

# Rafah non esiste più. Questo fa parte del piano di Israele di occupare permanentemente Gaza.

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Nell'ultimo mese, l'esercito israeliano ha metodicamente svuotato Rafah dei suoi residenti e raso al suolo ciò che resta dei suoi edifici. La città di Rafah e i suoi centri circostanti sono ormai praticamente scomparsi, con la maggior parte dei residenti evacuata a nord, verso Khan Younis e la costa di Mawasi, sotto il fuoco dell'artiglieria e il rumore in avvicinamento di carri armati e bulldozer.

Rafah è stata anche teatro di numerosi massacri documentati, tra cui il massacro dei primi soccorritori nel quartiere di Tal al-Sultan a fine marzo, quando l'esercito israeliano ha aperto il fuoco e giustiziato 15 paramedici e soccorritori della Mezzaluna Rossa palestinese e della Difesa civile di Gaza.

Rafah è il governatorato più meridionale della Striscia di Gaza, situato lungo il confine con l'Egitto. Prima della guerra, ospitava circa 200.000 residenti e il suo territorio costituiva circa un quinto del territorio di Gaza. Non esiste più.

Annuncio



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Le operazioni israeliane di demolizione e sfollamento sono iniziate a Rafah ben prima dell'entrata in vigore del breve cessate il fuoco tra Israele e Hamas a metà gennaio. Durante il periodo di cessate il fuoco, le forze israeliane hanno impedito il rientro dei residenti di diverse zone di confine, come il campo profughi di Yibna, al-Awda, al-Shabura e Bir Canada. Dopo la rottura del cessate il fuoco a metà marzo, l'esercito israeliano le ha rase al suolo tutte.

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L'obiettivo dell'assalto totale a Rafah è ormai chiaro: trasformare l'intera area di Rafah in una zona cuscinetto completamente spianata, con una presenza militare israeliana permanente. Secondo un articolo di Haaretz, questo "trasformerebbe di fatto Gaza in un'enclave all'interno del territorio controllato da Israele, isolandola dal confine egiziano".

Immagini e resoconti provenienti da Rafah mostrano una città completamente rasa al suolo e i residenti confermano che non è più adatta alla vita umana.

## Una zona cuscinetto e un corridoio

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Khaled al-Dahaliz, 36, carried his belongings on a cart and fled Rafah towards al-Mawasi, west of Rafah, several weeks into the Israeli army's renewed bombing campaign. He tried to hold out for a time, moving between different locations within Rafah, but could no longer withstand the indiscriminate shelling and bombing, he said in recorded testimony obtained for *Mondoweiss*.

"We left Rafah for the last time. We don't think we will be able to return; nothing remains of it," he said. "Even the tents we set up to survive in Rafah were targeted by the Israeli army."

"Wherever you go, you won't find homes or people — only the destruction of camps," al-Dahaliz explained. "It's so that no one knows where their home used to be."

In areas adjacent to the Philadelphi Corridor, the strip of land running along the Gaza-Egypt border from which Israel was supposed to withdraw by the end of the first phase of the ceasefire, everything has been bulldozed and cleared, Rafah residents confirm. Areas such as Yibna refugee camp, the Saudi neighborhood, and Tal al-Sultan are now a military no-man's-land barred to civilians: Israel's new buffer zone.

In addition, over the past several weeks, the Israeli military finished establishing what it calls the Morag Corridor, which now separates Rafah City from the adjacent city of Khan Younis just north of it. Netanyahu had announced in early April that the Israeli army would begin its construction, which was completed on April 12.

This means that additional neighborhoods were destroyed to secure the Morag Corridor, just as homes were wiped out during the construction of the Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors before the war.

"Rafah City is now surrounded by corridors constructed by the Israeli army on all sides," Ahmad al-Dabash, 36, told *Mondoweiss*. He noted that the continuous sound of explosions could be heard from as far as Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat in central Gaza when the Morag Corridor was being constructed.

"The goal of the bombings is to shake the ground beneath the houses, so that if there is a tunnel, it collapses on the heads of those inside," al-Dabash said, detailing what he and other residents saw as they fled Rafah. "After the houses are blown up, it looks like they were turned inside-out, and the bombs left these wide craters that swallowed the houses."

"The al-Kharba roundabout and the Awni and Masbah areas north of Rafah were all in good condition. Now, the residents of Deir al-Balah hear the sound of explosions there, and the residents of Khan Younis see the smoke constantly rising from them as a result of the daily bombing," al-Dabash said.

The Morag Corridor runs through Gaza from east to west, parallel to the Netzarim and

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*Ahmad al-Dabash*

Philadelphi corridors. It is named after a now-defunct Israeli settlement that had existed between Rafah and Khan Younis before Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

“They returned to the areas they were in before 2005. Their military positions and settlements were in the same areas. They know those areas well and occupied them again,” al-Dabash explained.

The massive route is hundreds of meters wide and runs through land that has since been bulldozed, costing thousands of families their homes and ensuring they will never return. According to residents, the route starts from the Baraksat area of Rafah, where the first responders’ massacre took place, and runs through the Shakoush area near al-Mawasi, west of Rafah, and toward the Kerem Shalom crossing in the far east of the city.

Residents believe that Israel’s actions on the ground demonstrate a clear intent to maintain a prolonged occupation of Gaza. The establishment of military routes and installations, its failure to withdraw from the Philadelphi Corridor during the ceasefire, and its blowing up of the deal all indicate that Israel had been planning on this endgame from the start, residents told *Mondoweiss*.

“The Israeli occupation wants to make life impossible in the Gaza Strip, and that is exactly what it has done,” al-Dabash said. “These are clear goals: the occupation will not let us live in peace and will continue to try to expel us from our land.”

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