

New Satellite Images Show: Gaza City Neighborhoods Have Already Been Destroyed

Two weeks into the IDF's operation to take over Gaza City, satellite images show that most of the urban spaces in the neighborhoods of Shujaiyeh, Zeitoun and Tuffah have already been destroyed in recent weeks. Local rescue services told Haaretz that if urgent steps are not taken to rehabilitate the area, humanitarian systems could collapse completely



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Destruction in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood in July and at the end of August. Credit: Planet Labs PBC



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Even before the plan to occupy Gaza City began to materialize, satellite images reveal that in recent weeks the IDF has destroyed large parts of the city and other areas in the northern Gaza Strip. The images from Planet Labs PBC show areas of the city on July 17 and then again on August 25. In the neighborhoods of Shujaiyeh, Zeitoun and Tuffah, most of the urban space appears to have been flattened by the IDF, with many buildings that were intact in the early images appearing completely destroyed in the later ones.

Data from the Gaza rescue services acquired by Haaretz indicate that over 85 percent of Shujaiyeh and Tuffah have been destroyed, and in the city of Jabalya and in Zeitoun, as well as other Gaza City neighborhoods, over 70 percent of the buildings have been demolished. On the ground, they documented the broad use of quadcopter drones that launched explosives on buildings in the eastern part of the city, along with artillery fire in the northern and western parts of the Strip.



Destruction in Gaza City's Tuffah neighborhood in July and at the end of August. Credit: Planet Labs PBC

Due to the large-scale demolition, many of [Gaza City's residents](#) have been displaced from their homes. The rescue services estimate that tens of thousands have been displaced from the destroyed neighborhoods in the city and other areas in the northern Strip. They are crowded into areas covering about 12 percent of the Strip. The difficult living conditions there are increasing the fear of a humanitarian disaster even more serious than the present one.

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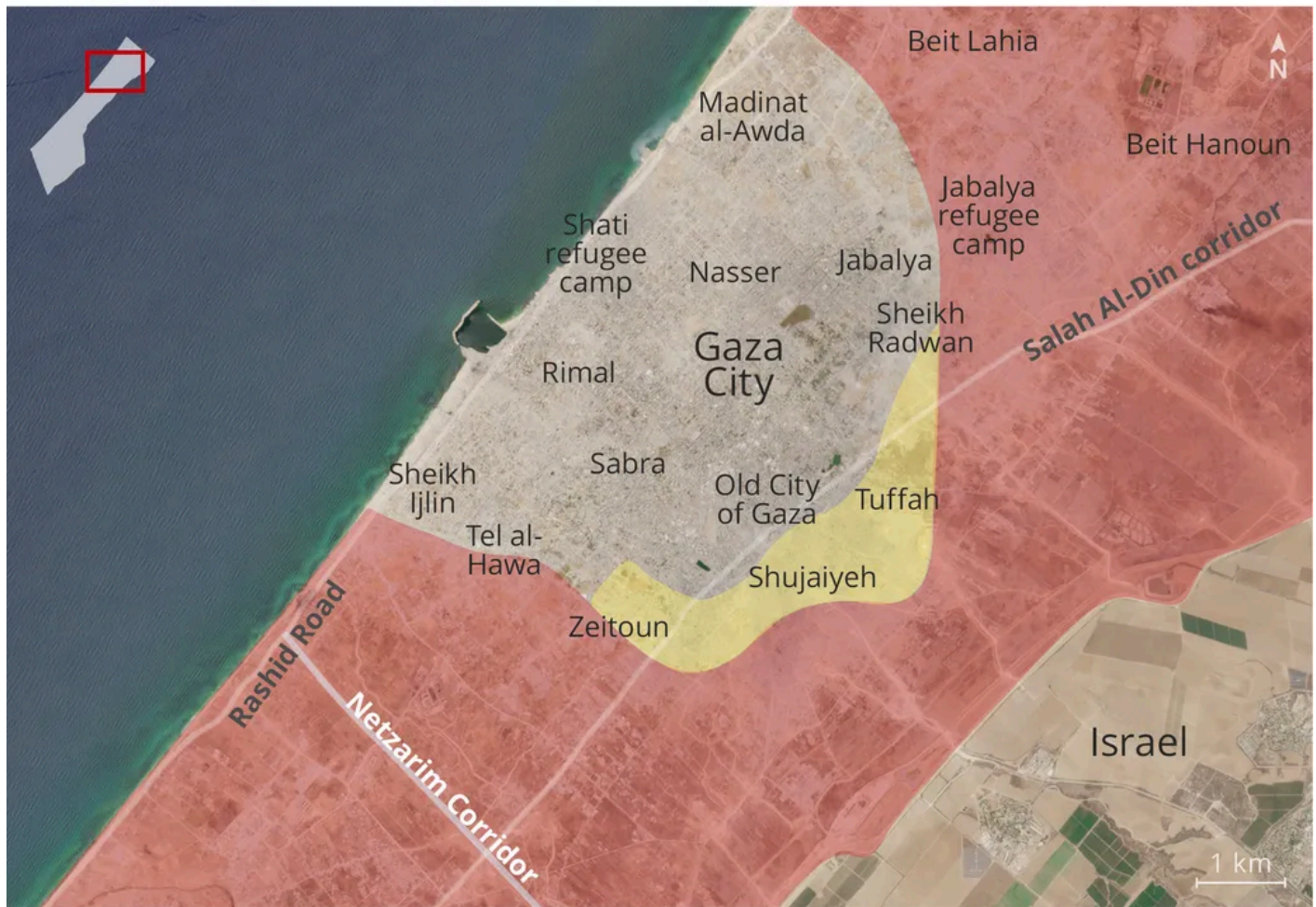
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Sources in the rescue services say that the absence of access to basic services – water, electricity and medical care – is making life in areas where displaced persons are staying intolerable.

■ Destruction from IDF operations in July-August ■ Old damage



The sources added that the demolition of infrastructure and the crowding of the population into the limited areas are prompting tough questions about the near future for Gaza's residents. They say that in the absence of urgent steps to rehabilitate the infrastructure and protect the residents, the present crisis is likely to result in a total collapse of the humanitarian mechanisms in the Strip.

Along with their warnings, the satellite photos illustrate the scale of the destruction within only a few weeks – and emphasize the disparity between declarations about maintaining Gazans' living conditions and the tough situation on the ground.



Destruction in Gaza City's Shujaiyeh neighborhood in July and at the end of August. Credit: Planet Labs PBC

Additional satellite photos published in recent weeks demonstrate that the IDF has almost totally destroyed the southern [Gaza city of Khan Yunis](#). In

the last few months, thousands of buildings were destroyed in the city and its surroundings within an area of about 90 square kilometers (35 square miles). In the southern city of Rafah, as well, there has been documentation in recent months of a large-scale demolition process.

Before that, the cities of Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun and the eastern part of Gaza City, in the northern Strip, were destroyed.

An analysis of satellite photos from the Strip published in July indicates that about 160,000 structures – about 70 percent of the buildings in Gaza – were seriously damaged (destruction of at least 25 percent), making them uninhabitable.



The destruction in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shujaiyeh in July and at the end of August. Credit: Planet Labs PBC

In a discussion with reservists on Tuesday, Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir said that with the beginning of the operation in Gaza City, the IDF "is going to intensify and deepen the activity." He said, "We're already entering places that we didn't enter until now and operating there. The IDF isn't proposing anything other than defeat. We aren't stopping the war until we defeat this enemy."

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