

IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA  
CANBERRA REGISTRY

BETWEEN:

ANTON TUTOVEANU  
Plaintiff

and

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
Defendant

AFFIDAVIT

I, Anton Tutoveanu, of 490 Pitt Street, Haymarket NSW 2000, computer scientist, affirm as follows:

1. Since 1998, I have been an Australian citizen.
2. I am the first plaintiff in this proceeding.
3. I have never been to Palestine nor Israel.
4. I am neither Muslim nor Jewish.
5. During October 2023 I recall media notifications about violent conflict in the middle-east with Palestine-Hamas and the State of Israel.
6. On 17th March 2024 I witnessed and video recorded a Palestinian protest on George Street in Sydney NSW, Australia [Exhibit 'AT 1', page 5].
7. I am intermittently exposed to information of on-going war violence throughout 2023-25 via the internet and news media:
  - a. Israeli counter-attacks [Exhibit 'AT 1', pages 6-29].
  - b. World Central Kitchen, Zomi Frankcom [Exhibit 'AT 1', pages 30-37].
  - c. Israeli renewed attacks [Exhibit 'AT 1', pages 38-42].
8. Protests and public disruption persists:
  - a. Protests in Sydney NSW [Exhibit 'AT 1', pages 43-45].
  - b. Greens candidate injured at Palestine protest [Exhibit 'AT 1', pages 46-51].

A~



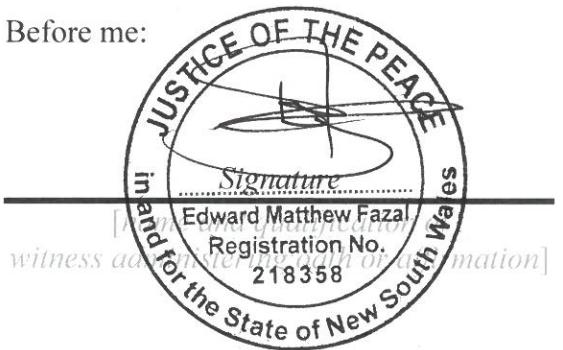
9. The Australian Government's response:

- a. Contracts still active: see electronic publication titled "Contract Notice View - CN4048607" on AusTender website [Exhibit 'AT 1', page 52].
  - b. Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) not in terrorist organisation list via <https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/what-australia-is-doing/terrorist-organisations/listed-terrorist-organisations>.
10. The only gluten-free pastry at Woolworths is made in Israel [Exhibit 'AT 1', page 53].

AFFIRMED by the deponent  
at Sydney in New South Wales  
on 9th July 2025.



Before me:



*Signature of deponent*

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA  
CANBERRA REGISTRY

Affidavit of Anton Tutoveanu affirmed on 9th July 2025

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CANBERRA REGISTRY

BETWEEN:

ANTON TUTOVEANU  
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EXHIBIT "AT 1"

This is the exhibit marked "AT 1" produced and shown to Anton Tutoveanu at the time of affirming his affidavit this 9th July 2025.

Bundle of documents, 49 pages.

Before me







ALJAZEERA

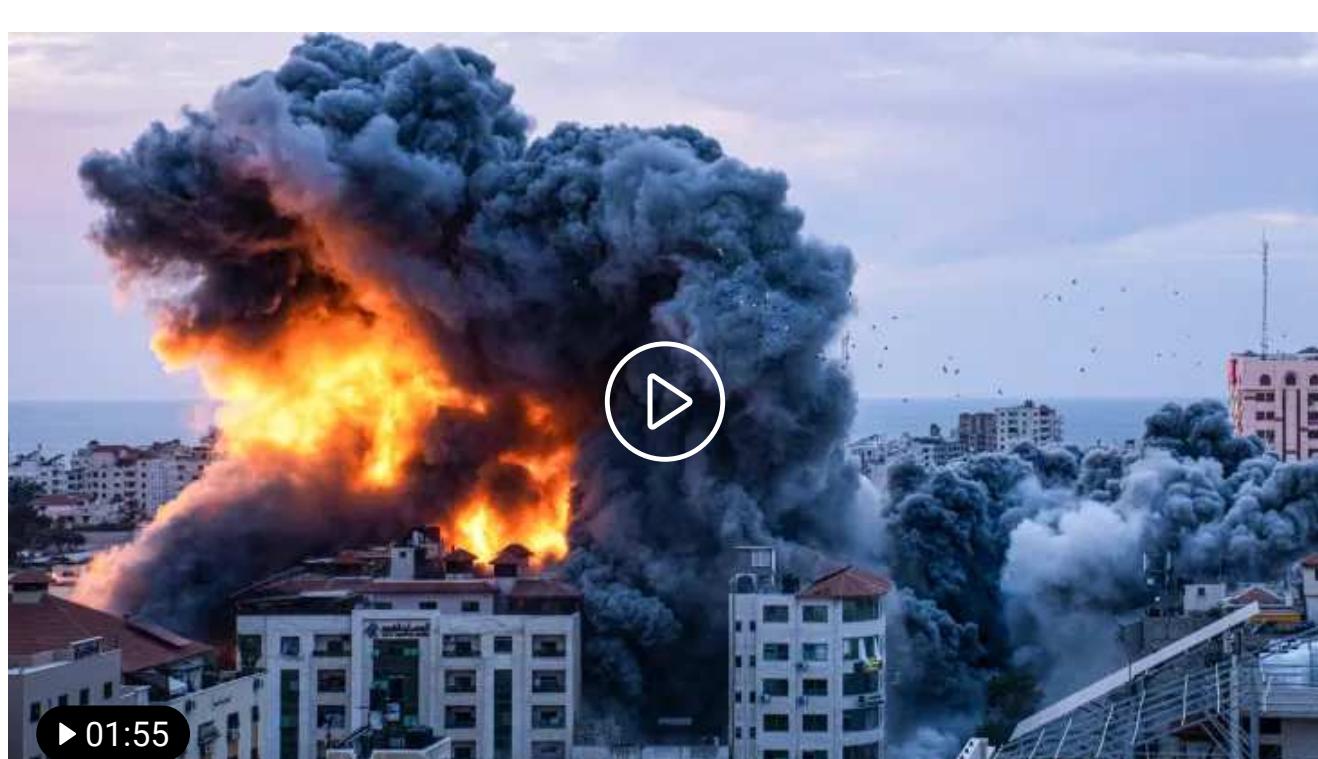
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Israel-Palestine conflict &gt; Live updates What's in Trum



Israel 'at war' with Hamas as 'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood' under way

By Umut Uras, Mersiha Gadzo, Maram Humaid, Priyanka Shankar, Dalia Hatuqa, Joseph Stepansky and Usaid Siddiqui

7 Oct 2023

This page is now closed. You can find Sunday's live coverage [here](#).

- Medical sources in Gaza say at least 232 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli air attacks launched after a [Hamas offensive](#) against Israel that killed at least 250.
- The group running the besieged enclave said its [surprise, large-scale operation](#) was in response to the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and increased settler violence.
- Hamas says it fired thousands of rockets and captured “a big number” of Israelis after its fighters crossed into Israel from the Gaza Strip.
- The operation comes after thousands of settlers in recent days [carried out](#) provocative tours of the Al-Aqsa Mosque complex in occupied East Jerusalem during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.

[Read less](#)

7 Oct 2023 - 23:11 (23:11 GMT)

## Thank you for joining us

Thanks for following us with Saturday's updates on the ongoing fighting between Palestinian fighters and the Israeli military.

Here is a summary of the today's events:

- At least 232 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli air attacks on the Gaza Strip according to medical sources, launched after a [Hamas offensive](#) against Israel. At least 250 Israelis have been killed.
- According to Hamas's military wing, it has captured "several times greater" than dozens of Israelis.
- Hamas, which runs Gaza, said its offensive is a response to the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and increased settler violence. You can read more [here](#) on how Hamas's offensive unfolded.
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told residents of the besieged enclave to "leave now", saying Israel's forces "will turn all Hamas hideouts into rubble".

7 Oct 2023 - 22:48 (22:48 GMT)

## Israeli attacks in Gaza ongoing: AJ correspondent

Israeli bombardment of Gaza has continued into the early hours of Sunday, Al Jazeera's Youmna ElSayed said reporting from Gaza City.

"Very violent raids shook the centre of Gaza City ... in Al Nasr neighbourhood," she said. "Again, its a very densely populated area."

ElSayed said that currently, there was no information on the number of casualties as a result of this latest air raid.

7 Oct 2023 - 22:17 (22:17 GMT)

## What precautions are people in Gaza taking?

As Palestinians in Gaza prepare for what could be a long-drawn war in the besieged enclave, residents such as medical professional Belal Aldabbour have already started taking precautions to protect and provide for their families.

"I started by geographically mapping my little flat to locate the point that is farthest away from the windows in case of shrapnel wounds," he told Al Jazeera.

