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## **MERCY Malaysia Condemns Renewed Attacks on Gaza and Calls for Immediate Humanitarian Access**

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Kuala Lumpur, 18 March 2025 – MERCY Malaysia strongly condemns the latest escalation of violence in Gaza following Israel’s extensive airstrikes, which have reportedly killed at least 220 people, including women and children. This marks the most severe wave of attacks since the ceasefire began on 19 January, as negotiations to extend the truce collapsed, subjecting civilians to renewed devastation and suffering.

The attacks occurred in the early hours of Ramadan, a time traditionally observed for suhoor. More than 20 Israeli warplanes targeted Gaza City, Rafah, and Khan Younis, further intensifying the humanitarian crisis. The ongoing bombardment has severely impacted the 2.3 million Palestinian residents, many of whom have already been displaced multiple times. Reports indicate that at least 70% of buildings, including homes, hospitals, and schools, have been damaged or destroyed. The destruction of healthcare facilities, water and sanitation systems, and other essential infrastructure has placed the population in an increasingly critical situation.

This escalation follows the decision by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to block humanitarian aid and close Gaza’s border crossings after the first phase of the ceasefire. As a result, supplies of food, fuel, and medical necessities have reached critically low levels. The shutdown of desalination plants has exacerbated the water crisis, depriving many families of access to clean drinking water. Hospitals are nearing total collapse due to severe shortages of medical supplies, leaving patients in urgent need of care at grave risk.

MERCY Malaysia President Dato’ Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus denounced the attacks, stating, “This is a reprehensible assault on besieged civilians who have endured unimaginable suffering. The deliberate targeting of densely populated areas and the obstruction of humanitarian aid are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law. The world cannot remain silent in the face of these atrocities.” He urged all parties to prioritise the protection of civilians, ensure unimpeded humanitarian access, and uphold their obligations under international law.

Despite the mounting challenges, MERCY Malaysia remains resolute in its commitment to the Palestine relief effort. We continue to provide essential humanitarian assistance, including primary healthcare, mental health support, emergency medical aid, food, and clean water to displaced families.

MERCY Malaysia urgently calls on all parties to uphold international humanitarian law, safeguard civilians and civilian infrastructure, and ensure the safety of aid workers. We urge the immediate and unhindered entry of humanitarian assistance to prevent further loss of life and alleviate the suffering of those affected. The international community must act swiftly to pressure for an immediate ceasefire and ensure humanitarian corridors remain open.

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For the latest updates and further information, please follow our social media channels at @mercymalaysia or reach out to us directly at [info@mercy.org.my](mailto:info@mercy.org.my).

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