# Tents Offer Shelter to Displaced Palestinians in Southern Gaza Amid Ongoing Conflict



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The ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict has forced many Palestinians to flee their homes, leading to the establishment of numerous shelters near Khan Younis and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

As of 15 May 2024, over half a million Palestinians have sought refuge in these makeshift camps along the coastline. The Asda’a amusement park, once a place for leisure, now hosts rows of tents, providing shelter to families escaping the fighting.

Massa al-Arbeed, a 10-year-old from Gaza City, described the dire conditions: "There are no games or dolls to play with, or even a house to take shelter in." Sabreen, a mother of three, echoed the struggles, mentioning the lack of basic necessities like food and healthcare.

International aid has proven insufficient, with water and food prices soaring dramatically. A kilogram of sugar now costs 12 USD, while other staples have similarly increased in price. Dr. James Smith, a British emergency medic in southern Gaza, highlighted the squalid conditions, citing the overwhelming scarcity of sanitary services and medical supplies.

In al-Mawasi, another coastal town now overflowing with displaced individuals, conditions remain bleak. Despite their circumstances, many Palestinians, such as Raafat Farhat, express a longing for stability and a return to their former lives.

The conflict has claimed over 35,000 lives, predominantly women and children, according to Palestinian officials. Amid the backdrop of destruction and fear, many residents, like young Massa, hold on to dreams of rebuilding their homes and pursuing future aspirations.