

Gaza Strip: the Pope's renewed appeal. Sister Saleh (Parish): “The world powers are gambling with our lives”

“In Gaza, may space be opened to guarantee humanitarian aid, and may the hostages be released right away. Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced – let there be a ceasefire.”



[, who has been working for days in the parish with other nuns to help the displaced, told SIR.](#)

[“All world leaders are gambling with our lives, with the lives of our dead, our children, our elderly.”](#)

[“Is this justice? What do the powerful of the world want from us? They have no heart. There is nothing left in Gaza. There is nowhere safe. Yesterday afternoon there was bombing outside the church.”](#) The humanitarian situation is bound to get worse. Sister Saleh explains: [“Yesterday, Israel ordered the evacuation of the school and the cultural centre of the Greek Orthodox Church, which serves 3,000 people, because they planned to carry out bombings. To give them shelter, we opened our patriarchal school, which has also been looted. Three young men are now keeping watch over it.”](#) [“What's important now is to stay alive. We mourn the deaths of so many of our students and their families. They were young people brought up in tolerance and dialogue, they were not fanatics, they were good young people.”](#)



[accused Israel of deliberately bombing hospitals. According to local media, rockets were fired into the area of al-Quds hospital in Tel el-Hawa, forcing medical staff, displaced people and patients to evacuate. “More than 400 people are being treated in our hospital, many of them in intensive care, and moving them would mean killing them. That is why we refuse the evacuation order,” the Palestinian Red Crescent added.](#)



released figures on the number of children killed in the last three weeks of war, citing data from the Gaza and Israeli health ministries: "More than 3,257 children have been reported killed since 7 October, including at least 3,195 in Gaza, 33 in the West Bank and 29 in Israel. Children account for more than 40 per cent of the 7,703 people killed in Gaza and more than a third of all victims in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel. The death toll is likely to be much higher, with some 1,000 missing children believed to be buried under the rubble in Gaza. This toll is expected to rise as the Israeli military ground operations continue. **A Caritas project. Caritas Jerusalem** is helping the population with a humanitarian project starting on November 1 (running until December 31) for the approximately 1,000 members of the Holy Family Latin Parish in Gaza. The aim of the aid programme is "to provide treatment for the patients, to meet the humanitarian needs of the displaced persons through the provision of food and hygiene kits, as well as the provision of cash for multiple purchases, but also to improve the mental well-being of the staff through the provision of counselling and social support via remote technology." The Caritas Jerusalem project is financed with €250,000 from various countries. Caritas Jerusalem has also published the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) since the beginning of the hostilities in Gaza, estimated at over 1.4 million. This figure includes nearly 629,000 people sheltering in 150 UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) facilities, 121,750 people sheltering in hospitals, churches and other public buildings, and nearly 79,000 people sheltering in 70 non-UNRWA schools. In addition, the Gaza Ministry of Social Development estimates that some 700,000 IDPs are living with host families.

Daniele Rocchi