# Israeli Airstrike in Rafah Kills 45 Displaced Palestinians, Sparks International Outcry



An Israeli airstrike in Rafah, a southern city in the Gaza Strip, killed at least 45 displaced Palestinians who were sheltering in the area on the night of Sunday, May 26, 2024. The incident has drawn international attention and condemnation, with reports and graphic images showing charred bodies and severe destruction. Israeli authorities refer to the attack as a "tragic mistake."

The strike occurred amid an ongoing Israeli military offensive aimed at eliminating Hamas militants, who Israel claims are hiding in Rafah along with hostages. Israel's National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi announced that the operation is expected to continue for at least another seven months.

This conflict has significantly hampered humanitarian aid efforts. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the quantity of aid entering Gaza has drastically reduced by approximately 70 percent since the onset of the Rafah offensive. Israel maintains different figures regarding the aid trucks entering Gaza, highlighting a discrepancy with the U.N.'s data.

The damaging impact of the blockade and military actions has heightened humanitarian concerns, with food scarcity and inadequate sanitation facilities worsening the living conditions in Gaza. Samantha Power, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, described the situation in Gaza as "worse now than ever before."

In response to the violence, Algeria has proposed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire and increased humanitarian aid, but it is unclear if the United States will use its veto power to block the proposal.

Furthermore, the conflict has spurred international reactions, with China advocating for a two-state solution and providing emergency humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, Iran’s supreme leader met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to discuss the ongoing crisis.

As aid groups continue to sound alarms over the deteriorating conditions, World Central Kitchen announced the suspension of its main kitchen in Rafah due to ongoing attacks. Deep concerns remain about the trajectory of the conflict and its devastating impact on civilians in the region.