# Israeli Military Issues Evacuation Order for Gaza Amidst Escalating Conflict



On July 3, 2024, the Israeli military issued an evacuation order for parts of Khan Younis and Rafah in Gaza, affecting approximately 250,000 residents. This marks the largest such directive since October and comes amidst a nine-month conflict that has severely stressed the local population. The order follows a barrage of rockets fired from Gaza toward Israeli cities.

According to the United Nations, the residents face a grim choice between relocating to overcrowded shelters or staying put in zones of active conflict. The evacuation has led to a halt in services at four medical facilities, including the European Hospital in Khan Younis, which had to suspend operations due to staff evacuations.

On the same day, an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis, within an Israeli-designated "safe zone," injured at least seven people and caused chaos near Nasser Hospital. This area included a school-turned-shelter, already overwhelmed with displaced families. The United Nations highlighted the dire conditions, with ongoing bombings even in supposed safe havens and severe constraints on humanitarian aid.

An Israeli airstrike on Tuesday resulted in the death of a Palestinian doctor and eight family members who had just relocated to a designated safe area. Aid delivery to populations now concentrated in central Gaza, particularly the coastal Muwasi area and Deir al-Balah, remains severely hampered.

The protracted conflict and relentless displacement have led to a surge in malnutrition and exhaustion among Gaza's residents, with many expressing a sense of hopelessness. The blockage of humanitarian assistance is creating a severe risk of famine.