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Worshippers pray around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in Makkah ahead of the annual Haj pilgrimage. The Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam and must be undertaken at least once by all Muslims with the means.


HAJ PILGRIMAGE BEGINS TODAY

Over one million worshippers from around the world will embark on a spiritual journey, which will reach its climax tomorrow at Mount Arafat followed by Eid Al Adha on Sunday | P11

EID PRAYER TIMINGS

Abu Dhabi	05:50am
Dubai	05:45am
Sharjah	05:44am
Ras Al Khaimah	05:41am
Fujairah	05:41am
Umm Al Quwain	05:43am
Ajman	05:44am

MOMENTS to cherish




Uniting families, honoring traditions

Partaking in the joyous spirit of Eid

Gulf News speaks to a selection of expat families in the UAE for a unique take on Eid Al Adha celebrations in their home countries and how they hope to observe the festival here. Plus, explore exclusive Eid collections and Father's Day gift offers

ON GULFNEWS.COM



Photos: Annual Haj pilgrimage begins in Saudi Arabia

40% of child war deaths in 2023 Gazans

SO FAR 15,694 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN KILLED, 17,000 ARE WITHOUT PARENTS

GENEVA

Children in Gaza accounted for nearly 40 per cent of minors killed in conflicts globally last year, according to an upcoming United Nations report on cases it says it has verified, casting blame on both Israel and Hamas for the surge in deaths.

The killing of more than 2,000 Palestinian and 40 Israeli children helped push violence against children to "extreme levels" in 2023, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report, which was reviewed by Bloomberg News and is scheduled to be released publicly later this month.

Verified by UN

The data only includes deaths that the UN can verify, it said, adding that it's still making determinations on thousands of additionally reported Palestinian deaths in the first three months of the war.

Gaza's government says that 15,694 children have been killed and 17,000 are without parents after 250 days of Israel's war on Gaza.

The Israel-Hamas war "presents an unprecedented scale and intensity of grave violations against children, with hostilities leading to an increase in grave violations of 155 per cent," Guterres wrote in the report. The UN said both the Israeli army and Hamas's military wing, as well as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, are not doing enough to protect children in Gaza.

The UN notes the report "does not represent the full scale of violations against children, but provides United Nations-verified trends."

In order to vet reported violations, the UN relies on a monitoring and reporting mechanism that requires local monitors to independently verify claims.

This is the first time Israel and Hamas have been included in the so-called blacklist of actors that "commit grave violations" against children in the 20-plus years the report has been presented to the Security Council. The UN also blacklisted the Sudanese armed forces for killing and injuring children and for attacking schools and hospital.

— Bloomberg

Sharaf DG

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