

Al-Hasan Mosque Massacre:

**Euro-Med Monitor investigation
reveals details of Israeli army killing 15+
Palestinians during dawn prayer in Gaza**

16 November 2023

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The remains of Al-Hasan Mosque in Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, eastern Gaza, with a damaged house beside it. Image: Euro-Med Monitor team.

Executive summary

The Israeli occupation army targeted Al-Hasan Mosque in Gaza City's Tuffah neighbourhood during dawn prayers, killing at least 15 Palestinians and injuring others, including women, children, and the elderly. The crime was a major breach of international law, which ensures that civilians and places of worship are protected during armed conflicts.

There is no indication that there were any military targets—either armed elements or objects—inside the mosque or in its vicinity at the time of the attack, according to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor's investigation into the 16 November 2023 attack.

The attack, which was executed using one or two extremely destructive aerial bombs as part of the “fire belt” method, was unexpected and came without any warning. The timing of the attack, which occurred while civilians were assembling to pray, indicates a conscious effort to inflict the most possible material and human harm to those present.

There was absolutely no military necessity for the attack, and the Israeli occupation army offered no explanation or rationale for its crime. From every standpoint, the attack is a blatant transgression of some of the most fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, such as proportionality, distinction, and taking the appropriate precautions. Israel is required to follow these principles at all times, without exception. The Israeli occupation army has thus committed a series of full-fledged war crimes against civilians who must be protected by international humanitarian law, as well as against a place of worship that is regarded as a civilian object and therefore guaranteed protection under the law.

Given that the attack took place during a period of more than a year of extensive and organised Israeli military attacks against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, the crime, which directly targeted civilians with killings and injuries, also qualifies as a crime against humanity. In addition, Israel has been committing acts of genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023 in an effort to eradicate them as a people. This massacre is one of those acts.

The deliberate and pervasive Israeli policy of demolishing mosques in the Gaza Strip is part of an effort to eradicate all evidence of Palestinians living in the area, as well as the historical, cultural, and religious heritage that sets them apart as a people with a shared national identity. These crimes, particularly those that are intended to actually eradicate Palestinians in the Strip through a variety of internationally forbidden methods, are part of the genocide that Israel has been committing since October 2023. The intentional destruction of cultural property, such as mosques and religious property owned by members of the group, has been acknowledged by the International Criminal Court as proof of the existence of the specific intent to eradicate that group as a whole, which is regarded as a necessary component of the crime of genocide.

As part of its criminal investigation, the Euro-Med Monitor field team conducted a field survey of the area surrounding the targeted mosque in order to inspect the extensive damage caused by the Israeli attack. The mosque was located near Al-Sikka Street in the Al-Sanafour section of Gaza City's Al-Tuffah neighbourhood. The team also interviewed six local witnesses and relatives of victims who remained in the neighbourhood after most of its residents were expelled by force, especially after the mosque was targeted.

Along with gathering field reports, the team also examined satellite images of the area from both before and after the attack that demonstrate the extent of the widespread damage that took place there, as well as videos and photos that capture the precise moment of the attack and the exact location of the targeting.

The location of the mosque, which was totally destroyed, as well as the locations of the nearby structures and facilities that were damaged to differing degrees were also noted. The mosque is situated in an area that is bordered on the north and east by a collection of garages that are used for carpentry and auto repair, and on the south and west by residential structures that were all impacted by the attack to differing degrees.

Investigation methodology of the massacre

Since the onset of the genocide against Palestinians in Gaza on 7 October 2023, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor has intensified its efforts to investigate international crimes committed by the Israeli military in the strip. This has been achieved by adopting a comprehensive methodology aligned with international legal standards, focusing on coordinated efforts between specialised teams to accurately monitor, document, and analyse these crimes, conduct investigations within international legal frameworks, and compile comprehensive case files to present to relevant international bodies.

- **Framework for investigation and data collection**

The investigation begins by gathering preliminary data related to the crime, including the time, location, and number of victims. A Euro-Med Monitor team of 22 field researchers

distributed across Gaza's five governorates conducts monitoring and documentation. They identify crime sites, record data, conduct personal interviews with victims, survivors, and witnesses, capture photos and videos of targeted areas with prior consent, and identify mass grave sites where victims might have been buried, if feasible.

- **Analysis process**

Once data is collected, it is transferred to the analysis team, which reviews and correlates the evidence, analysing weapons used to determine their sources, where possible. The team also examines media reports, social media content, and employs digital verification tools to analyse images and videos provided by eyewitnesses. Geographic information systems, interactive maps, aerial images, and satellite photos are used to locate and analyse crime sites, including those difficult to access. If possible, the team identifies the presence of Israeli forces in or near the targeted areas on the day of the incident or shortly thereafter using satellite imagery captured at different intervals before and after the crime.

- **Open-source research**

The Euro-Med Monitor team also utilises open sources such as Arabic and international news sites and social media platforms to obtain information about the crime under investigation, including images or videos captured before, during, or after the incident. These materials are meticulously analysed for credibility. Additionally, official government sources, such as the Ministry of Health and Civil Defence, are consulted for supplementary data. The team also monitors statements or materials issued by the Israeli army that may relate to the crime under investigation.

- **Legal review**

After the analysis team collects and examines the data, testimonies, images, and videos, the legal team reviews and analyses the evidence to ensure its consistency with international legal standards. This includes verifying the credibility and sources

of evidence and ensuring adherence to internationally recognised standards of proof. The team examines both the material and moral elements of the crime by analysing available evidence to determine the sequence of events, assess the methods and means of combat used (including the type of weapons), identify patterns of targeting civilians, and study the temporal, geographical, and contextual patterns of the crimes. The legal team also infers the intent and objectives behind the acts committed.

