**VOA慢速英语：多年后，加沙人民又享受到干净的海水**

Clear blue water and clean, yellow sand are giving beachgoers in the Gaza Strip their first experience in years of clean and safe beaches.

清澈湛蓝的海水和干净的黄沙，让加沙地带的海滩常客们在多年来首次体验到干净安全的海滩。

A beach is an area covered with sand that is next to an ocean, lake or river.

海滩是指海洋、湖泊或河流旁边被沙子覆盖的地区。

Untreated waste has flowed directly into the waters off Gaza for years.The pollution has prevented Gazans from swimming in the Mediterranean Sea and enjoying low-cost fun.

多年来，未经处理的废物一直直接排入加沙水域。污染使加沙人无法在地中海游泳以及享受这种低成本的乐趣。

But this season has been different.Government officials said water treatment centers, paid for by international groups, are operating across the territory.That has reduced pollution to its lowest levels in many years.

但这一季有所不同。政府官员说，由国际组织出资的水处理中心正在全境运作。这已将污染降低至多年来的最低水平。

Sahar Abu Bashir, 52, said, "We couldnt come before because the sea was pollutedand if we did, our children used to come back home with viruses and skin diseases."

52岁的萨哈尔·阿布·巴希尔说：“以前我们不能去海边玩，因为海洋被污染了，如果去了，我们的孩子就会带着病毒和皮肤病回家。”

The mother of four told Reuters, "Today the area is clean and the sea is clean.We felt as if we were in another country."

这位四个孩子的母亲告诉路透社：“如今，海滩和海洋都很干净。我们感觉好像在另一个国家。”

Many millions of cubic meters of untreated waste used to pour into the sea every day.But this week, the long sandy beach looked almost empty of red flags that warn people against swimming because of pollution.

过去每天都有数百万立方米未经处理的废物涌入大海。但本周，长长的沙滩上看起来几乎没有警示人们因有污染而不要游泳的警示红旗。

People sat around plastic tables at the waters edge and children played with rubber swimming equipment.In some areas, horse owners gave their animals a cooling sea bath.

人们围坐在海边的塑料桌旁，孩子们玩着橡胶游泳设备。在有些地区，马主人给自己的马洗一个凉爽的海水浴。

The militant group Hamas runs the Environment Quality and Water Authority.It said waste that poured into the sea was now partly treated.That makes 65 percent of the beaches safe and clean.The territorys rulers have plans to expand that.Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007.武装集团哈马斯管理着环境质量及水务局。该武装集团表示，倒入海中的废物现在已经得到了部分处理，使加沙65%的海滩变得安全、干净。该地区的统治者计划扩大范围。哈马斯在2007年控制了加沙地带。

Mohammad Mesleh is the director of environmental resources.He said, "The summer season in Gaza Strip will be relatively safe compared to previous yearsbecause of the noticeable improvement of the quality of seawater."

穆罕默德·梅斯莱是环境资源部主任。他说：“加沙地带的夏季将比往年相对安全，因为海水质量有了明显的改善。”

Gaza is small with an area of 375 square kilometers.It is home to 2.3 million Palestinians.Local and international records suggest most Gazans are poor and the unemployment rate in the territory is about 50 percent.

加沙面积很小，仅为375平方公里。它是230万巴勒斯坦人的家园。当地及国际记录显示，大多数加沙人都很穷，该地区的失业率约为50%。

Both Israel and Egypt enforce border restrictions on Gaza because of security concerns.

出于安全考虑，以色列和埃及都对加沙实行边境限制。

Deir Al-Balah is a city in the southern Gaza Strip.There, people crowded a beachfront resort called The Old Nights, built on a hilltop looking down on the beach.

代尔巴拉赫是加沙地带南部的一座城市。在那里，人们聚集在一个名为“旧夜”的海滨度假胜地，它建在一个能俯瞰海滩的山顶上。

Families ate inside colorful wooden structures.The owner, Rami Al-Naaouq, said the structures were built to look like natural colored hilltops.

来到这里的家庭在彩色的木制建筑里吃饭。该度假胜地的所有者拉米·阿尔纳奥克说这些建筑看起来就像天然彩色的山顶。

His business is doing very well this season.

这一季他的生意很好。

He said, "When there is no pollution I will have many customers in my place.That helps me make up for the losses of innovating and getting the place ready for the new year."

他说：“如果污染没有了，这将会有很多顾客。那会帮我弥补因创新和为新的一年做好准备而产生的损失。”

Im Jill Robbins.

吉尔·罗宾斯报道。