Major surge in aid worker fatalities in Israel and Gaza

Since October 7, 2023, the AWSD has recorded 39 aid worker fatalities, 18 wounded, and 1 kidnapping in the Gaza Strip and Israel, affecting personnel of the UN, Palestinian Red Crescent, NNGOs and INGO supported hospitals.

The October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas and Israel’s subsequent bombing campaign of Gaza have caused the death of 39 aid workers among thousands of other civilians. In all, 57 aid worker victims were reported as of October 23 including 4 killed by gunfire, 1 kidnapped, 35 killed in airstrikes, and an additional 18 injured in those strikes.

The initial blockade of Gaza, the disruption of power and water services, and the inability to evacuate civilians has created the conditions for a devastating humanitarian crisis. Many aid organisations in Gaza have left their offices and compounds, relocating staff to the south of Wadi Gaza.

UNRWA reports it has ceased service provision in the north of the Gaza Strip, and is focusing on assisting displaced people who have fled to the South. As aid convoys begin to enter Gaza from the southern border, a lack of fuel for electricity generation and transportation further complicates humanitarian operations and adds to the risk faced by aid workers.

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**Signal Alert** is an occasional publication of the Aid Worker Security Database to inform the humanitarian sector of a statistically significant trend, change, or outlier detected in the security environment for aid operations.

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