Violations are categorised based on legal frameworks governing international crimes, such as the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This includes determining whether the crimes qualify as war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide, based on evidence and conclusions drawn from the investigations and international standards. The legal team also provides recommendations to the international community to halt these crimes, prevent their recurrence, ensure accountability for the perpetrators, and secure compensation for victims.

- **Public reporting and communication with international bodies**

Following analysis and legal review, a comprehensive file containing all evidence, documents, and testimonies is prepared. An analytical report that adheres to international prosecution standards is then issued, detailing findings, methodology, and the legal classification of crimes. Euro-Med Monitor engages with relevant international bodies, including the International Criminal Court, to ensure accountability for the documented crimes and support the pursuit of legal action against those responsible.

- **Investigation into the Al-Hassan Mosque massacre**

In investigating the Israeli military attack on Al-Hassan Mosque in Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, Gaza City, on the morning of 16 November 2023, Euro-Med Monitor employed its standardised methodology. It began by collecting preliminary data on the incident. Field teams visited the attack site to assess and document the human and material damage and verify the presence of any military activities or armed operations in the area at the time of the attack.

Field teams conducted personal interviews with survivors and witnesses, including six residents and relatives of the victims who remained in the neighbourhood despite the forced displacement of most residents following the mosque's targeting. The names of those killed and injured were documented.

The site was documented through photographs of the mosque's rubble, neighbouring buildings that suffered the most damage, and surrounding structures that sustained varying degrees of harm.

The analysis team then reviewed and cross-referenced collected data and testimonies, including pre-attack images of the mosque and its surroundings obtained from the internet. Satellite images were also utilised to assess the scale of destruction and the impact of the attack on the surrounding area, revealing the mosque's destruction and severe damage to infrastructure and nearby buildings.

The legal team subsequently conducted a comprehensive review of evidence and testimonies, analysing the material and moral elements of the crime. The analysis focused on the extent of damage to infrastructure, the number of victims, the type of weapons used, and their effects. Intent was assessed by examining the sequence of events and associated temporal and geographical patterns. Field evidence indicated no military justification for targeting the mosque, strongly suggesting it was deliberately attacked in a blatant violation of international law.

Euro-Med Monitor teams faced several challenges during the investigation, primarily security risks that hindered repeated access to the targeted area and direct communication with witnesses. Despite these obstacles, alternative verification tools and methods were employed to ensure accurate documentation of the incident.

Based on its investigations, conducted in accordance with international legal standards, Euro-Med Monitor calls for independent and impartial international investigations to complement efforts to ensure accountability for crimes against Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Euro-Med Monitor reaffirms its readiness to support such investigations by

providing the evidence and testimonies it has collected and analysed, contributing to the pursuit of justice, holding perpetrators accountable, and upholding victims' rights.

Details of the massacre



The location of Al-Hasan Mosque near the Sanafor area in Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, eastern Gaza.
Image: © 2024 Airbus, Google Earth.

On Thursday 16 November 2023, at around 4:45 a.m., Israeli occupation forces' aircraft used one or two heavy bombs with high destructive power to target Al-Hasan Mosque in the Al-Sanafour section of Al-Tuffah neighbourhood, in the east of Gaza City, without warning. The targeting occurred during the dawn prayer, right after the worshippers started performing the prayer.

In a matter of seconds, the Israeli airstrike completely destroyed the mosque, which was one of the biggest in the area, over the heads of the worshippers inside. Only the remnants of one of its entrances and its two minarets were left standing. All of the worshippers inside the mosque were killed in the attack, and the majority of their bodies were reduced to shreds or crushed under the rubble when the building collapsed. A home next to the

mosque was also hit by the attack, leaving additional victims either killed or wounded with various levels of injuries. Furthermore, the attack damaged residential buildings and facilities in the vicinity of the mosque, as well as several garages that were being used as car washes and repair shops.

The Israeli air force conducted fire belts in multiple locations around the mosque area approximately 30 minutes before the mosque was targeted, according to witnesses. After a brief lull in the bombing, the Israeli occupation army abruptly targeted the mosque. Even though the Israeli army knew that the residents were inside the mosque for prayers and that the majority of the local population, including women and children, were still asleep, it still attacked the mosque and its vicinity at dawn.

The residents had trouble recovering the victims and tending to the injured because of the disruption of Internet and communication services at the time. Due to the lack of ambulances and civil defence vehicles at the scene of the attack, the locals and members



An aerial image from May 2022 shows Al-Hasan Mosque, including its entrance and the minaret that remains today, along with the surrounding houses. Image: © 2024 Airbus, Google Earth.

of the Al-Dakhkhani family used basic hand tools to try to recover the victims' bodies from beneath the debris of the mosque and the nearby house. They also provided medical care to the injured without electricity or any other lighting. Some victims remained trapped beneath the mosque's debris, while others were taken to the closest hospital in residents' private vehicles. Some of the bodies were recovered and buried.

The disruption of Internet and communication services at the time also contributed to the delay in the release of information about the massacre and its dissemination through the media, as some news websites only reported on the mosque's targeting eight hours after the attack took place.



Al-Hasan Mosque and its surroundings before it was targeted and destroyed. Source: Social media.



“On 16 November 2023, I was at home, and the sound of the fire belts was so loud that none of us could sleep [through the] night,” stated Izz al-Din Maher Kraim, an 18-year-old resident of the Tuffah neighbourhood, and the son of one of the massacre victims. “Given that he frequently visited and spent the majority of his time at the mosque, my father wanted to visit it [despite the violence].”