"I'm now working on reserve batteries," the father of two said, to keep the electricity running in his home. "There is no telling what is coming next."



Flares used by the Israeli army over the Gaza Strip [Mahmud Hams/AFP]

7 Oct 2023 - 22:00 (22:00 GMT)

### Where do Gaza civilians go? Observers ask

Following one of the deadliest attacks on Israel in decades, Netanyahu promised to turn all Hamas hideouts in Gaza to "rubble", telling residents of the besieged enclave to "leave now".

It is a statement that underscores the fundamental plight of Palestinian civilians in Gaza who live under Israeli blockade and do not have freedom of movement, several analysts have noted.

"Where exactly are they supposed to go if they can't leave?" Mairav Zonszein, a senior Israel analyst with Crisis Group, questioned on X.

**Mairav Zonszein** מירב זונשין

@MairavZ · Follow



Where exactly are they supposed to go if they can't leave?

**Barak Ravid** ✅ @BarakRavid

BREAKING: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Palestinian civilians in Gaza to "leave now" because the Israeli military is going to "turn all Hamas hiding places into rubble"

6:32 AM · Oct 8, 2023



1.9K



Copy link

[Read 118 replies](#)

7 Oct 2023 - 21:54 (21:54 GMT)

### Al-Azhar al-Sharif mosque offers 'full support' for Palestinians

A prominent mosque in Cairo, which is a seat of Sunni learning, has expressed its solidarity with Palestinians in the wake of Hamas's attack.

The Al-Azhar al-Sharif mosque houses the Sunni world's foremost seat of religious learning. A statement by the mosque said it "stands fast with full support to the free people of Palestine, who have come to revive our self-confidence, lifeline, and a long-lost sense of aliveness".

It also criticised the global approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying the international community "adopts nothing but double standards when it comes to the Palestinian cause".

7 Oct 2023 - 21:54 (21:54 GMT)

### Saudi Arabia tells US it decries targeting of unarmed civilians

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has told his US counterpart, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, that his country rejects the targeting of unarmed civilians "in any way".

Prince Faisal bin Farhan also called for "concerted efforts to calm the situation and avoid further violence," the Saudi Arabian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Earlier, the Egyptian foreign ministry said it was talking with Saudi Arabia and

Jordan in an effort to defuse the continuing escalation.

You can read [here](#) a list of reactions from other countries on the ongoing war between Palestinian fighters and the Israeli military.

 **7 Oct 2023 - 21:41** (21:41 GMT)

### **Hamas says number of Israelis taken prisoner 'several times greater' than dozens**

The total number of Israelis captured by Hamas is “several times greater” than dozens, according to the military wing of Hamas.

A Hamas spokesman was responding to Israeli statements on those taken captive. Neither side has given a clear number.

The spokesman said those taken captive were spread throughout all areas of the Gaza Strip.

 **7 Oct 2023 - 21:30** (21:30 GMT)

### **Biden's statement 'greenlight' for Israel: Journalist**

Speaking to Al Jazeera, Ali Abunimah, the co-founder of the US-based Electronic Intifada website, said that Biden’s unequivocal support of Israel will likely lead to more violence in the coming days.

“We should take Joe Biden’s statements as a green light to Israel to perpetrate more of the kind of massacres that it has been carrying out against the Palestinian people now for almost 80 years with total impunity,” he said.

“What we’re seeing now is exactly what many of us have predicted, and it’s the inevitable result of granting impunity to a regime that has absolutely no respect for international law, for basic humanity, and for the rights of the Palestinian people,” he said, referring to US support for Israel.

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7 Oct 2023 - 21:26 (21:26 GMT)

## 2014 Gaza War: A recap of Israel's deadliest assault

While multiple Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip have occurred in the past 15 years, Israel's war in 2014 was by far the deadliest. Here is a short summary of the level of destruction that took place:

- More than 2,200 Palestinians – the vast majority civilians – and 71 Israelis, mostly soldiers, were killed over a seven-week period between July and August.
- At least 18,000 Palestinian homes were destroyed and 73 medical facilities severely damaged.
- Most of the destruction resulted from 6,000 Israeli air strikes on heavily populated areas.

You can view the timeline of past Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since 2008 [here](#).



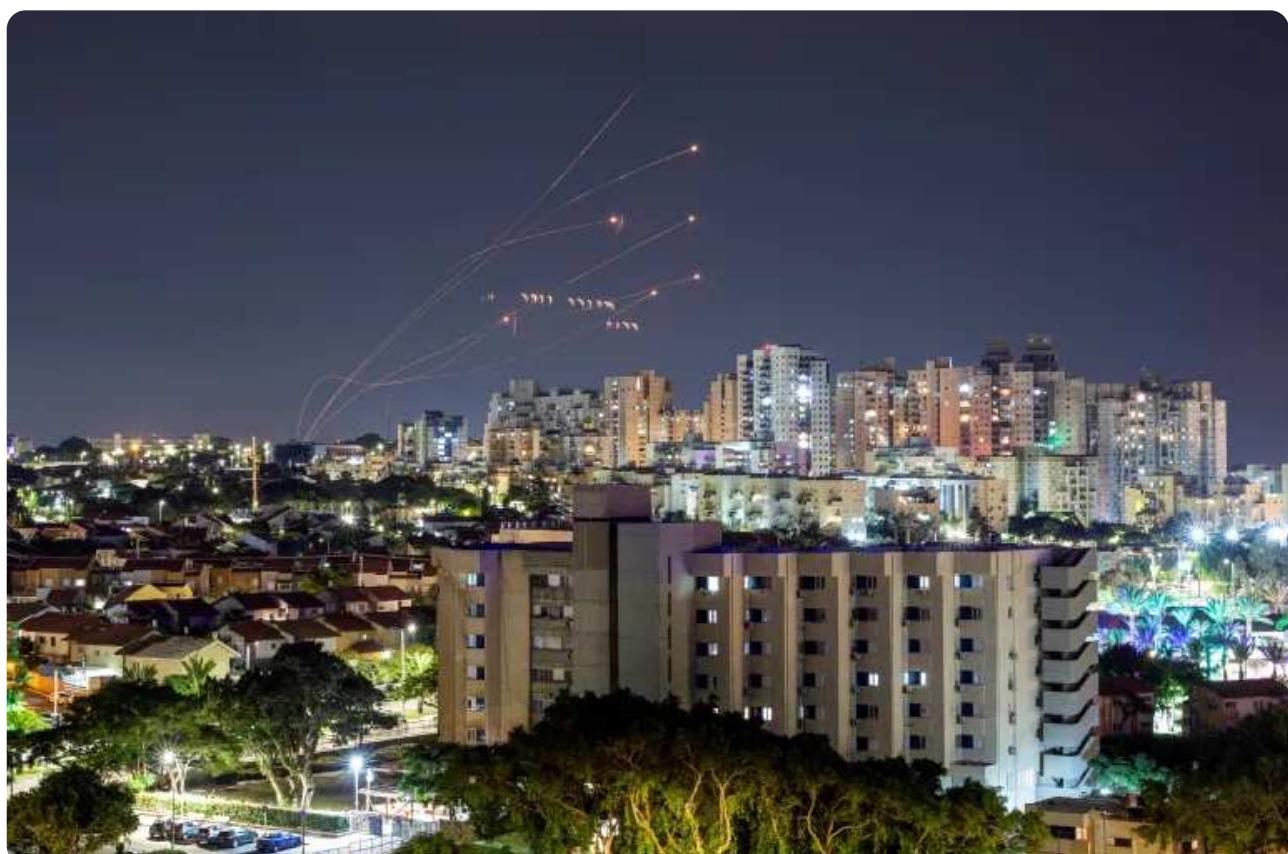
A Palestinian woman passes by rescuers following Israeli strikes in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, in August 2014 [Khalil Hamra/AP]

7 Oct 2023 - 21:15 (21:15 GMT)

### UNICEF chief says monitoring for rights violations against children

The head of UNICEF, the UN children's agency, has said she is "deeply concerned for the wellbeing of children in Israel and the State of Palestine".

"With hundreds of civilians reportedly killed or injured, we are closely monitoring the situation for reports of grave rights violations committed against children," Catherine Russell said in a statement.



Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepts rockets launched from the Gaza [Amir Cohen/Reuters]

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

# Israel-Gaza Conflict

## Air-Raid Sirens in Israel Warn of Continued Strikes on Sunday

More than 450 people have been killed, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate and turn Hamas strongholds “into rubble.”

Published Oct. 7, 2023 Updated May 5, 2025

*Follow here for the latest on the fighting in Israel and Gaza.*

Pin Pinned



Patrick Kingsley and Isabel Kershner Reporting from Jerusalem



### ‘We are at war,’ Netanyahu says after Hamas attacks Israel.



A fire burning after a rocket attack on Saturday in Ashkelon, Israel. Amir Cohen/Reuters

Israel battled on Saturday to repel one of the broadest invasions of its territory in 50 years after Palestinian militants from Gaza launched an early-morning assault

on southern Israel, infiltrating 22 Israeli towns and army bases, kidnapping Israeli civilians and soldiers and firing thousands of rockets toward cities as far away as Jerusalem.

