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## **In Homes and on Streets, a War That Feels Deadlier**

By [SABRINA TAVERNISE](#)

RAFAH, [Gaza](#) — The war here comes from the sky: fast, sharp and coldly lethal. And even when it is not crushing a building or collapsing a tunnel, its sound is always near in the nasal whine of drones and the earsplitting roar of fighter jets.

Here in Gaza's south on Saturday, the 22nd day of the war, conversations were punctuated by the whistles and occasional cracks of Israeli ordnance hitting its targets — a maze of underground tunnels that served as smuggling routes for [Hamas](#).

To many people in this bustling town on the Egyptian border, this short war has been the worst in living memory, one that they say is likely to further deepen age-old resentments. As their walls shook and windows rattled, they said it seemed that [Israel](#) was seizing the opportunity to destroy as much as possible before a unilateral cease-fire was to take effect early Sunday.

In past conflicts, the attacks came in spurts, people here said, with missiles shot from helicopters that could take out a living room, but not an entire building. Now, said Muhammad Hamed, 24, things feel different. He lost some of his hearing for a short while, after a house on his street was destroyed.

"You see a plane, but you don't know where it will hit," he said, standing near an empty playground where several houses, and the tunnels that probably lay underneath them, had been crushed. The weapons, he said, were so big that people just disappeared.

"Even if you are a giant, all that could remain is your