He continued, “The situation subsided after 30 minutes, so my father went to the mosque along with several other locals who were [later documented as being] there at the time. We were awake when the sound of a powerful earthquake shook the neighbourhood.”

He went on: “The neighbourhood’s residents went out to locate the site of the strike because we had no idea where the target was. Since the minarets were still standing, we assumed that the mosque was not the target. We proceeded a bit further and discovered that the mosque was hit. There was no sign of anyone present in the mosque when we ventured further inside.” They were all destroyed, Kraim told the Euro-Med Monitor team, and nobody could be found at first. “We removed them one by one, carefully removing the bodies with our hands. The scene was beyond comprehension. For instance, we discovered my father’s lone leg, but no evidence of the rest of his body.”

Kraim explained that there were about 12 people killed in the mosque massacre, including his father Maher Sadiq Kraim (57 years old); his sister’s husband Raed Awad Abu Madkour (40 years old); a member of the Antiz family named Abu Wassim Antiz; someone called Abu Mazen Al-Ghefari; Youssef Eid Al-Abbassi, 34, and Mustafa Eid Al-Abbassi, 28. One of them, he believed, was

named Mahmoud Al-Abbasi. According to him, both were in their thirties—one was a doctor, and the other an engineer. Two women, an elderly man, and a small child were among the victims from the Al-Dakhakhani family, which lived next to the mosque; the rest of the Al-Dakhakhani family left the house after the strike. Many locals fled following the attack on the mosque, which Kraim said upended the entire neighbourhood.



Al-Hasan Mosque, extensively damaged, alongside a severely affected house where casualties were reported.
Image: Euro-Med Monitor team.



“I was at home when I suddenly heard the strike. Since there was nothing else in the area, we assumed it was the mosque right away,” Mohammed Matar Jameel Al-Ghefari, 21, who lives close to the mosque and is the nephew of one of the massacre victims, told the Euro-Med Monitor team. “We noticed the minarets when the strike occurred. We believed that the mosque was not the target of the strike. My uncle was found inside the bombed mosque when my

cousins and the entire neighbourhood descended [on the scene]. When they looked inside the mosque, they discovered that everyone was inside and the building had been totally destroyed.”

Maher Kraim (57), Abu Waseem al-Batsh, my uncle Mazen Jamil al-Ghefari (54), two of his relatives, Abu al-Saeb Maher Karim, a member of the Sakani family, and a member of the Dakhakhani family were among the victims. They came from behind the Dakhakhani family home, retrieved several bodies, and brought them to us so we could identify them. Approximately 12 people were killed inside the mosque, based on witnesses’ accounts.

Al-Ghefari noted that: “A belt of fire was present before the mosque was targeted, and it ceased for a while until the imam began reciting the takbir inside the mosque, at which point the mosque was bombed.” The Israeli army aircraft that night lit up the sky with flares as the mosque was struck and collapsed, while fire belts were also seen in other locations.

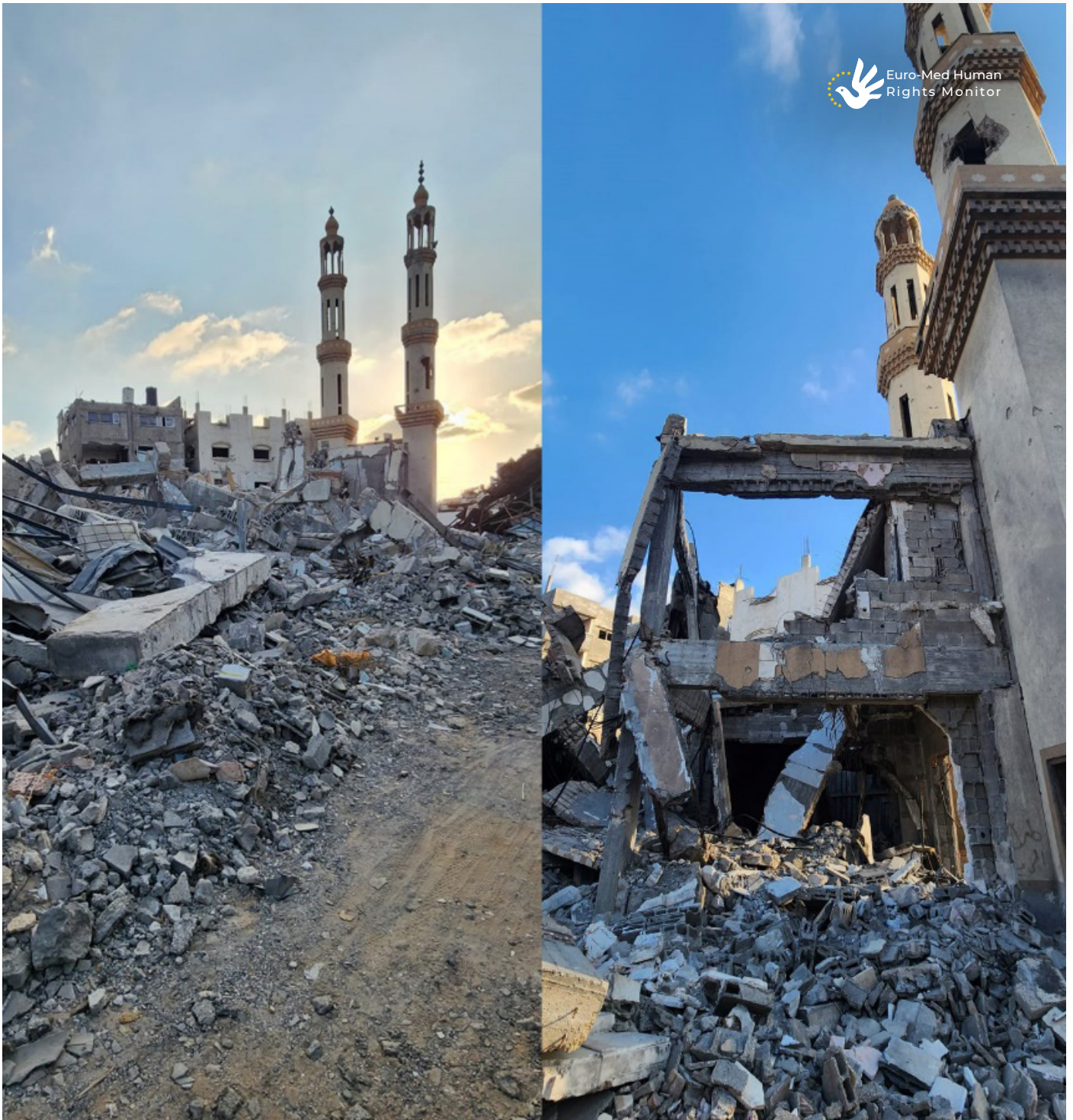
“There are still body remains under the rubble, but several bodies were recovered from the mosque from people we know in the neighbourhood,” he continued. “For instance, my uncle Mazen Al-Ghefari’s body was entirely removed, but only Maher Karim’s leg was found and buried. Prior to the bombing of this mosque, Al-Hassan Mosque, 50 worshippers were killed when the Daghmarsh family’s mosque, Ihya Al-Sunnah Mosque, was targeted.”