By early evening, the Israeli military said fighting continued in at least five places in southern Israel; multiple Israelis had been abducted and taken to Gaza, including an elderly grandmother; and at least 250 Israelis had been reported dead by officials and more than 1,400 wounded. Israel retaliated with huge strikes on Gazan cities, and the Gaza Health Ministry said at least 234 Palestinians had been killed in either gun battles or airstrikes.

In an assault without recent precedent in its complexity and scale, the militants crossed into Israel by land, sea and air, according to the Israeli military, leading to some of the first pitched battles between Israeli and Arab forces on Israeli soil in decades.



Rockets were fired from Gaza toward Israel on Saturday morning. Samar Abu Elouf for The New York Times

Unverified video footage, circulated by Hamas, the Iran-backed militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, appeared to show some Palestinian gunmen arriving in Israel in a sort of makeshift hang glider.

Residents of Israeli border towns told broadcasters that gunmen were moving door to door, looking for civilians. Unverified footage appeared to show Palestinian fighters transporting captured Israeli civilians and bodies through the strip — to be bargained, analysts said, for Palestinian prisoners.

In Sderot, a southern city, photographs showed dead bodies strewn on the streets. The militants also targeted an all-night dance festival in the desert, prompting hundreds of young Israelis to sprint for safety.

“We are at war and we will win it,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said in a televised statement, announcing a call-up of hundreds of thousands of Israeli military reservists.

Muhammad Deif, the leader of Hamas’s military wing, said in a recorded message that the group had decided to launch an “operation” so that “the enemy will understand that the time of their rampaging without accountability has ended.” He cited Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, which it captured during the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, recent Israeli police raids on the Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem and the detention of thousands of Palestinian militants in Israeli jails.

The potential role of Iran in the operation drew scrutiny in Israel as the violence spread to other parts of the region. In addition to Hamas, Tehran backs another Palestinian militant group, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group, providing all of them with weaponry and intelligence.

Hamas leaders called for Arabs living in Israel and the West Bank to seize the momentum created by the assault and carry out their own attacks on Israelis. Three Palestinians died in clashes on Saturday with Israeli security forces in the West Bank, according to Palestinian officials.

United Nations peacekeepers said they were bolstering their activity on Israel’s border with southern Lebanon, where Hezbollah holds sway, particularly after a skirmish with Israeli troops along the border on Saturday.



Damaged and destroyed cars in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Ashkelon. Tamir Kalifa for The New York Times

The timing of the assault was striking, hitting Israel at one of the most difficult moments in its history. It followed months of profound anxiety about the cohesion of Israeli society and the readiness of its military, a crisis set off by the far-right government's efforts to reduce the power of the judiciary.

And the violence came 50 years and a day after the Yom Kippur War of 1973, when Israel was also surprised by an Arab attack on multiple fronts, leading to huge Israeli losses and soul-searching about the state of the country.

The shock of the attack appeared to rekindle a sense of unity among Israelis, as government critics who had resigned from reserve duty in protest of the judicial plan announced they would return to service in Israel's hour of need. Yair Lapid, the centrist leader of the opposition, announced he was prepared to join a government of national unity — a move that would potentially postpone any further judicial changes and allow Mr. Netanyahu to end his alliance with the far right.

The attack also coincided with Israel's escalating efforts to seal a landmark peace deal with Saudi Arabia, which has never recognized the Jewish state out of solidarity with the Palestinians, but had seemed ready to change its policy. It was not immediately clear how the normalization effort would be affected. The Saudi government issued a statement of concern about the situation and called for a cessation of hostilities.

Mr. Netanyahu spoke with President Biden by phone on Saturday afternoon, his office said, telling Mr. Biden that “a forceful and continued battle will be required, in which Israel will triumph.” In his own statement, Mr. Biden said that “the United States unequivocally condemns this appalling assault against Israel” and that “Israel has a right to defend itself and its people.”

The ease with which Palestinian fighters entered Israel prompted recriminations and anger among Israelis. There were questions about the quality of Israeli intelligence gathering, normally a point of Israeli pride, and suggestions that the Israeli military — which has focused its recent activity on quelling an insurgency in the West Bank — had misdirected its energies.

Breaking through the Israel-Gaza border fence into Israel on Saturday. Mohammed Fayeq Abu Mostafa/Reuters

Fighting often flares between Israel and Hamas, which refuses to recognize Israel’s existence and regularly organizes attacks on Israelis.

After Hamas — listed as a terrorist group by the United States — seized control of Gaza in 2007 from more moderate Palestinian factions, Israel and Egypt placed the enclave under a blockade, deepening the dire humanitarian situation there. Unemployment is close to 50 percent in the Gaza Strip, and only 10 percent of Gazans have direct access to clean water, according to UNICEF.

Hamas militants have occasionally broken out of Gaza, which is surrounded by both walls and fences, as well as subterranean fortifications to prevent tunneling into Israel. But they have never penetrated so deep into Israeli territory, for so long or in so many places. Militants are believed to have captured the remains of two Israeli soldiers during the 2014 war with Israel and held an Israeli soldier hostage for five years until 2011, when he was released in a prisoner swap.

The scale of the latest Palestinian attack shocked Israelis, many of whom were observing the Jewish Sabbath. Diplomats and analysts, too, were caught off guard. They had expected the Gaza front to remain quiet for the foreseeable future, after international mediators appeared to have persuaded Hamas to end a recent weekslong series of riots and protests on the border with Israel.

A woman running to the reinforced concrete shelter in her home in Ashkelon as a rocket siren sounded on Saturday. Tamir Kalifa for The New York Times

In recent months, Israel had been allowing up to 18,000 workers to cross daily from Gaza into Israel, helping Gaza’s economy and adding to a general sense that calm would prevail.

Hamas’s rocket arsenal was considered to be its primary weapon because the



▶ Footage shows moments after airstrike hit civilian convoy fleeing northern Gaza – video

## Gaza

⌚ This article is more than 1 year old

# Gaza civilians afraid to leave home after bombing of 'safe routes'

Analysis of aerial photos and social media posts confirms attack on road identified as safe by Israeli army

● [Israel and Hamas at war - live updates](#)

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**Bethan McKernan and Sufian Taha in Jerusalem**

Sun 15 Oct 2023 20.04 AEDT

A convoy of vehicles carrying fleeing civilians in Gaza that was hit by a deadly airstrike was travelling on one of the two roads identified by the Israeli army as “safe routes” to the southern half of the strip, according to analysis.

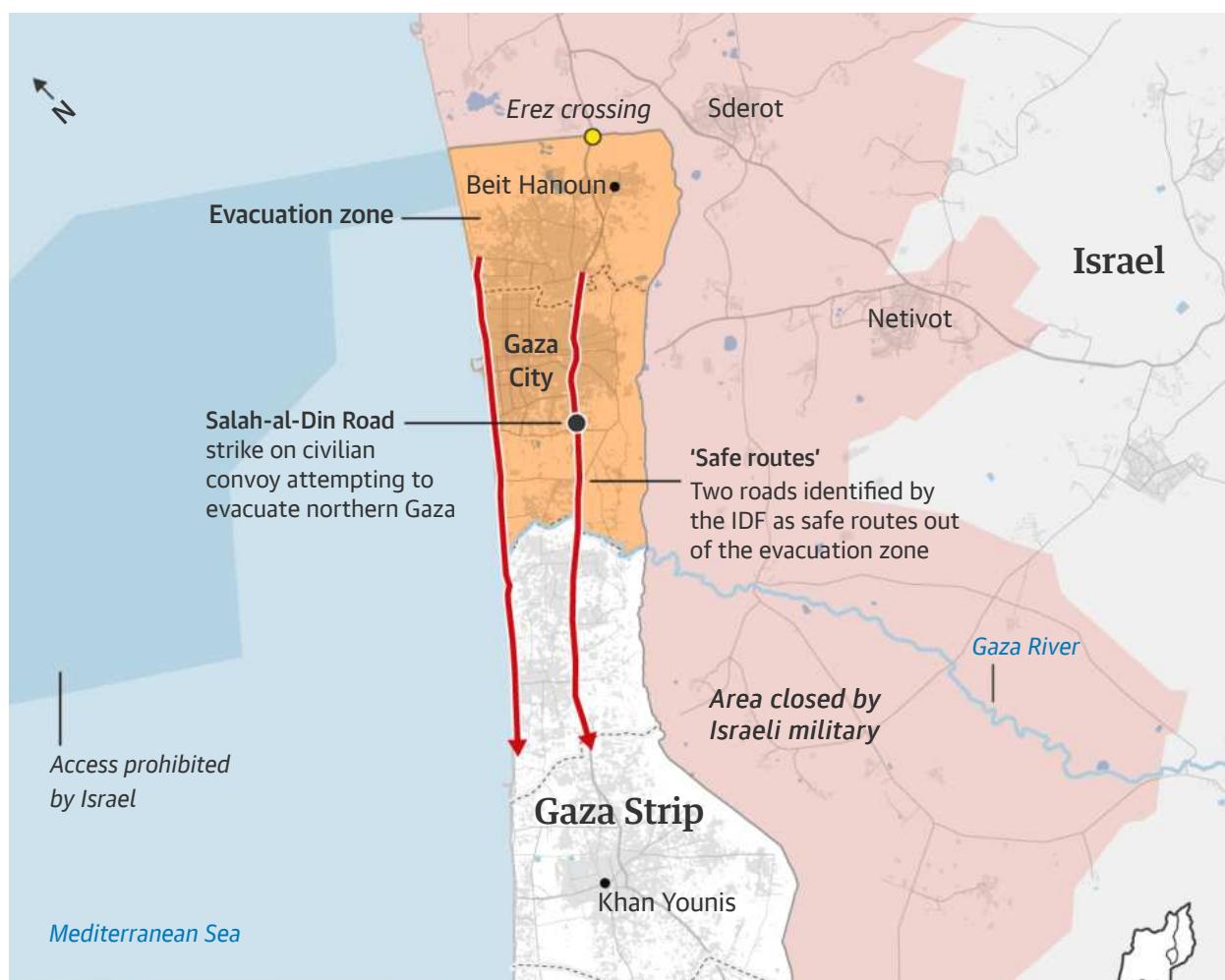
The Friday afternoon bombing in **Gaza** City, which killed a reported 70 people, including children, occurred on Salah-al-Din Road, a main thoroughfare in the overcrowded territory, home to a trapped population of 2.3 million people.

