# Over 1,300 Deaths in Mecca During Hajj Due to Extreme Heat Raise Concerns over Climate Impact



**Annual Hajj Pilgrimage Sees Over 1,300 Deaths Amid Extreme Heat in Mecca**

During the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia announced that more than 1,300 pilgrims have died, including at least 11 Americans. The high temperatures, which at times exceeded 120 degrees Fahrenheit, are being attributed to these fatalities. Many of those who died had traveled without permits, preventing them from accessing heat protections.

Extreme heat is a growing concern for Gulf states, which are investing heavily in economic diversification efforts and tourism. Saudi Arabia is developing luxury resorts on the Red Sea and the futuristic city of Neom, while Qatar and the UAE are hosting international events and building infrastructure to attract global attention.

Climate change is causing longer, hotter summers in the region, raising challenges for energy demand, infrastructure, and the safety of outdoor laborers. These countries have implemented measures such as cooling technologies and work bans during peak heat hours, but these solutions are expensive and may not suffice as temperatures continue to rise.

The recent deaths during Hajj highlight the need for improved heat management, especially as the pilgrimage involves long hours outdoors. The Saudi government has invested in mitigation measures, but scientists warn that more aggressive adaptation will be necessary as temperatures are expected to rise further in the coming decades.