On the evening of Wednesday 15 November 2023, hours before Al-Hassan Mosque in the neighbourhood of Al-Tuffah was targeted, the Euro-Med Monitor team confirmed that Israeli warplanes had targeted the Ihya Al-Sunnah Mosque in Gaza City’s Sabra neighbourhood. The mosque was attacked while worshippers were assembling between the Maghrib and Isha prayers, resulting in the deaths of approximately 50 people and the injury of dozens.



Another angle showing Al-Hasan Mosque before it was targeted and destroyed, along with the surrounding buildings and houses. Source: Social media.

Referring back to the attack on Al-Hasan Mosque, every witness with whom the Euro-Med Monitor team spoke described it as abrupt and unanticipated, with Israeli planes striking the mosque directly and causing loud explosions. Prior to this targeting, a number of “fire belts” were carried out in the surrounding areas. The Israeli occupation army has used the fire belt as a methodical approach since the genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip began on 7 October. This technique involves Israeli aircraft focusing on a particular area and dropping multiple heavy bombs on nearby buildings one after another, in a matter of seconds or minutes. Because of the intense targeting, residents are unable to evacuate any part of the targeted area, resulting in significant material and human losses.



The rubble and remnants of Al-Hasan Mosque. Image: Euro-Med Monitor team.



A 34-year-old local resident named Hassan Suleiman Bakir told the Euro-Med Monitor team: “We were sleeping when the mosque was bombed at dawn while people were praying there. Prior to the attack, my father would regularly attend the dawn prayer at the mosque, but he was unable to do so because of his illness. Our house flipped over when they bombed the mosque during the morning prayer. We had debris falling on us inside the house, shrapnel flying at us, and broken glass in our house. Mazen Al-Ghefari, (54); Maher Kraim, (57); Jamal Al-Dakhakhni; Abu Wassim Antiz; and a 70-year-old member of the Al-Batsh family were among the victims inside the mosque. We all fled when the strike occurred, and nobody knew what had happened. We were unable to identify the victims’ bodies because they were dismembered. It was a difficult scene.” The strike was most likely a fire belt, Bakir said.



The son of one of the elderly victims who died inside the mosque, Wassim Omar Rizk Antiz (39), reported to the Euro-Med Monitor team: “My father, Omar Rizk Ali Antiz (65), was killed inside the mosque along with a number of elderly people. My family and I were at home when the mosque was targeted. Despite our displacement, my father and I would go to the mosque every day to [perform the] Fajr [prayer].

“My father was at the mosque praying that day when the strike occurred. To find out what had happened, we hurried to the mosque. We found that the mosque had collapsed on about 16 people inside. The majority of them were elderly. We removed roughly 10 victims from the mosque, but the remaining bodies were not discovered. Most of the people we removed were mutilated.”

He added: “Nobody knew [the attack was coming] before the mosque was targeted. We used our hands and hammers to remove the victims’ bodies. The majority of them were merely body parts. One victim’s leg was the only part we discovered. Seven or so people are still beneath the debris; they have not been found yet. We were unable to get them back. I had a hard time finding my father’s body. [After] two hours, we removed his body from beneath the mosque’s roof. We buried the victims in Al-Batsh Cemetery using crude implements, including small hammers and a heavy hammer.”

Additionally, he asserted that, “There are no military locations within or near the mosque, nor are there any military displays there. People were praying Fajr.”



The home of the Dakhakhni family, where several civilians were killed, alongside the rubble of Al-Hassan Mosque that fell upon it. Image: Euro-Med Monitor team.



