

Mum's the word



Damian Hurley on making films with his mother, Liz

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'Fear and trepidation' as 100,000 people flee Rafah bombardment

Israel steps up strikes, with PM vowing to 'fight with our fingernails'

Jason Burke *Jerusalem*
Malak A Tantesh *Rafah*

More than 100,000 people have fled Rafah after Israel intensified its bombardment, UN officials said yesterday, in the largest movement of the population in Gaza for many months.

Humanitarian officials are tracking the number of people fleeing Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza, where more than 1 million Palestinians displaced from elsewhere in the territory have been sheltering.

The number is expected to rise, with deep concern among aid officials yesterday that the newly displaced people will end up in makeshift encampments without any services, living in the rubble of their former homes without "basic essentials necessary for life".

The attempts to evacuate came as the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, vowed Israel would stand alone and "fight with our fingernails" in defiance of US warnings not to proceed with a ground invasion in Rafah, and as Israeli and Hamas delegations left ceasefire talks in Cairo.

One UN official in Rafah said: "There is a lot of fear and trepidation. The roads are very congested with cars, donkey carts, trolleys, pickup trucks and people" **12** →



▲ Palestinians return to Khan Younis, which was designated an 'expanded humanitarian zone' by Israel despite widespread destruction PHOTOGRAPH: AFP/GETTY

Starmer pledges to rip up Rwanda scheme

Jessica Elgot
Rajeev Syal

Keir Starmer will promise to rip up the government's Rwanda scheme and divert £75m to fund hundreds of new officers to tackle people-smuggling with new counter-terror powers. **6** →

DWP has 'head in sand' on carer payment crisis

Exclusive
Patrick Butler
Social policy editor

Tens of thousands of unpaid carers are at risk of debt and prosecution because their cases are lying unchecked on a government "alert"

database of people being overpaid benefits, new figures show.

Officials are aware of the mounting number of instances where UK carers are at risk of racking up overpayments that can in some cases lead to crippling debt, but for five years have chosen not to investigate all cases. Overpayments happen when

someone who claims £81 a week carer's allowance, often for looking after a frail, disabled or ill relative, breaches a strict earnings cap, which means they cannot earn more than £151 a week in a paid job.

If the carer breaches that limit, even by a penny, their whole allowance is deemed to be an overpayment, which the **2** →