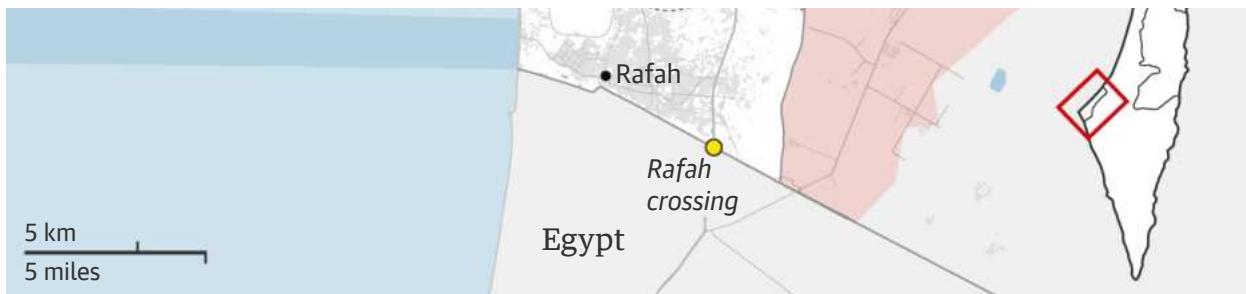
The Forensic Architecture investigative unit at the Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq used aerial photos and social media posts to geolocate the site of the strike, sharing its findings with the Guardian. The BBC’s Verify unit came to the same conclusion.

The warring parties blamed each other for the attack. **Hamas**, the militant group in control of the Gaza Strip, said it had been carried out by Israel. In a briefing on Sunday, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) denied Israeli munitions had hit the convoy.

Video and pictures of the aftermath of the attack show 12 dead bodies, most of whom are women and children, the youngest about two years old, and several damaged vehicles.

## Evacuation of northern Gaza





Guardian graphic. Source: IDF, OpenStreetMap

The Palestinian health ministry said 70 people were killed on the road, which was filled with traffic as Palestinians tried to adhere to Israeli orders given early on Friday to evacuate the northern half of Gaza.

Shadows and the position of the sun suggest the attack on the civilian convoy occurred at about 5.30pm. At 6.03pm, in social media posts, the IDF identified the exact same road in an infographic as the safe route to follow the Israeli evacuation directive for about half of the strip's population to travel south of the Gaza River, which is just south of Gaza City.

Conflicting timeframes for safe passage communicated by the IDF, and the bombing of Salah al-Din Road, a supposedly safe route, have led many people still in northern Gaza to conclude it is not safe to leave their homes.

The IDF declined to comment on the specifics of the incident on Friday. It said: “The IDF follows international law and takes feasible precautions to mitigate civilian harm, including specific actions taken yesterday and today to urge civilians to relocate towards southern Gaza.”



People rushed to hospital after Israeli airstrike hits convoy of people fleeing Gaza – video

Israel has also blamed Hamas, the militant group that controls the strip, for

**LIVE:****Trump administration****Deadly Texas floods****TSA shoes policy****'Superman' review****Amanda Anisimova**

WORLD NEWS

# After blast kills hundreds at Gaza hospital, Hamas and Israel trade blame as rage spreads in region



1 of 25 | Wounded Palestinians wait for treatment in al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, central Gaza Strip, after arriving from al-Ahli hospital following an explosion there, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. The Hamas-run Health Ministry says an Israeli air

[Read More](#)**BY NAJIB JOBAIN, SAMYA KULLAB, RAVI NESSMAN AND MATTHEW LEE**

Updated 2:18 PM GMT+10, October 18, 2023

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — A massive blast rocked a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter Tuesday, killing hundreds of people, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said. Hamas blamed an Israeli airstrike, while the Israeli military blamed a rocket misfired by other Palestinian militants.

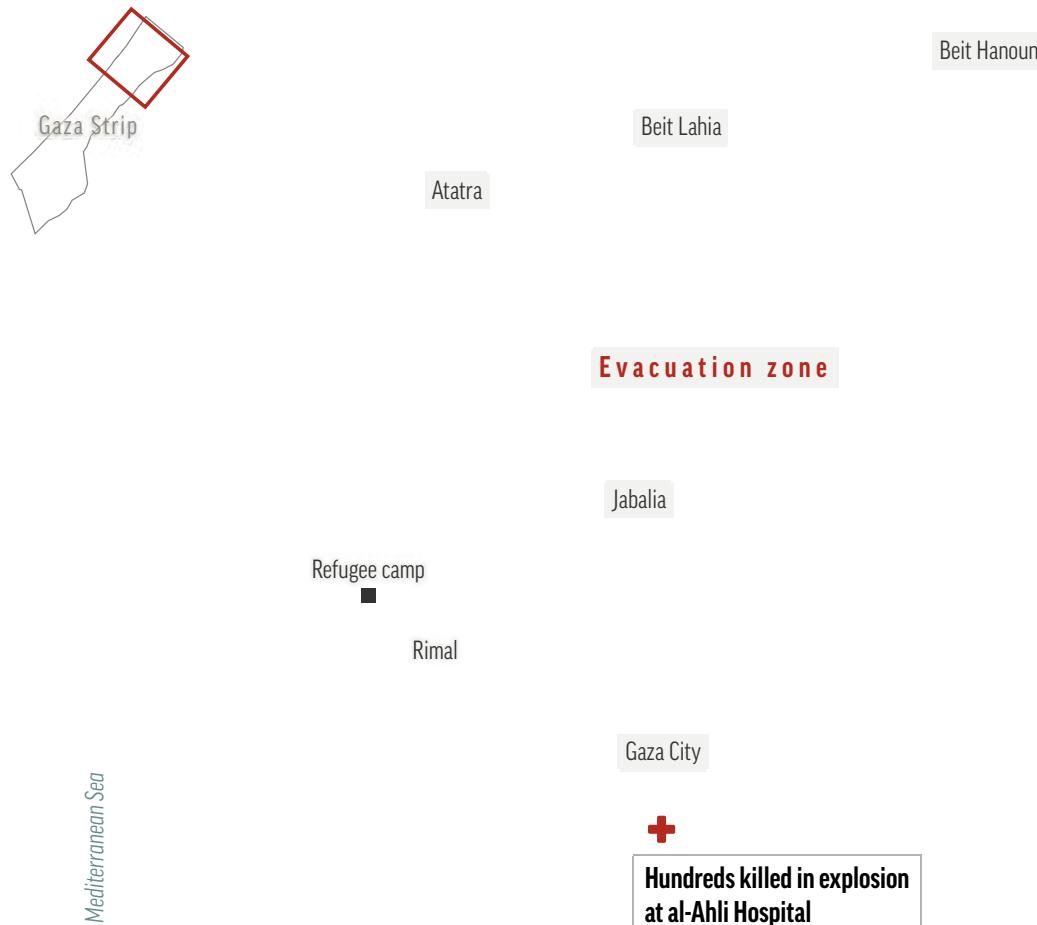
At least 500 people were killed, the ministry said.

As rage spread through the region because of the hospital carnage, and with [President Joe Biden heading to the Mideast](#) in hopes of stopping the war from spreading, Jordan's foreign minister said his country canceled a regional summit scheduled for Wednesday in Amman, where Biden was to meet with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

The war between Israel and Hamas was “pushing the region to the brink,” Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told state-run television. He said Jordan would host the summit only when everyone had agreed its purpose would be to “stop the war, respect the humanity of the Palestinians and deliver the aid they deserve.”

## Hundreds dead in Gaza hospital blast

The Hamas-run Health Ministry says an Israeli airstrike killed hundreds at a Gaza hospital. The Israeli military says it was a misfired Palestinian rocket.



Biden will now visit only Israel, a White House official said.

The explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital left gruesome scenes. Video that The Associated Press confirmed was from the hospital showed fire engulfing the building and the hospital grounds strewn with torn bodies, many of them young children. The grass around them was strewn with blankets, school backpacks and other belongings.

The bloodshed unfolded as the U.S. tried to convince Israel to allow the delivery of supplies to desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals in the tiny Gaza Strip, which has been under a complete siege since Hamas' deadly rampage in southern Israel last week. Hundreds of thousands of increasingly desperate people were searching for bread [and water](#).

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**ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: READ MORE**



**Live updates: Current US assessment is Israel was ‘not responsible’ for Gaza hospital blast, White House says**



**Biden didn’t make Israeli-Palestinian talks a priority. Arab leaders say region now paying the price**



## **UN Security Council rejects Russia's resolution on Gaza that fails to mention Hamas**

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike.

The Israeli military blamed Islamic Jihad, a smaller, more radical Palestinian militant group that often works with Hamas. The military said Islamic Jihad militants had fired a barrage of rockets near the hospital and that "intelligence from multiple sources" indicated the group was responsible.

In a briefing with reporters, the chief army spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the army determined there were no air force, ground or naval attacks in the area at the time of the blast. He said radar detected outgoing rocket fire at the same moment, and intercepted communications between militant groups indicated that Islamic Jihad fired the rockets.

Hagari also shared aerial footage collected by a military drone that showed a blast that he said was inconsistent with Israeli weaponry. He said the explosion occurred in the building's parking lot, and he noted that the death toll could not be confirmed.



Palestinians flee Israeli bombardment of Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Hatem Ali)



Palestinians look for survivors in buildings destroyed by Israeli airstrikes in Deir el-Balah, southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Hassan Eslaiyah)

Since the war began, the military said in a statement that roughly 450 rockets fired at Israel by militant groups had landed in Gaza, “endangering and harming the lives of Gazan residents.”

Islamic Jihad dismissed those claims, accusing Israel of “trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed.”

The group pointed to Israel’s order that Al-Ahli be evacuated and its previous bombing of the hospital complex as proof that the hospital was an Israeli target. It also said the scale of the explosion, the angle of the bomb’s fall and the extent of the destruction all pointed to Israel.

Hundreds of Palestinians had taken refuge in al-Ahli and other hospitals in Gaza City in past days, hoping they would be spared bombardment after Israel ordered all residents of the city and surrounding areas to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

Ambulances and private cars rushed some 350 casualties from the al-Ahli blast to Gaza City’s main hospital, al-Shifa, which was already overwhelmed with wounded from other strikes, said its director, Mohammed Abu Selmia. The wounded were laid onto bloody floors, screaming in pain.



Israeli soldiers gather in a staging area near the border with Gaza Strip, in southern Israel Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)



Mourners gather around the five coffins of the Kotz family during their funeral in Gan Yavne, Israel, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg)

"We need equipment, we need medicine, we need beds, we need anesthesia, we need everything," Abu Selmia said. He warned that fuel for the hospital's generators would run out within hours.

Before the al-Alhi Hospital deaths, Israeli strikes on Gaza killed at least 2,778 people and wounded 9,700, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, and nearly two-thirds of those killed were children. Another 1,200 people across Gaza are [believed to be buried under the rubble](#), alive or dead, health authorities said.

More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, mostly civilians who were slain in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. The assault also resulted in some 200 being taken captive into Gaza. Hamas militants in Gaza have launched rockets every day since, aiming at cities across Israel.

Hundreds of Palestinians flooded the streets of major West Bank cities including Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority, where protesters hurled stones at Palestinian security forces who fired back with stun grenades. Others threw stones at Israeli checkpoints, where soldiers killed one Palestinian, West Bank authorities said.

Elsewhere, hundreds of people joined protests that erupted in Beirut, Iraq and Amman, where an angry crowd gathered outside the Israeli Embassy.

In Amman, a palace statement said Jordan's king condemned "the ugly massacre perpetrated by Israel against innocent civilians."

The king “warned that this war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster,” the statement said.

With tens of thousands of troops massed along the border, Israel has been expected to launch a ground invasion into Gaza, but its plans remained uncertain.

“We are preparing for the next stages of war,” military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said. “We haven’t said what they will be. Everybody’s talking about a ground offensive. It might be something different.”

Throughout the day Tuesday, airstrikes [killed dozens of civilians](#) and at least one senior Hamas figure in the southern half of the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli military told fleeing Palestinians to go. An Associated Press reporter saw around 50 bodies brought to Nasser Hospital after strikes in the southern city of Khan Younis.

The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas hideouts, infrastructure and command centers.

An airstrike in Deir al Balah reduced a house to rubble, killing a man and 11 women and children inside and in a neighboring house, some of whom had evacuated from Gaza City. Witnesses said there was no warning before the strike.

Shelling from Israeli tanks hit a U.N. school in central Gaza where 4,000 Palestinians had taken refuge, killing six people and wounding dozens, the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency said. At least 24 U.N. installations have been hit the past week, killing at least 14 members of the agency’s staff.

A barrage of strikes crashed into the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, leveling an entire block of homes and causing dozens of casualties, residents said. Among those killed was one of Hamas’ top military commanders, Ayman Nofal, the group’s military wing said. He is the highest-profile militant to have been killed in the war.

In Gaza City, Israeli airstrikes also hit the house of Hamas’ top political official, Ismail Haniyeh, killing at least 14 people. Haniyeh is based in Doha, Qatar, but his family lives in Gaza City. The Hamas media office did not immediately identify those killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to put the blame on Hamas for Israel’s retaliatory attacks and the rising civilian casualties in Gaza. “Not only is it targeting and murdering civilians with unprecedented savagery, it’s hiding behind civilians,” he said.

With Israel barring entry of most water, fuel and food into Gaza since [Hamas’ brutal attack](#), U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken secured an agreement with Netanyahu to discuss creation of a mechanism for delivering aid to the territory’s 2.3 million people. U.S. officials said the gain might appear modest, but stressed that it was a significant step forward.

Still, as of late Tuesday, there was no deal in place. A top Israeli official said his country was demanding guarantees that Hamas militants would not seize any aid deliveries. Tzahi Hanegbi, head of Israel’s National Security Council, suggested entry of aid also depended on the return of [hostages](#).



▶◀ Australian aid worker killed by Israeli airstrike in Gaza – video

## Australia news

● This article is more than **1 year old**

# Zomi Frankcom's family say Australian aid worker killed in Israeli airstrike was 'doing the work she loves'

PM Anthony Albanese describes 43-year-old's death as 'completely unacceptable' as tributes flow for World Central Kitchen worker online

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## Ben Doherty

Tue 2 Apr 2024 23.15 AEDT

1:09

Lalzawmi Frankcom, the Australian aid worker killed by an Israeli military airstrike in Gaza, died “doing the work she loves”, her grieving family has said.

“We are deeply mourning the news that our brave and beloved Zomi has been killed doing the work she loves, delivering food to the people of Gaza,” her family said in a statement. “She will leave behind a legacy of compassion, bravery and love for all those in her orbit.”

The Melbourne-born 43-year-old “was a kind, selfless and outstanding human being [who] travelled the world helping others in their time of need”, her family said.

In late March, Frankcom appeared in a video filmed at Deir al-Balah talking about the meals being prepared for Palestinians trapped in the Gaza Strip.

World Central Kitchen

@WCKitchen · [Follow](#)

WCK's Zomi & Chef Oli are in our new Deir al-Balah kitchen where our team is cooking thousands of portions of rice with beef & vegetable stew today. We're expanding this space so we can increase the amount of meals we produce for families in central Gaza daily.

#ChefsForThePeople

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A week later, she, along with six international and Palestinian colleagues, would die in that same besieged neighbourhood of central Gaza.

They were **killed by an Israeli airstrike** fired on their convoy south of Deir al-Balah late on Monday. Medical officials said the group had been helping to deliver food and other supplies to northern Gaza that had arrived hours earlier by ship.

“This is an attack on humanitarian organisations showing up in the most dire of situations where food is being used as a weapon of war. This is unforgivable,” World Central Kitchen chief executive officer Erin Gore said

chief executive officer Emile Saad.

Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, has described Frankcom's death, alongside those of her colleagues, as "completely unacceptable", saying they were undertaking "extraordinarily important work" and should have been protected.



■ Israeli strike kills aid workers from the UK, Poland and Australia, say Gaza officials – video

"Those doing humanitarian work and civilians need to be provided with protection. Australia has had a very clear position of supporting a sustainable ceasefire ... Australians want to see an end to this conflict," he said.

"This news today is tragic. Dfat have also requested a call-in from the Israeli ambassador as well. We want full accountability for this. This is a tragedy that should never have occurred."

In a television interview on the ABC on Tuesday night, Albanese said the Australian government had so far been unable to speak with the Israeli ambassador or other top officials.

"There have been calls put in by the foreign minister (Penny Wong) to her counterpart and I have put in a request to prime minister Netanyahu to speak with him directly," Albanese said.

The Australian foreign minister, Penny Wong, said: "The tributes flowing for Lalzawmi 'Zomi' Frankcom tell the story of a life dedicated to the service of others, including her fellow Australians during natural disasters.

"Her tireless work to improve the lives of others should never have cost Ms Frankcom her own. The government expresses its deepest sympathies to her family and loved ones, just as we mourn all civilian deaths in this conflict."

The Israeli embassy in Canberra has been approached for a response to Albanese's comments, including the decision to call in the ambassador.

Earlier, the embassy distributed a statement from the IDF saying that the military was

“conducting a thorough review at the highest levels to understand the circumstances of this tragic incident”. The IDF said it made “extensive efforts to enable the safe delivery of humanitarian aid”.

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Frankcom had worked with World Central Kitchen for five years, having been previously based in Bangkok and the US.

She had formerly worked at the Commonwealth Bank for more than eight years.

Frankcom was educated at St George girls high school in Kogarah in southern Sydney, graduating in 1998, before studying a bachelor of psychological science at Melbourne’s Swinburne University of Technology.



Passports of the World Central Kitchen aid workers who were killed in Deir al-Balah, including that of Zomi Frankcom. Photograph: Anadolu/Getty Images

Friends have paid tribute to the aid worker online.

Karuna Bajracharya posted on Facebook: “Rest in peace our beautiful sister.

“Zomi risked her life many times to help those in dire need, yet our cowardly politicians don’t even dare to risk their own careers by speaking up against Israel and the USA’s six months of genocide!”

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Fahad Ali said: “We will never forget her name or her sacrifice.”

The human rights campaigner Sophie McNeill, a former ABC Middle East correspondent, said: “People like Zomi are absolute heroes.”

“Rushing in to help as Gazans are being starved, while our leaders provide cover for these Israeli crimes.”

Author Martin Flanagan paid tribute to her “spirit of giving”.

“Zomi Frankcom was the best of us.”

Tim Costello, former World Vision chief, paid tribute to aid workers who risked their lives in conflict zones.

“It’s a special type of person who actually says: ‘I’m going to serve others in this way, I’m going to risk my own life to actually protect the innocent’.”

Costello described the deaths of aid workers as a “bridge that we have crossed”.

“We know [foreign aid] is inherently risky ... we know that aid workers take risks. They don’t take rifles, they don’t take tanks. All they have is a logo, and a flag, and the confidence that the international system respects humanitarian workers.”

“That’s why this is utterly, utterly devastating.”

He said the attack was further demonstration that a ceasefire was necessary in Gaza.

“There needs to be a ceasefire for humanitarian aid to get in ... I think that’s the only good thing that can come out of this terrible tragedy,” he said.

“We are all asking, ‘when is there going to be a tipping point?’ We all know Israel has a right to defend itself but to actually call for a ceasefire is not denying Israel’s right to defend itself, let alone [that] calling for a ceasefire is somehow antisemitic.”

The Australian Council for International Development said Frankcom died during “heroic work”.

“It is truly tragic that an Australian aid worker, working to provide food to starving civilians, has been killed in this fashion,” Acfid chief executive Marc Purcell said.

“Humanitarian workers in conflict zones should be ensured safety by combatants to carry out life-saving responses.”

Purcell said the Australian government should press the Israeli government to cease attacks on aid convoys and allow the safe land passage of humanitarian assistance.



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# Special Adviser Public Report on The Government of

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# **Israel's Response to the IDF Attack on World Central Kitchen Aid Workers in Gaza on Monday 1 April 2024**

## **Executive Summary**

On 1 April 2024, Ms Zomi Frankcom, an Australian national, was killed by an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) strike in Gaza while supporting a World Central Kitchen (WCK) aid delivery.

On 8 April 2024, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, appointed Air Chief Marshal, Mark Binskin, as the Special Adviser to the Australian Government on Israel's response to the IDF strikes on WCK.

The objective of this appointment was to advise on the sufficiency and appropriateness of measures taken by Israel to transparently investigate, report and respond to the events leading to the deaths of Ms Frankcom and her colleagues, including holding those responsible to account.

The Special Adviser's Report was made public on 2 August 2024.

## **Download the Report**

- [Special Adviser Public Report on The Government of Israel's Response to the IDF Attack on World Central Kitchen Aid Workers in Gaza on Monday 1 April 2024 \[DOCX 43 KB\]](#) (/)

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## Relevant links

- Foreign Minister's Statement – [Death of Lalzawmi 'Zomi' Frankcom](#) (<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/death-lalzawmi-zomi-frankcom>) (2 April 2024)
- Media Release - [Appointment of Special Adviser](#) (<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/appointment-special-adviser>) (8 April 2024)
- [Special Adviser report on Israel's response to the IDF strikes against World Central Kitchen](#) (<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/penny-wong/media-release/special-adviser-report-israels-response-idf-strikes-against-world-central-kitchen>) (2 August 2024)

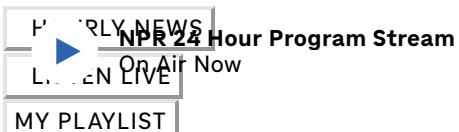
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## Middle East conflict

# Israel declares ceasefire 'over' as it launches airstrikes in Gaza killing hundreds

UPDATED MARCH 18, 2025 · 1:49 PM ET

By Anas Baba, Daniel Estrin, Kat Lonsdorf



A woman cries while sitting on the rubble of her house, destroyed in an Israeli strike, in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

*Eyad Baba/AFP via Getty Images*

GAZA CITY, Gaza and TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel has declared the ceasefire in Gaza over, with a surprise wave of devastating airstrikes in Gaza Tuesday. The barrage killed more than 400 people including many women and children, and injured at least 500, according to Gaza health officials.

"Israel is returning to intensified fighting in Gaza," according to an internal Israeli government memo obtained by NPR. The new offensive is dubbed "Operation Strength and Sword."

**MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT****Why are the Israel-Hamas ceasefire talks stuck? An explainer on the latest**

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the attacks targeted Hamas and were launched because the group was refusing to accept terms proposed by the U.S. for the release of more hostages captured in the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel. Hamas offered a counterproposal which the U.S. and Israel rejected.

The Israeli strikes come days after Israeli negotiators returned from a round of talks in Egypt aimed at reaching a new deal for releasing hostages and jumpstarting discussions on a permanent end of war. "If Hamas does not release all the hostages, the gates of hell will open in Gaza," Katz said in a statement.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim, based in Qatar, said mediators had not presented Hamas with any new framework to return to a ceasefire since Israel's offensive began Tuesday.

Naim told NPR the U.S. must "intervene immediately to stop this aggression" and called on Israel to adhere to an earlier agreement reached in January for the sides to enter talks for a permanent end of the war.

Hamas said five of its senior officials — serving midlevel leadership roles in the Hamas-run government in Gaza — were killed in the strikes along with their families. Israel is focusing on midranking militant commanders and leadership officials to degrade Hamas' ability to build up its forces and rearm, according to an Israeli official, who did not have authorization to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Source: Anas Baba/NPR Credit: Anas Baba/NPR

At Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, scores of bodies were laid out in the hospital courtyard. A man cradled the body of his 2-year-old daughter in a pink T-shirt with the word "love" written on it, trying to open her eyes.

"We never expected the war to return," said Ibrahim Deeb, who said 35 members of his family were killed in a strike on their home in a neighborhood of Gaza City.



#### MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

#### **What went wrong? Israel's spy agency lists failures in preventing Oct. 7 attack**

Hamas said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government had "decided to overturn the ceasefire agreement" and said it was exposing Israeli hostages in Gaza "to an unknown fate."

A group representing the families of Israeli hostages rallied in Jerusalem in protest, accusing the Israeli government of endangering the hostages. Israel says 24 hostages are still being held alive there and that Hamas is also holding the bodies of 35 hostages.

"Netanyahu has decided to murder our hostages!" wrote Einav Tsangouker, the mother of a hostage in Gaza and a vocal critic of the Israeli prime minister, in a Facebook post.