Thirty-one-year-old Ramez Gamal Mohammed Al-Dakhakhani, who lives next door to the mosque and whose father was killed outside it, told the Euro-Med Monitor team: “Al-Hassan Mosque was bombed on Thursday 16 November 2023. The...mosque, at the Al-Sanafor roundabout, is close to where we live. Our home is located directly next to [it], so there is a one-metre gap between it and

our house. There were belts of fire between 2 and 3 p.m. While the children were sleeping, I went to the kitchen. The kitchen windows were flying and breaking all of a sudden. It was a massive fire belt.

“A rocket struck the mosque. I began searching for my family and brothers. We were on the second floor when I went upstairs. I took my daughter with me. My aunt was flung down the stairs, bleeding and hurt, and I discovered my nephew’s hand nearly severed. When I got to the lower level, I saw my family screaming. We began dragging my brothers out from under the concrete that had collapsed on them on the ground floor.

“We discovered my niece, Mira Wafi Zakari Al-Suwaiki, who was one year and four months old, beneath a massive concrete section that had flown from the mosque onto our home. More concrete had fallen on my mother’s leg, and my father, Jamal Muhammad Salem Al-Dakhkhni, 56, was dead beneath a pile of debris. Additionally, small children were hurt by the rubble stones that had fallen on their beds. Sixteen-month-old Mira Wafi Zakari Al-Suwaiki passed away. She was being carried by her mother on the ground floor of the house when she flew out of [her mother’s arms due to] the force of the missile, landing on a concrete pillar. My brother’s wife, 26-year-old Jumana Nabil Muhammad Al-Dakhkhni (Siyam), also passed away.

“There was no military appearance to the mosque. The mosque was bombed over their heads, and they were just citizens who had come to pray. There could have been more than 15 victims. Numerous victims were removed and buried. I then fled to the south with my injured brothers and nephews. As we carried the injured children, we went by an Israeli army checkpoint. Prior to that, we visited the Baptist Hospital, but they were not receiving any new [cases] there, so we took them and travelled to the [central] town of Deir al-Balah.

“Despite treatment, they still have multiple shrapnel wounds on their bodies, and one of the kids is unable to walk normally. Two plates were placed in both of my wounded nephews, Anas Muhammad Jamal al-Dakhakhni and Ahmad Muhammad Jamal al-Dakhakhni, [the latter of whom] suffered multiple shrapnel wounds to his back and injuries to his abdomen. Jude Muhammad Jamal al-Dakhakhni, [another] nephew, was only seven months old when his mother, Jumana al-Dakhakhni, passed away. His hand was nearly severed from his shoulder and he could only hold could barely hold onto it. His bones were broken, and the hospital’s doctors placed a plate in his hand, but his wound kept getting infected. We suffered from his condition and made multiple attempts to find a woman to breastfeed him after his mother passed away in an attempt to stop him from crying, but he refused.”



He continued, “Three members of the Dakhakhani family were suffering from various fractures, and four others were critically injured in our home. My 10-year-old daughter, Rital Ramez Dakhakhani, had a broken hand and leg, my aunt Lamia Mohammed Salem Dakhakhani had shrapnel in her head and injuries all over her body, and my mother Ahlam Mohammed Dakhakhani had a broken leg as well.

“The mosque was bombed without prior warning. We were sitting quietly at home. We were taken aback when a missile struck the mosque; we had no idea [it was coming]. I went to the kitchen to make some food while we were seated in the living room.. The area had been safe. With the assistance of local neighbours and family members, we were able to rescue the victims, the killed and wounded, from beneath the concrete pillars that had collapsed on them. We lifted the rubble [off of them] with our hands from above. There were no

ambulances or civil defence. We used our neighbours' private vehicles to transport the deceased and injured victims. Eventually, I hope this war ends and this devastation is eliminated."

Thirty-eight-year-old Ashraf Muhammad Hassan Al-Dakhkhani, who lives near the mosque, informed the Euro-Med Monitor team that a massive explosion occurred around 4 a.m., during the dawn call to prayer. An Israeli army missile was dropped on the mosque, he stated. "Although we are only 10 metres from my uncle's family and live across the street from them, the explosion's intensity threw us off balance. Since my uncle's family lived next to the mosque, I assumed they had been killed. So, we hurried from our house to my uncle's house, where we discovered my cousin's wife dead on the upper floor, a child (Mira Wafi Zakari Al-Suwaiki, one year and four months old) dead on the [ground] floor, and my uncle (Jamal Muhammad Salem Al-Dakhkhani, 56 years old) under the debris.



"There was no electricity, lighting, or flashlights available when we began hand-digging. At that time, neither ambulances nor civil defence arrived. The bodies of three victims—my uncle Jamal, the child Mira, [who was] his daughter's daughter, and his son's wife Jumana Al-Dakhkhani (Siyam), 26 years old—were eventually recovered from the debris after we continued to dig. We then discovered the worshippers' remains inside the mosque.

"There was no military site there," he added. "The only mosque here, as you can see, is a typical mosque constructed on the first floor; it has no basement or anything. Additionally, we received no warning prior to the targeting. There were 10 or so children sleeping in this house, along with a mother, father, daughter, and her offspring. On the first floor, there were roughly 15 people. The fact that we managed to evacuate [any] victims without the aid of an

ambulance or civil defence was a miracle. Among the 200–300 kilogrammes of stones, debris, and concrete, we dug with our hands. With our hands, we were able to raise them [from the rubble]. It was a miracle. This is not war, this is genocide. We ultimately just hope that this war ends—missiles are dropped on this area without any prior notice or regard for the presence of women, children, or the elderly.”

