Ashams. "Every neighborhood is a target. Every residential building, even the building where I live. There is no more escape. The situation is catastrophic in every sense of the word. People are going into the streets with nothing... We've lost everything."

Since the IDF intensified its strikes on Gaza City overnight into Tuesday, tens

of thousands of people have tried to flee their homes and find shelter. However, entire families, who had nowhere to evacuate to, just got out of their homes and started walking – without knowing where they were headed. Some found a wall to hide behind, near Shifa Hospital, and others simply lay on the cool sand beneath the open sky.

"We left with nothing but the clothes on our backs. We didn't have time to take a thing," Umm Muhannad, a mother of five who fled the Shati refugee camp in western Gaza City, told Haaretz. "The children cry from hunger and fear, and they sleep in the open air. The skies are our only roof."

Some families escaped their homes with nothing,

while others threw clothes and blankets from the windows before their homes were bombed. "Within minutes, our house turned into dust," said Abu Ahmed from the Tuffah neighborhood. "Not even a memory left – not a wall or a room. We're 20 people in a torn tent, there's no water to drink or electricity to light the nights."

Umm Yusuf from the Zeitoun neighborhood said she was in shock. "We were notified to evacuate the house immediately. We ran out; we took nothing. We found ourselves in a school filled to the brim. There's no safe place, not in Gaza or outside of it."

The IDF confirmed on

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'Repair, heal and give hope to Israeli society'

Ex-IDF chief Eisenkot launches new party after leaving Gantz

Michael Hauser Tov and Noa Shpigel

Lawmaker and former IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot announced on Tuesday that he will launch a new party called "Yashar! With Eisenkot" after he resigned from fellow former IDF chief Benny Gantz's National Unity Party in June.

Eisenkot said that his party will "work to repair, heal and give hope to Israeli society, placing the State of Israel's security and national interests above all else." He added that the party would serve "as a basis for other mergers."

The new party, called "Yashar," meaning "straight ahead" or "honest" in Hebrew, was founded along with Shir Segal, hostage deal activist and daughter of released hostages Aviva and Keith Segal, and Yoav Horowitz, former director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who was previously allied with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Also joining the party are former lawmakers Matan Kahana, from the National Unity Party, and Tal Russo, from the Labor Party, as well as Nir Zohar, president



Gadi Eisenkot Moti Milrod

of Israeli company Wix.

The party founders will not necessarily run in Eisenkot's slate for the Knesset elections. Eisenkot is not intending to campaign independently, but instead, for the party to serve as a comfortable platform for unifying factions from the anti-Netanyahu opposition bloc ahead of the elections.

Eisenkot had begun preparing for the establishment of a new party since he quit the National Unity Party. In recent weeks, he worked discreetly to gather the necessary signatures to launch a party, mostly recruiting family members, acquaintances and party founders – successfully managing to keep the move a secret until

now.

When he resigned from Gantz's party, Eisenkot told his confidants that the way in which the party's primaries are conducted harms the democratic moves he wanted to promote.

Several days later, MK Kahana also announced his resignation. Kahana began his political life with Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked in the pro-settler, right-wing Yamina party. He is allied with former Prime Minister Bennett and was considered a likely candidate for the latter's future party.

Benny Gantz, chairman of the National Unity Party, said Eisenkot's resignation stemmed from ideological differences between them. "In recent weeks, significant ideological gaps have emerged between us regarding the best way to serve the State of Israel," he stated.

"Gadi is first and foremost a personal friend, a respectable man who has served the country for decades, and I am confident he will continue to serve it in his own way. Even though our political partnership has ended for now,

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'The Sea,' about Palestinian child, voted Israel's submission to Oscars

Nirit Anderman

Israel's Ophir Awards, presented by the Israeli Academy of Film, were held on Tuesday night amid major protests over the IDF's invasion and occupation of Gaza City and calls to end the war.

Dozens of filmmakers, including several nominees, arrived wearing black shirts printed with slogans such as "A child is a child" and "Stop the war."

"After such a dark day, and after two years of fighting, we can't come to this ceremony and pretend everything is normal. This war must end," said Michal Weits, a director and artistic director of the Docaviv Festival in an interview with Haaretz.

The Best Actor award went to 13-year-old Muhammad Gazawi for his role in "The Sea," which will represent Israel at the Oscars. "I really enjoyed filming the movie," said Gazawi, speaking in Arabic. "I wish for all the children of the world, everywhere, to have the same opportunity – to live and dream without wars," he added. He is the youngest recipient ever of this award.

An Israeli-Palestinian co-production from Majdal Films, "The Sea" offers a delicate, sensitive look at



Producer Baher Agbaria, left, alongside actor Muhammad Gazawi, 13, with the Ophir Award for "The Sea" outside Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

Naama Grynbaum

Palestinian childhood under occupation, told through one simple desire – to visit the sea.

Culture Minister Miki Zohar attacked the film before it was ever screened in Israel, saying last month that it "echoes the narrative of our enemies while our soldiers are fighting on the front lines." According to Public Broadcaster Kan, Culture Ministry officials confirmed to them that Zohar

hasn't watched the film, but had read an article about it in Haaretz.

Competing for Best Film and the right to represent Israel in the Academy Awards' International Feature category were "The Sea" by Shai Carmeli Pollak, "Foreign Language" by Michal Brezis and Oded Binnun, "Yes!" by Nadav Lapid, "Oxygen" by Netalie Braun, and "Nand-aori" by Eti Tsiko.

Neta Riskin won Best Ac-

dress for her role in "Nand-aori." "Cinema can't bring back hostages, stop a tank, or feed children. But cinema can reach people on the other side and show that there are people here too. That's what we're trying to do," she said.

Best Documentary Feature went to "A Letter to David" by Tom Shoval, about hostage David Cunio, who is still captive in Gaza. "There

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