

Rafah Massacre | 2004

On 18-20/5/2004, Israeli occupation forces committed a new massacre in Rafah, resulting in the death of 56 martyrs and 150 injured. Survivors of the massacre, which lasted for three days, reported that more than a hundred homes were destroyed in Rafah camp.

Israeli forces deployed tanks, vehicles, and aircraft to bombard residential neighborhoods, ambulances, and mosques, and cut off electricity to civilians and medical facilities, especially in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood, where three residential buildings were demolished. The resistance fighters bravely confronted the occupation forces. The military operations by the occupation resulted in the martyrdom of twenty and the injury of eighty.

On 19/5/2004, Israel bombed a march of children and women in Rafah with planes and tanks, resulting in the death of 12 martyrs and the injury of more than fifty citizens, mostly women and children. Israeli Apache helicopters fired four missiles, while tanks fired six shells at a massive peaceful march, consisting of thousands of children, women, and elders, heading towards the besieged Tel al-Sultan neighborhood west of Rafah, which had been under strict curfew for two days. The occupation forces committed another war crime in the context of what they called the "Rainbow Operation. " Five martyrs fell immediately, and around 50 wounded were transferred to the only small hospital in the city. The number of martyrs continued to rise, reaching 12, and the morgue could no longer accommodate them, so some were placed in a vegetable and fruit cooler in nearby commercial stores near the Martyr Youssef al-Najjar Hospital.