

At Least 550 Muslims Have Died on Hajj Pilgrimage, as Temperatures Hit 125°F in Mecca

Two Arab diplomats told Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Tuesday that at least 550 Muslims have died during 2024's *hajj* pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, most of them from "heat-related illnesses."

Temperatures in Mecca have soared to 125 degrees Fahrenheit in June. Saudi officials said on Sunday that more than 2,000 pilgrims have been treated for heat stress, but they did not mention any fatalities and have not provided updated information since Sunday.

AFP's tally of deaths, based on local media sources, stood at 645 on Wednesday. The Arab diplomats who spoke to AFP said 550 bodies were being held at the largest morgue in Mecca.

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