# Over 577 Muslims Die in Mecca During Hajj Amid Record High Temperatures



At least 577 Muslims have died during this year’s Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, amid record high temperatures. The pilgrimage occurred from June 14 to 19, with temperatures reaching up to 51.8°C (125°F) in the shade. This year saw about 1.8 million pilgrims, most of whom came from outside Saudi Arabia.

The deaths have been attributed to extreme heat and related complications such as sunstroke and heat exhaustion. Over 2,700 pilgrims were treated for heat-related conditions on Sunday alone, according to the Saudi health ministry.

Deaths reported include nationals from Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Senegal, Tunisia, and Iran. Saudi authorities had advised pilgrims to stay hydrated and avoid the outdoors during the peak heat hours but most rituals require being outside.

Saudi officials have not publicly commented on the exact causes of the deaths nor provided an official death toll. The mass influx of information regarding deceased pilgrims has led grieving families to gather at the Emergency Complex in the Al-Muaisem neighborhood in Mecca to identify their loved ones.

The Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, sees millions of Muslims convening annually in Mecca. The event has historically faced challenges such as stampedes and accidents. In 2015, over 2,400 pilgrims died in a stampede in Mina.

A recent study highlighted that climate change could amplify the risks during the Hajj, predicting extreme temperatures during several future pilgrimage periods. Islam follows a lunar calendar causing the Hajj dates to shift yearly; in 2030, it will be in April, eventually moving into the milder winter months.