# Palestinian American Retires from U.S. Air Force Over Gaza Conflict Disillusionment



Mohammed Abu Hashem, a 41-year-old Palestinian American, retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years, citing disillusionment with U.S. support for Israel amid the Gaza conflict. The catalyst was an Israeli airstrike in October, which killed his aunt and over 20 neighbors in Gaza, including 12 children. Abu Hashem, deeply troubled by Washington's backing of Israel and its provision of weaponry, decided to leave his post.

Abu Hashem enlisted in the Air Force after the 9/11 attacks and served multiple deployments, including to Qatar, where he connected with other displaced relatives from Gaza. His decision to retire followed his failed attempts to find satisfactory responses from his Air Force superiors about the attack on his family.

On October 10, an Israeli strike hit Abu Hashem's aunt's apartment in Gaza's Jabalya neighborhood, killing 23 people. His aunt, Saida Saleh Abu Hashem, was among the victims. Abu Hashem contested the Israeli military's claim that the strike targeted a Hamas structure, noting no evidence had been provided.

Apart from Abu Hashem, other service members have similarly expressed discontent with U.S. policies towards Gaza. He now works in Akron, Ohio, transitioning to civilian life, but remains deeply affected by the events.

In a related incident, an Israeli airstrike recently killed ten family members of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, including his sister, in the Al-Shati refugee camp, further escalating the human toll of the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict.