# Death Toll Exceeds 1,000 at 2024 Hajj Due to Severe Heatwave



**Death Toll at Hajj Surpasses 1,000 Amid Severe Heatwave**

The 2024 Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia has seen a death toll surpassing 1,000 as temperatures soar above 50°C (122°F). The extreme heat has caused severe health issues, including numerous cases of heatstroke among the millions of Muslims gathering for this annual pilgrimage.

Unregistered pilgrims have been hit hardest, comprising more than half of the deceased. Among the dead are 58 Egyptians, with a total of 658 casualties reported from Egypt alone—630 of whom were unregistered. Other countries affected include Indonesia, with 165 deaths, Jordan, Tunisia, and Iran. Notably, the Iranian Red Crescent reported that many of the deceased had underlying conditions exacerbated by the heat.

Saudi authorities had advised the use of umbrellas, hydration, and avoiding sun exposure, but the Hajj rituals often demand prolonged outdoor activities. Signs of heat-related distress were visible as pilgrims performed traditional rites such as the symbolic 'stoning of the devil' in Mina and prayers on Mount Arafat.

Hundreds of people are still unaccounted for, and thousands more have been treated for heat-related afflictions. Saudi officials deployed extensive medical support, including rapid response teams and thousands of volunteers, to aid affected pilgrims.

The pilgrimage, which saw around 1.8 million participants this year, is expected to encounter more favorable conditions in the coming years as it shifts to cooler months. However, climate change remains a growing concern, as regional temperatures are reportedly rising by 0.4°C each decade.

Saudi Arabia continues to manage the logistical and safety challenges of the Hajj, which has faced tragic incidents in the past, such as the 2015 stampede that resulted in over 2,400 deaths. The pilgrimage remains a critical religious duty and an economically significant event for the Kingdom.