Israel Claims Hamas Senior Military Leader Killed in Gaza Strike

photo: BBC

Israel has claimed that Hamas senior military commander Izz al-Din al-Haddad was killed in an airstrike in Gaza City. In a joint statement, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and security agencies said the operation targeted him through a “precision strike.”

The attack, carried out on Friday (May 15), reportedly struck a residential building before later targeting a nearby vehicle.

According to Gaza emergency services, at least seven people were killed, including women and children, while more than 50 others were injured.

Al-Shifa Hospital said the dead included three women and one child. The Palestine Red Crescent Society stated that around 30 injured people were transferred to field hospitals after being rescued from the scene.

Israel alleges that al-Haddad played a key role in planning the October 7, 2023 attacks and was later involved in managing hostages. The commander of Hamas’ military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, had become one of the group’s top decision-makers following the reported deaths of Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif.

Hamas has not officially confirmed his death. However, international media reports say local sources and mosque announcements in Gaza have circulated news of his killing.

Despite a ceasefire that has been in effect since October last year, sporadic attacks continue across Gaza Strip. Palestinian authorities say hundreds of people have been killed in incidents since the truce began, while analysts warn the situation remains highly unstable.