

Issue Insight

Washington DC

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U.S. Department Of State Spokesperson Demonstrates Absolute *Disconnectivity* With Realities Of Residential Destruction By IDF In Gaza

How Can He View Real Time Images And Euphemistically Suggest Citizens Of Gaza Can Call *Allied Moving Company* And Then Return To Their Homes- As If They Have Been On Vacation And The IDF Was Providing Home Maintenance Services While The Owners Were Out Of Town?

Perhaps, Gazans Should Call Re/Max?

“*Rebuild Their Homes*” With What, For Example? With Without Jobs, How To Pay?

United States Department of State
Washington DC
9 April 2024

QUESTION: I have two questions. So you – you expressed concern about the fate of 1.4 million civilians who are trapped in Rafah. As you said, these people moved twice or three times at least. Would you accept returning these IDPs to the north, especially women and children? Because the Israelis seem to be opposing that, and by moving people from harm’s way to an area that’s being cleared and declared by Netanyahu as normal military operations there and Hamas is not viable, so why not allowing these people to go back to their original homes – what’s left from them?

MR [MATT] MILLER: So we have made clear – the Secretary has spoken to this on a number of occasions – that we do want to see the Palestinian people be able to return to their homes, whether they be in Khan Younis, whether they be in the north. Now, it needs to be safe for them to do so. They need to be able to return to homes that aren’t in the middle of ongoing military activity. If there is unexploded ordnance, that ordnance needs to be dealt with. If there are booby traps or other IEDs that Hamas has left, those need to be dealt with so people aren’t returning to apartment buildings that are unsafe. But we do support the return of Palestinians to their homes and their neighborhoods and have made that clear on a number of occasions.

QUESTION: Just one —

QUESTION: Sorry. How many livable homes in the north do you think that there are, in Khan Younis? How many – how many actually? You talked about it being safe and all these kind of things.

MR MILLER: So the —

QUESTION: I mean, the destruction is pretty massive.

MR MILLER: It is a great question.

QUESTION: So where would they return to?

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MR MILLER: A huge number of them have been destroyed. That is without a doubt. There are some homes that are still habitable. There are some apartment buildings that are still habitable. It is —

QUESTION: And you know this how?

MR MILLER: You can look and see the — that there are buildings that are still habitable. People report on the ground that there are buildings that are still habitable throughout Gaza. Now, a massive number have been destroyed, but they're — we hear from people who want to return either to their homes or they want to return to their neighborhoods so they can start to rebuild their homes, and we support their right to do so, recognizing that there is a very difficult road ahead of them.