

Gaza-Israel Hostilities Flare with Rocket Attacks, Air Strikes

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The Palestinian Education Ministry said it was evacuating schools in areas under Israeli bombardment.

A wave of Israeli air strikes killed one Palestinian in Gaza Strip Saturday. Imad Nseir, 22, was killed in Beit Hanoun after Israeli planes targeted multiple areas of the enclave.

The attacks came just hours after Isreali security forces killed at least two Palestinians and injured another 51 during Friday's weekly Great March of Return protests, medics and security sources there said. ??????Another two Palestinians were killed in an air raid on the central Gaza Strip Friday.

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On Saturday, Israel hit the occupied and blockaded Gaza Strip with air strikes and tank fire, targetting about five different sites of Palestinian resistance, Middle East Monitor reported. About 150 rockets were launched from Gaza toward Israel though no deaths were tallied, according to security forces who spoke to Al Jazeera.

The Israeli military said its forces had carried out attacks against more than 30 targets belonging to Hamas. A small armed group in Gaza, The Protectors of Al Aqsa, said one of its men was killed in an air strike Saturday.

The Gaza Health Ministry said six Palestinians were wounded. Across the border, rocket sirens



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sent Israelis running to shelters, and the Magen David Adom ambulance service said one woman was seriously wounded by shrapnel in the city of Kiryat Gat. Many of the missiles were intercepted by the Iron Dome, the Israeli military said.

The flare-up comes days before Muslims begin the holy month of Ramadan and Israelis celebrate their Independence Day.

Hamas said they would "continue to respond to the crimes by the occupation" and will not allow Palestinian blood to be shed," said spokesman Abdel-Latif al-Qanoua in a statement Saturday. He made no explicit claim that Hamas fired the rockets.