

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Israeli troops in Al-Quds dead a Turkish national on Tuesday after alleged stabbing, Israeli police said.

Police identified the man as a 34-year-old Turkish citizen. The alleged stabbing reportedly wounded a Zionist policeman.

Civil Defense: 10,000 Palestinians Buried Under Rubble in Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – There are an estimated 10,000 Palestinians buried under the rubble of buildings flattened by the Zionist regime's strikes in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian civil defense has said.

It would take two to three years to recover all the bodies unless digging equipment, which has been destroyed by Israel, is urgently replaced and allowed into the war-ravaged strip, it added

In a press release published on Tuesday, the civil defense also warned of the spread of diseases from the decomposed bodies.

It said high temperatures in the summer will likely increase the threat of epidemics, as heat accelerates decomposition of corpses.

"The General Directorate of Civil Defense renews its appeal to all relevant parties, led by the United Nations and the World Health Organization... to urgently intervene," the statement read.

It added that pressure was needed to "allow the entry of heavy equipment necessary to enable our crews to save the lives of those wounded



Palestinians dig in the rubble of a collapsed building searching for people following an Israeli air strike in Rafah, in the southern of Gaza Strip, on 16 October 2023.

by the ongoing Israeli bombing, as well as to extract the bodies of the martyrs that are decomposing under the rubble, and are causing a health disaster for the population."

After most Israeli troops pulled out from Gaza's populated areas on April 7, rescuers have been able to reach areas previously deemed inaccessible.

They have recovered more than

700 bodies found in mass graves in al-Shifa hospital and Nasser hospital, the strip's two biggest health facilities.

They have also launched fresh attempts to remove rubble in some areas in the northern Gaza Strip.

Using basic tools, they recovered some decomposed corpses from under the debris of buildings earlier this week.

However, they said their efforts are limited due to the lack of heavy digging machinery.

"Civil defense crews in the northern Gaza governorate embarked on these efforts, with the support of residents and volunteers using available simple hand tools," they said.

"In light of the lack of heavy equipment such as bulldozers and excavators, these efforts will remain insufficient and will not meet the minimum requirements necessary to recover the bodies of thousands of martyrs."

Palestinian officials previously estimated there were 7,000 people under rubble who have not been recovered and therefore not recorded in the health ministry's death toll, which currently stands at over 34,500.

The new estimate by the civil defense means the death toll could reach at least 44,500 once all bodies are recovered.

The majority of those killed and buried under debris are children and women.

Netanyahu Vows Rafah Invasion 'With or Without' Deal



Palestinians check the bodies of victims laid out outside a hospital morgue in Gaza City a day after an Israeli strike on the Jabalia refugee camp on 1 November 2023.

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday he would launch a ground invasion on Rafah "with or without" a deal with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

Speaking in a meeting with families of captives, Netanyahu said that Israel has begun the evacuation of Palestinian civilians from Rafah, according to his office.

"We will enter Rafah and eliminate Hamas battalions there, with or without a deal, to achieve the total victory," he said.

The remarks were made as Israeli and Hamas negotiators were in Egyptian-brokered talks on a deal for a ceasefire for the nearly seven-month-long Gaza conflict, that will secure the release of captives.

"The idea that we will stop the war before achieving all its objectives is out of the question," the head of the Zionist regime said on Tuesday, according to a statement from his office.

Earlier in the day, the Israeli military's chief of staff Herzi Halevi also said the military had approved final plans for the phased invasion of Rafah as well as the refugee camps in the central part of Gaza in the next 72 hours.

Rafah, situated in the Gaza Strip's closed southern border with Egypt, is home to around 1.5 million Palestinians who have been displaced due to Israel's ongoing genocidal campaign in the besieged territory.

Israel had designated Rafah a "safe zone," but in recent months it has been threatening a full-scale military aggression, leaving the people sheltering there terrified with nowhere to go.

The assault has mounted fears over a new carnage against Palestinians and drawn global condemnations.

Hamas has already said the movement is serious about reaching an agreement on ceasefire in Gaza, but will not give in to any pressure from the United States.

UNRWA: All Countries Except UK, Austria, Switzerland Resume Funding

GENEVA (Dispatches) – Excluding the U.S. funding decision through next March, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) chief said on Tuesday that all countries except the UK, Austria, and Switzerland resumed funding to the agency.

"The United States has clearly indicated that they will freeze the suspension until March 2025. Because of congress prohibition, the UK has not yet taken a decision," Philippe Lazzarini told a news conference in Geneva.

He added that no decisions have been made by Austria and Switzerland as well.