## Israel says it approved the surprise plan last weekend

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told Fox News that the Trump administration had been consulted by the Israelis about the strikes.

"As President Trump has made it clear, Hamas, the Houthis, Iran, all those who seek to terrorize not just Israel, but also the United States of America, will see a price to pay. All hell will break loose," Leavitt said.

For weeks, Israeli officials had been publicly warning they were preparing plans to resume war in Gaza should ceasefire talks break down. The latest assault plans were presented by Israeli military officials to the government over the past weekend, Netanyahu's office said.



People gather at Ahli Arab hospital, also known as the Baptist hospital, to mourn and bid farewell to the bodies of victims killed in Israeli bombardment, in Gaza City on Tuesday. Israel unleashed its most intense strikes on the Gaza Strip since a January ceasefire with Israel saying it was targeting Hamas fighters.

Omar Al-Qattaa/AFP via Getty Images

In a statement posted on social media, the Israeli military ordered Palestinian residents from several neighborhoods to evacuate immediately, saying that Israel has "launched a strong offensive against terrorist organizations."

## Mediators were still working on a ceasefire proposal

In mid-January, Israel and Hamas agreed to an initial phase of six weeks in which

Hamas released 33 of its hostages, both living and dead. In return, Israel released close to 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees who had been held in Israeli prisons.

That phase ended at the beginning of March, but the second phase, in which talks designed to end the war were due to begin, did not start because Israel demanded more hostages be released before entering end-of-war talks. Israel began blocking food, fuel, electricity, aid and medical supplies to Gaza to pressure Hamas to accept. That blockade has continued and is entering its third week.

Last week, President Trump's Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff proposed that Hamas would release around half of the remaining hostages in exchange for an extension of the ceasefire and a resumption of aid to Gaza, during which talks would start for a permanent end of the war. Hamas said it would release one dual American-Israeli hostage if talks toward a permanent end of war began immediately.

### **A hospital in Gaza City is flooded with bodies, including of young children**

In Gaza City, in the north, families carried the bodies of the dead and wounded, many wrapped in winter blankets to shield them from the cold, to the Al-Ahli hospital, the only fully functioning hospital in the north. In the courtyard of the hospital, the scene was heavy and chaotic, with bodies covering the floor and relatives weeping over them.

Some families said they pulled the bodies out of the rubble and drove them to the hospital morgue. Some were rushing to drive the bodies of their relatives to a cemetery to bury them.

Many said they were shocked by the sudden and violent return of war.

Suleiman Graiga says he was asleep with his wife in the nearby Shijaiyah neighborhood when they awoke to the sound of shelling in the area. He says he thought it was a bad dream at first.

But then an airstrike hit the house next door – which he says was full of his family members, and was destroyed. He thinks more than a dozen of his family members were killed.

"I expected the ceasefire to continue and for things to get better, and then we had this surprise," he says. "We have no family anymore, we have become extinct."

He begged for the world to intervene.

*NPR's Anas Baba reported from Gaza City, and Daniel Estrin and Kat Lonsdorf*



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**Law (Australia)**

## Protest at Sydney synagogue wasn't targeting 'religious event' but Israel Defense Forces speaker, court told

NSW Labor's anti-protest laws protecting places of worship have 'chilling effect' on democracy, Palestine Action Group barrister tells supreme court

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**Jordyn Beazley**

Thu 19 Jun 2025 17.32 AEST

A protest outside a Sydney synagogue - which was the "catalyst" for the New South Wales government **introducing anti-protest laws** designed to curb antisemitism - was targeting an event where a member of the Israel Defense Forces was speaking, a court has been told during a constitutional challenge.

The Palestine Action Group is challenging in the NSW supreme court the Minns Labor government's controversial laws giving police broad powers to restrict protests.

The group's barrister on Thursday said the protest outside the Great Synagogue in early December 2024 "was not a religious event". It "was a political event being held at the synagogue, a Technion event ... at which an Israel Defense Forces member was speaking," Felicity Graham told the court.

The **challenge is against expanded police powers in laws that make it an offence** to hinder someone from entering or leaving a place of worship, or cause obstruction, harassment, intimidation or fear near places of worship.

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The laws were **part of a suite of reforms** passed in February after a wave of antisemitic attacks over the summer, which included a caravan being found laden with explosives on the outskirts of Sydney.

Two weeks after **the legislation** was passed, the Australian federal police revealed their belief that the caravan and antisemitic attacks were a "con job" by organised crime to divert police resources and influence prosecutions.

Josh Lees filed the challenge on behalf of the Palestine Action Group **after the revelations**.

Separately, a parliamentary inquiry - supported by the Coalition, the Greens and members of the crossbench - **was launched** into what the premier, Chris Minns, and his senior cabinet ministers knew about the attacks before passing the legislation.

On Thursday in court, Graham referred to comments made by one of NSW Labor's own MPs, Stephen Lawrence, during **a February debate over the places of worship bill**. Lawrence told parliament that the synagogue protest being the catalyst showed the "clear intention of the bill" was not what the government claimed.

In the same debate, Labor MP Anthony D'Adam said the event "was put on by the Israel Institute of Technology and celebrated 100 years of that organisation".

D'Adam's comments weren't referred to in the supreme court but the MP told parliament at the time: "It was platforming a recently returned Israel Defense Forces member who was going to share their experiences of being on duty, presumably involved in the conflict in Gaza."

The prime minister, Anthony Albanese, said in December that "more recently, what we've seen is people [outside] the Great Synagogue ... why would you do that? I mean, what is in people's heads?"

"I know premier Minns has made comments about this and I certainly support his view."

### **"Near" is a broad and elastic term'**

The Palestine Action Group is arguing the places of worship law is constitutionally invalid because it "impermissibly burdens the implied [commonwealth] constitutional freedom of communication on government or political matters".

Craig Lenehan SC, also acting for the plaintiffs, told the court on Tuesday that the vagueness of the legislation's wording meant it had a "chilling effect" - because neither protesters nor police officers could determine the reach of the powers.

"People who would wish to make these communications are placed in an insidious position where they are potentially exposed to prosecution in a highly indeterminate way," Lenehan told the court.

The law does not apply to protests that have been approved by police via a form 1 application - which can take several days to process.

The court was told that the police would also have discretion over what "in or near" meant, given it was not defined in the legislation. That could expand police powers at a number of major protest sites in Sydney, including Town Hall and Hyde Park.

"There's a stark contrast between the word 'near' and the terms 'occurring at or outside,'" Graham said. "'Near' is a broad and elastic term."

Appearing for the state of NSW, Michael Sexton SC, argued that the laws had an "obvious and legitimate purpose" of protecting religious communities trying to access a place of worship from physical obstruction, physical or verbal harassment, intimidation or incitement to fear.

Sexton argued the "in or near" wording was confined to those instances and that such move on powers were "rationally connected to achieving the purpose of ensuring that people are free to practise their religion without being impeded or harassed"

Graham told the court it should reject the argument police powers were confined to instances where there was behaviour that constituted intimidation or harassment of worshippers because "it doesn't emerge from the text, context or purpose of the legislation".

The evidence was completed on Thursday and Justice Anna Mitchelmore reserved her decision.

## 'Definition of a fishing expedition'

On Friday, the parliamentary inquiry into the Dural caravan incident will be reopened after five staffers from the Minns government were summoned to appear after their refusal to do so.

The staffers include three people from Minn's office and two people from the office of the NSW police minister, Yasmin Catley.

However, Minns told reporters on Thursday that his staffers would not appear - despite the summons.

"One of the staff that's been asked to give evidence was on his honeymoon during this alleged period," he told reporters.

"My staff have appeared at upper house inquiries where we believe it's appropriate and relevant and they've got information to supply to the committee."

Minns said that the inquiry was the "definition of a fishing expedition" and that it was based on a "conspiracy theory" that parliament was misled.

"I think that there's a lot of games being played by the Legislative Council," he said.

"I honestly think that it may be some kind of an attempt to say to young people, well, maybe you shouldn't think about a career in the NSW government, because you could be liable to one of these inquiries."