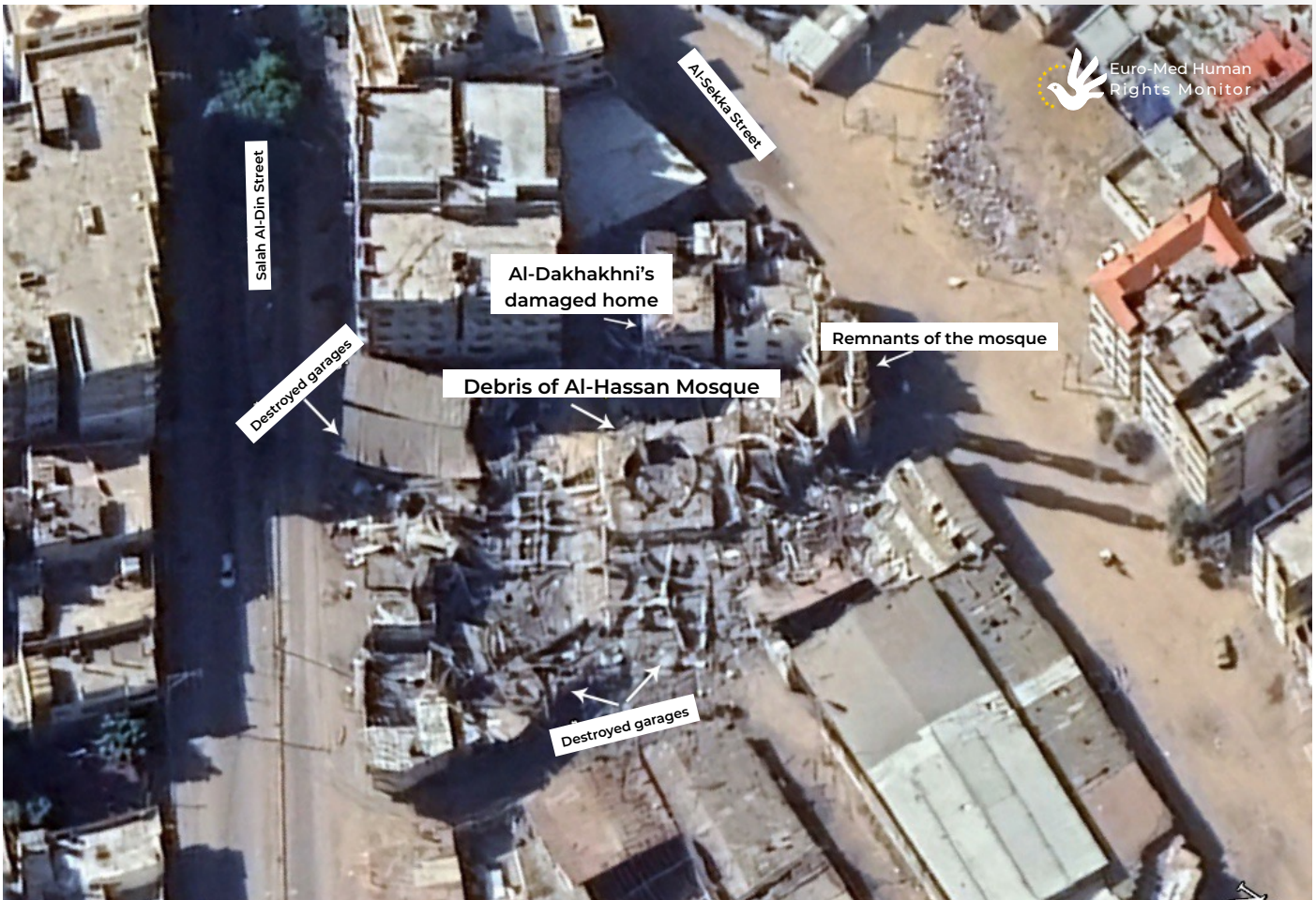


The ground floor of the Dakhakhni family's home, where a child and her grandfather from the Dakhakhni family were killed, and many other family members were injured. Image: Euro-Med Monitor team.

The aftermath of the Israeli military assault on Al-Hassan Mosque

Israeli aircraft struck Al-Hassan Mosque in Gaza City's eastern Al-Tuffah neighbourhood on 16 November 2023, killing over 15 Palestinian civilians and injuring more than seven others. The remains of several victims remain buried beneath the debris of the demolished mosque, while the bodies of roughly 12 victims were found inside the mosque and at the Al-Dakhakhani family home. Some of these victims were also buried in Al-Batsh Cemetery. At least seven injured—all of whom were women and children—were reported to be members of the Al-Dakhakhani family. They suffered a variety of injuries, including four severe injuries and three cases involving multiple fractures. They were taken to the Baptist Hospital to receive the best available care.

Ten of the deceased victims—a girl, a woman, and eight men, two of whom were elderly—were identified by the Euro-Med Monitor team. Some of the deceased victims' identities are still unknown because their bodies have either been reduced to pieces or are still



An aerial image from November 2023 showing the rubble of Al-Hasan Mosque, its remaining entrance and minaret, along with the damaged house and destroyed buildings surrounding it. Image: © 2024 Airbus, Google Earth.

hidden beneath the debris. According to Euro-Med Monitor's investigation, the victims whose bodies have yet to be recovered were members of multiple families, and include Maher Sadiq Mustafa Karim (57), a member of the Karim family, and his son-in-law Raed Awad Abu Madkour (40). Additionally, there were two displaced individuals staying in Karim's home: Ahmed Yousef Eid Al-Abbasi (34), a pharmacist, and his brother Mustafa Yousef Eid Al-Abbasi (28), a general practitioner. The elderly men Omar RizkAli Antiz (65), Mazen Jamil Matar Al-Ghefari (54), and Abdul Rahman Saeed Al-Batsh (70) were also listed among the victims. One member of the Al-Sakani family was among the victims,

but the Euro-Med Monitor team was unable to confirm his identity.