"So these three countries are still suspending, all the other countries have resumed," he

said.

Regarding Italy's suspension, he noted that the country has not yet contributed to the agency since the new government took office.

"With the announcement of new contributions to UNRWA, we can sustain operations until June and aim to continue operations through August," he added, clarifying that \$257 million is still suspended.

Lazzarini said no evacuation order from the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip has been given by the Zionist regime yet amid a likely Israeli military campaign.

"People have not yet been asked to evacuate from Rafah

but there is a sense that if there is no deal this week, this can happen at any time," he said.

He added that there is an "extraordinarily deep anxiety prevailing right now in Gaza, because the question everybody is asking is whether yes or not, there will be a military aggression."

Regarding the food situation, the commissioner-general said there is "more food" available in the markets, but added that "it doesn't mean that the food is accessible" as there is no cash circulating and the amount of food is "far from enough" to reverse "spreading hunger and looming famine."

Lazzarini also stressed that

UNRWA still has "no access" to the north, saying: "Whenever we ask for a convoy going from the south to the north, our convoys are systematically denied."

He added that whenever permission is given to deliver anywhere else in the strip, the process is "always complicated and very cumbersome."

According to Lazzarini, 182 UNRWA staff members have been killed, and more than 160 premises belonging to the agency have been damaged or totally destroyed since Oct. 7.

Most of these premises were sheltering displaced people, he said, and added that more than 400 people have been killed in these premises.

ICJ Rejects Emergency Measures Over German Arms Exports to Israel

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) – The International Court of Justice has ruled against issuing emergency measures over German arms sales to the Zionist regime as requested by Nicaragua, which had argued that there was a serious risk of genocide in Gaza amid the regime's assault on the Palestinian territory.

"The circumstances are not such as to require the exercise of its power under the article 41 of the statute to indicate provisional measures," presiding Judge Nawaf Salam said on Tuesday.

In a two-day hearing in April, Nicaragua brought a case against Germany for allegedly facilitating genocide by being one of Israel's biggest military suppliers.

Germany has denied the accusations, with its lawyer arguing that Nicaragua's case was rushed, based on flimsy evidence and should be thrown out for lack of jurisdiction.

The court did not grant the German request to throw out the case, so it can move forward.

In January, the world court in The Hague had ruled as part of a separate case brought by South Africa that there was "a real and imminent risk that irreparable prejudice" will be caused to the rights of Palestinians in Gaza under the genocide convention.

Meanwhile, American lawmakers are in the process of drafting a bill aimed at responding to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in case it decides to issue arrest warrants against high-ranking Israeli officials accused of committing war crimes in Gaza.

The legislation is being drafted in a retaliatory move against the ICC to prevent it from issuing arrest warrants against Israeli officials. It could also include sanctions against certain officials of the ICC, according to American news outlet Axios.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Monday that the U.S. did not support the ICC investigation, questioning the competency of the tribunal. "We don't believe that they have the jurisdiction," Jean-Pierre said.

Michael McCaul, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, also anticipated the unveiling of a House bill that mirrors Senator Tom Cotton's proposal to impose sanctions on ICC officials who are part of inquiries targeting the US and its partners, he told Axios.

Representative Brad Sherman also said that the US should "think of whether we stay a signatory" to the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC. "We have to think about talking to some of the countries that have ratified [the treaty] as to whether they want to support the organization," he said.

Taliban: Gunman Kills 6 Shia Worshippers in Mosque in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) – A gunman stormed a mosque in western Afghanistan, opening fire and killing six people as they were praying, a Taliban official said Tuesday.

Local media reports and a former president of Afghanistan said the mosque was targeted because it was a place of worship for the country's Shia Muslim minority.

The attack happened on Monday night in the district of Guzara in Herat province, said Abdul Mateen Qani, a spokesman for the Taliban Interior Ministry. He said in a post on the social media platform X that an investigation was underway.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded another worshipper while the attacker fled. Local media reported that the mosque's imam was among those killed.

"I strongly condemn the attack on the Imam Zaman Mosque," former Afghan President Hamid

Karzai said on X. "I consider this terrorist act against all religious and human standards."

The United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan also condemned the attack, which it said killed and wounded at least seven people, including a child. It called for urgent accountability for perpetrators and protection measures for Shia communities.

The Daesh terrorist group's affiliate in Afghanistan is a major Taliban rival and frequently targets schools, hospitals, mosques and Shia areas throughout the country.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, during the last weeks of the chaotic departure of U.S. and NATO troops from the country after 20 years of war.

Despite initial promises of a more moderate stance, the Taliban gradually reimposed laws as they did during their previous rule of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.