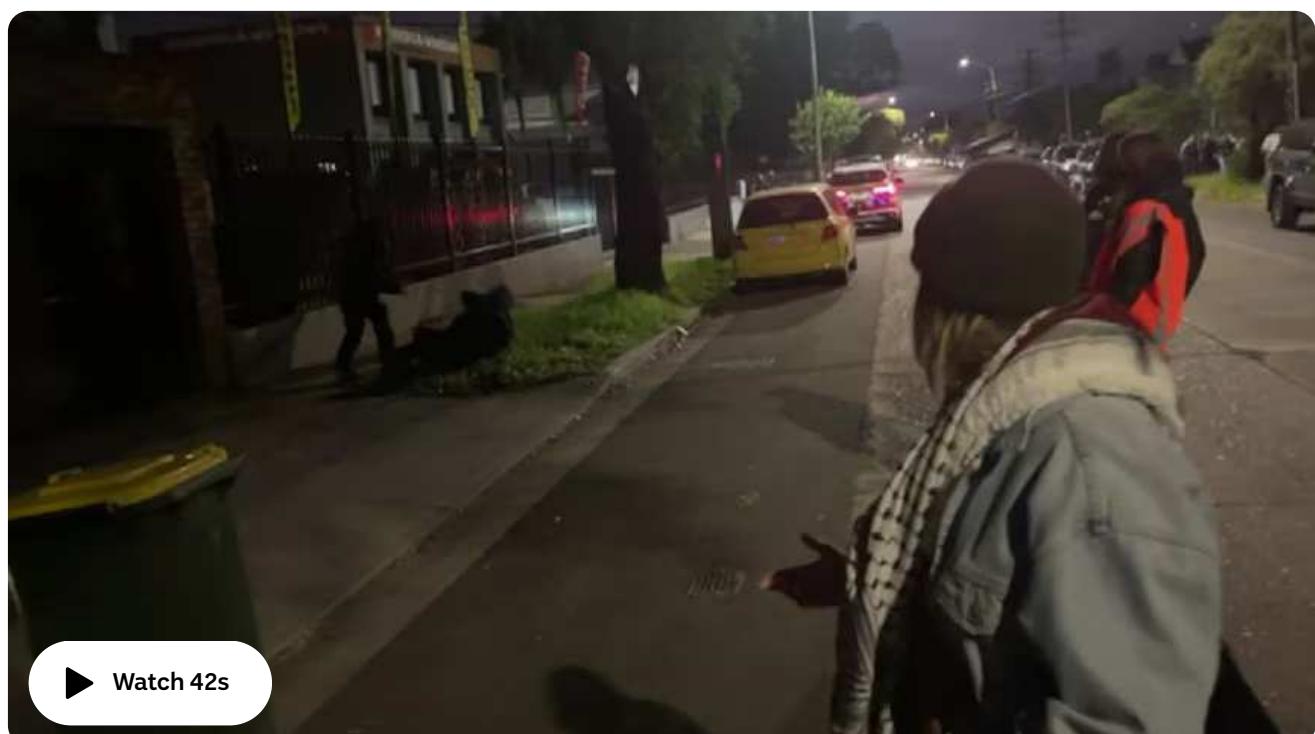
# Former Greens candidate Hannah Thomas hospitalised after arrest at pro-Palestinian Sydney protest



By Sean Tarek Goodwin

Crime

Fri 27 Jun 2025 at 8:11pm



▶ Watch 42s

NSW Police said a woman sustained facial injuries during an arrest at a protest in south-west Sydney on Friday.

## In short:

Former Greens candidate Hannah Thomas is in hospital after sustaining facial injuries during an arrest at a pro-Palestinian protest in Sydney's south-west.

NSW Police attempted to disperse the group, claiming the action was unauthorised.

## What's next?

Ms Thomas was arrested but not charged, four other protesters arrested were charged and are due to appear at Bankstown Local Court on July 15.

A former Greens candidate has been hospitalised after being injured during an arrest at a pro-Palestinian protest.

The incident occurred outside SEC Plating in Belmore in Sydney's south-west on Friday morning.



NSW Police said a woman sustained facial injuries during an arrest at a protest in south-west Sydney on Friday. (*Supplied*)

The protesters allege the company supplies components used by the class of jets which are flown by the Israel Defense Forces. A claim that SEC Plating — in a statement to the ABC — has denied.

"Our involvement with defence manufactures (sic) in Australia is about defending Australia," the company said.

NSW Police attempted to move the group on, claiming the action was unauthorised.

"During the 35-year-old woman's arrest, she sustained facial injuries and was taken to Bankstown Hospital for treatment," police said in a statement.



The woman injured has been identified as Hannah Thomas. (*Supplied: Facebook*)

The woman has been identified as Hannah Thomas, who challenged Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the federal seat of Grayndler at the election earlier this year.

A video filmed by one of the protesters shows a scuffle between police and some of the attendees.

Some of the protesters can be heard saying "let go of her".

A woman in a black coat is then led away from the group and falls to the ground with a police officer.

Police can be heard saying "get up now", and the woman can be heard replying: "I'm trying".

A photo from after the incident appears to show Ms Thomas standing beside an officer with a swollen eye.

### **Witness saw woman's right eye 'completely closed'**

A protester who witnessed the incident spoke to ABC News on the condition of anonymity.

The witness said they saw Ms Thomas being tripped to the ground, and that she was struck in the face when officers attempted to get her to her feet.

**"Several officers came over and in an attempt to help carry the individual away ... that is when the strike occurred," the attendee said.**

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"It was very clearly a strike to the eye."



The protest was outside a company attendees allege supplies components to jets flown by the Israeli Defence Force. (*Supplied*)

Another attendee, Zack Schofield, said he saw her face after the incident.

"I looked over to my right and saw a young woman with blood gushing out of the right side of her face, her right eye completely closed," Mr Schofield said.

"She had clearly been struck with significant force."

Police have told ABC News the incident is not being formally investigated as a critical incident, but will be recorded and reviewed as is standard practice for any use of force.

"At this stage no issues have been identified, and no complaints have been received regarding the Belmore protests," a police spokesperson said.

No charges have been laid against Ms Thomas.

The ABC understands Ms Thomas was scheduled for surgery this afternoon.

It's believed doctors have been investigating whether her injuries could threaten her vision, and if she has any broken bones in her face.

### **Greens parliamentarians show support**



Senator Mehreen Faruqi says Ms Thomas has her full support. (ABC News: Billy Cooper)

Federal Greens senator Mehreen Faruqi said she'd been assisting Ms Thomas.

"Hannah's health is my top priority," Ms Faruqi said

"It is devastating that police would bring violence against a non-violent protest for peace, but not surprising.

**"Once she is able to consider next steps, she has my full support in responding to this shocking assault and seeking accountability."**

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NSW Greens MP Sue Higginson issued a statement, alongside federal MP David Shoebridge.

"I have spoken with the people in police custody this morning, in my legal capacity, and they cannot believe what they saw happen to the individual who has sustained serious injury as a result of the excessive police force," Ms Higginson said.

On Saturday, Ms Higginson also called on NSW Police to describe what happened to Ms Thomas as a critical incident, alongside beginning a "thorough and independent investigation".

Police said four others were arrested at the protest, including a 24-year-old man who they allege temporarily stole a police body worn camera.

They were taken to Campsie Police Station where they were charged with a range of offences and granted conditional bail.

The four charged are due to appear at Bankstown Local Court on Tuesday, July 15.

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Posted Fri 27 Jun 2025 at 8:11pm, updated Sat 28 Jun 2025 at 2:54pm



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Explosive Ordnance

### Agency Details

**Contact Name:**  
LSD - CRVSPO

**Phone:**  
00

**Email Address:**  
[CRVSPO.PROCUREMENT@DEFENCE.GOV.AU](mailto:CRVSPO.PROCUREMENT@DEFENCE.GOV.AU)

**Branch:**  
LSD - CRVSPO

**Division:**  
CASG

**Office Postcode:**  
3006

**CN ID:** CN4048607

**Agency:** Department of Defence

**Publish Date:** 23-Apr-2024

**Category:** Explosive materials

**Contract Period:** 8-Apr-2024 to 31-Oct-2024

**Contract Value (AUD):** \$159,264.56

**Description:** Explosive Ordnance

**Procurement Method:** Limited tender

**Limited Tender Exemption:** Paragraph 2.6 was applied in some part.

**Confidentiality - Contract:** No

**Confidentiality - Outputs:** No

**Consultancy:** No

**Agency Reference ID:** 4600068282

### Supplier Details

**Name:** ELBIT SYSTEMS LAND LTD

**Town/City:** YOKNEAM ILLIT

**Postcode:** 2069201

**State/Territory:** Outside Australia

**Country:** ISRAEL

**ABN:** Exempt

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#### Product details

Enjoy the buttery, flaky goodness of puff pastry without the gluten! Simply Wize Gluten Free Puff Pastry is perfect for creating delicious, savoury and sweet pastries that everyone can enjoy. Made with premium gluten free ingredients, this pastry is light, crisp, and versatile, ideal for pies, tarts, pastries, and more.

Enjoy all your favourite puff pastry dishes without the gluten. Simply Wize Puff Pastry bakes to a golden, buttery crisp every time, making it the perfect choice for your culinary creations. Whether you're making sweet or savoury treats like pies, turnovers, or pastries, this pastry is incredibly versatile. It's also Kosher Certified and Vegetarian Friendly, catering to a wide range of dietary needs.

Simply Wize Gluten Free Puff Pastry makes baking easy and delicious, allowing you to create all your favourite dishes while keeping your dietary preferences in mind.

#### Ingredients



#### Allergens



#### Nutrition information