After falling [down] outside, the victims—including 56-year-old grandfather Jamal Muhammad Salem Al-Dakhakhni, his 16-month-old granddaughter Mira Wafi Zakari Al-Suwaiki, and his son's wife Jumana Al-Dakhakhni (Siyam)—went inside the Al-Dakhakhni family's home next to the mosque. The Al-Dakhakhni family was among the many locals who were forced to flee the area with their injured children [and travel] south after the Baptist Hospital was unable to provide the necessary treatment following the attack, causing a state of extreme panic among the populace.

Regarding the destruction of civilian objects that are protected by international humanitarian law, Al-Hassan Mosque, which is roughly 800 square metres in size, was nearly entirely destroyed by the attack. Only the remnants of one of the mosque's entrances, along with its two minarets, remain standing. A number of nearby buildings, totalling an estimated 1,500 square metres, were totally destroyed, causing significant damage to the area around the mosque. Some of these buildings had been used for car maintenance and washing, while others had been converted into workshops during the genocide. Other buildings suffered varied degrees of damage, with some 500 square metres of buildings partially destroyed.

Along with other residential buildings in the vicinity of the mosque, the Al-Dakhakhani family home next to it sustained significant damage, particularly on the ground floor and the first and second floors.

In addition to targeting three churches that suffered significant damage by the end of November 2023, the Israeli military partially destroyed 174 mosques and completely destroyed 85 mosques at that time. As of October 2024, the Israeli army had demolished 814 mosques in the Gaza Strip, or 79% of the total number.

Israel's deliberate and extensive demolition of mosques in the Gaza Strip is part of a larger strategy to eradicate the Palestinian people by destroying their historical legacy, cultural

heritage, religious sites, and ties to their homeland, i.e. their unique national identity. Placed within a larger context that reflects the intention to eradicate the Palestinian presence in the Strip using methods prohibited by international law, these violations are part of the crime of genocide that Israel has been committing since October 2023.

There was no evidence of military targets or armed elements near the targeted mosque at the time of the attack, according to the Euro-Med Monitor team. A field examination of the attack location, a review of video footage, and an analysis of aerial photographs of the area found no military personnel, infrastructure, or sites present at the time of the strikes. Instead, it was determined to be a civilian residential area that was packed with locals and displaced people sheltering in nearby residential buildings. Furthermore, all of the interviewed witnesses denied that there were any armed people or military conflicts in the mosque or its environs prior to, during, or following the attack. The Israeli occupation army has not yet made any statement about the assault on Al-Hassan Mosque or made any effort to justify its crime.

The attack on Al-Hassan Mosque was unexpected, according to all of the Euro-Med Monitor team's investigations, which also found that the Israeli occupation army had not issued any warnings or alerts before attacking the mosque in this area so densely populated with displaced people. In the statements and testimonies gathered by the Euro-Med Monitor team, every survivor and eyewitness denied ever being warned in any way before the targeting.

Israel has a fundamental duty to uphold the principles of international law, particularly international humanitarian law, and to make sure that its military forces adhere to them. These principles include humanity, distinction, military necessity, proportionality, and taking necessary precautions. If these principles are violated, attacks are considered war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In accordance with international humanitarian law, the Israeli occupation army was required to take all reasonable precautions to prevent harm to civilians and civilian

property, as well as to minimise such harm, in order to prevent this high number of civilian casualties. This included providing civilians with a sufficient amount of warning prior to the attack's commencement, allowing them enough time to evacuate, and enabling them to take protective measures and relocate to safe areas.

According to international humanitarian law, civilians who are unable or unwilling to leave a targeted area still have a protected status; their presence in the area does not negate this status, nor does it absolve Israel of its obligation to safeguard it.

Given these facts, the Israeli occupation army's military assault on Al-Hasan Mosque qualifies as either an indiscriminate attack or deliberate direct targeting, both of which are considered full-fledged war crimes under the Rome Statute. This attack is also regarded as a crime against humanity because it took place during the course of the occupation army's extensive and organised military campaign against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which has lasted for more than a year.

This massacre, along with other systematic and frequent massacres carried out by the Israeli occupation army against Palestinian civilians that have resulted in historically high incidences of death, injury, and property loss, is part of the larger crime of genocide that Israel has committed against the Palestinian people since 7 October 2023 in an attempt to essentially exterminate them. This objective is especially apparent given the statements and incitements made by Israeli officials in a direct and public manner, which have repeatedly demonstrated an intention to commit the crime of genocide.

The international community must carry out its international legal obligations to work to end the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip through all available means. Preventing and punishing this crime is an international legal obligation incumbent upon all states, without exception. It must be insisted that Israel withdraw its occupation army from the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the Gaza Strip, and dismantle all of its military bases, barriers, and checkpoints. No Israeli settlement must be permitted in the Gaza Strip, and all geographical and military divisions Israel has imposed must be

eliminated, to restore the geographical unity of the entire Palestinian territory. The illegal siege imposed on the Gaza Strip must end immediately, and the safe and immediate return of forcibly displaced persons to their areas of residence in the Strip must be ensured.

All states must refrain from and discontinue any form of support or assistance to Israel that may contribute to the commission or continuation of crimes against Palestinians. This includes the cancellation or suspension of contractual, political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, and academic relations, as well as the withdrawal of investments and the cessation of support in the legal, media, and other fields.

