Hamas expels UN staff from Gazan school following exposure of a tunnel under the building

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Hamas, the militant organization that runs the Gaza Strip, prevented a team of UN experts from operating in the area of a tunnel shaft under a UNRWA school and removed the team from the area, Kan reported Tuesday.

The tunnel in the Zeitoun neighborhood, part of Hamas’ military urban infrastructure, was exposed two months ago [during fighting with Israel](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaU-VKcAM8k).

Bomb disposal staff from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) arrived at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school several days ago, Palestinian sources told Kan.

The specialists were requested to attend to ensure the safety of the educational building in preparation for the start of the new school year.

Police arrived on the scene when they learned of the UNMAS presence, ordered the evacuation of the building and sealed it off.

As a result the UNMAS team cancelled plans to examine the viability of a second UNRWA school in Rafah, in the enclave’s south, where another tunnel was suspected of being.

UNRWA later informed the Hamas administration that neither school would open at the start of term as a result, with as many as 4,000 students subsequently missing schooling.