In addition to prohibiting the sale and export of weapons to Israel, as well as the purchase of Israeli weapons, the cessation of any military or intelligence assistance must be ensured, and all licences and agreements on arms, import and export, including dual-use materials and technology that Israel could use against the Palestinian people, must be terminated.

All states, especially states parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), must implement the arrest warrants issued by the ICC against the Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defence at the earliest opportunity and hand them over to international justice. As well, the Court's investigations into the case of Palestine must be supported by submitting specialised factual and legal memoranda on the crimes committed by Israel.

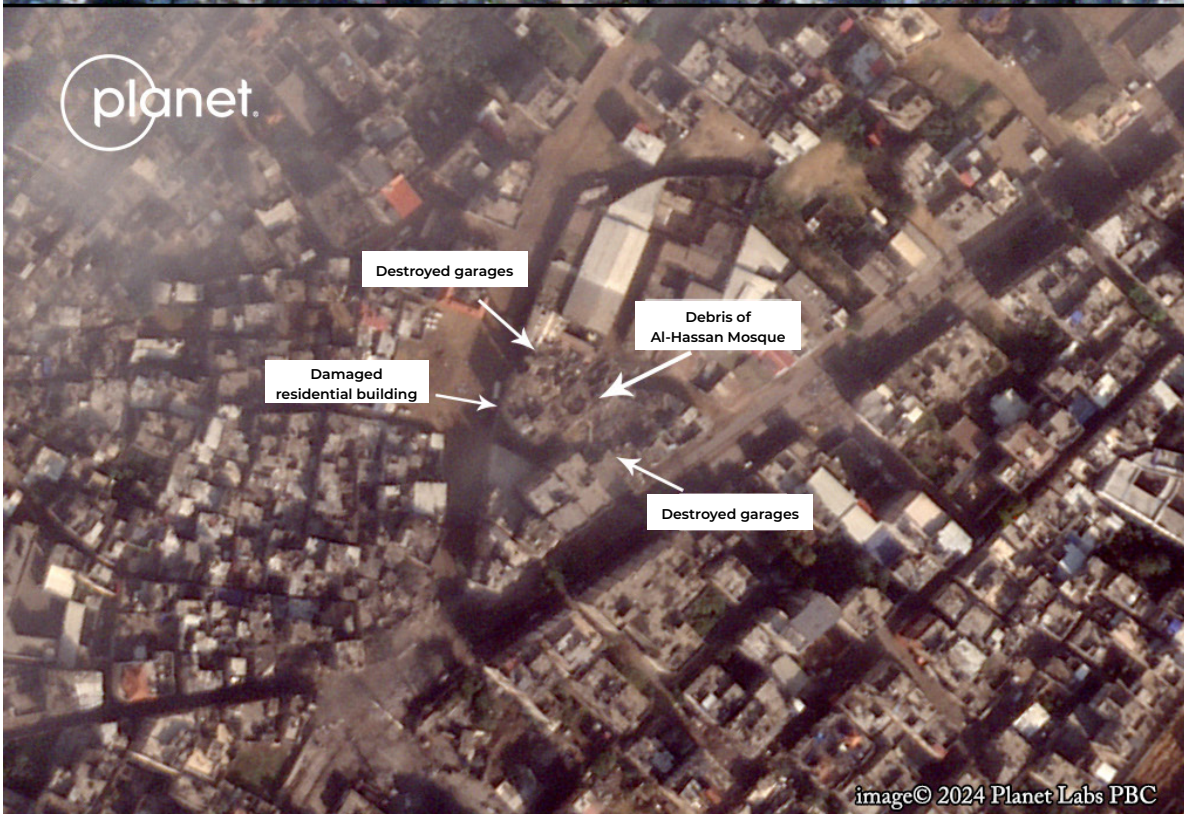
The ICC must consider and investigate all crimes committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip, including the Al-Hassan Mosque massacre, as well as thousands of other massacres committed by the Israeli occupation army, and expand the scope of investigation into individual criminal responsibility for these crimes to include all those responsible, with the expedited issuance of arrest warrants.

The Court must recognise the truth of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and deal with the crimes committed there as genocide.

All countries must support the work of the International Court of Justice, which is hearing a case filed by South Africa against Israel on the grounds that it violated its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide during its military operations in and against the Gaza Strip and the enclave's Palestinian population since 7 October 2023, and work to officially join this case in order to implement international justice.

The international community must ensure accountability and prosecution of partner countries, i.e. those complicit with Israel in committing its crimes against the Palestinian people, especially the crime of genocide, before the competent national, regional, and international judiciaries, including accountability and prosecution of decision-making individuals in these countries, as they are complicit and partners in the crimes committed in the Gaza Strip, including the Al-Hassan Mosque massacre. The principle of universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators regardless of their nationality or the location where crimes were committed must be upheld, to ensure that no one involved in these crimes escapes legal accountability.

It is critical to ensure compensation and justice for Palestinian victims and their families, as well as to repair the damage caused by Israel's serious crimes and gross violations against them, in accordance with international law.



Satellite images showing Al-Hasan Mosque before the targeting on 3 November 2023, and after the attack on 6 December 2023, revealing the rubble of the destroyed mosque and the extensive damage surrounding it. Image: © 2024 PBC Labs Planet.



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الأورومتوسطي لحقوق الإنسان

+41 78 679 24 15

+41 229295703

Regus - Geneva Balexert Tower - Avenue
Louis-Casaï 18 - 1209 - Genève-Switzerland
Geneva- Headquarters

 www.euromedmonitor.org

 Geneva@euromedmonitor.org