

# UN Agency Urges Funding for Gaza Reconstruction

GAZA STIP (Press TV) – A UN relief and human development agency has called on international donors to help deal with the unprecedented destruction in the Gaza Strip caused by a recent Zionist war.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) made the appeal on Thursday.

The latest Zionist war on the Gaza Strip, which started on July 8, ended on August 26 with a truce that took effect after indirect negotiations in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. The onslaught killed at least 2,140 Palestinians and injured thousands of others.

The total funding for rental subsidies, reconstruction and repair in the Gaza Strip is estimated to be USD 720 million, according to the UNRWA.

The UN agency has already received USD 100 million in donations from several countries but needs 620 million more.

“Based on satellite imagery and preliminary field work conducted immediately after the conflict, we estimated about 42,000 refugee family shelters had been affected by the war,” the UNRWA stated.



The UN calls on international donors to help rebuild the Gaza Strip following a recent Zionist war.

More than 7,000 refugee homes were completely destroyed in the Israeli offensive against the Gaza Strip, affecting some 10,000 Palestinian families. A total of 89,000 homes suffered damage, with about 10,000 having been seriously damaged.

aged. “These numbers are huge and represent both a major challenge to the agency as it works to provide transitional shelter and repair and reconstruction support, and clear physical evidence of the ferocity and

widespread nature of the conflict,” Robert Turner, the director of the UNRWA operations in Gaza, said.

He added, “The main concern right now is not only the scale of the requirement but the pace at which we will be able to address the needs.”

## Pakistan Military Kills 70 Militants

ISLAMABAD (AFP) – Pakistani military forces have killed 70 militants in airstrikes and ground operations in the restive northwest of the country.

Airstrikes killed militants in Khyber tribal district and ground operations in Bajaur tribal area killed ten militants, the military said in a statement.

The military operations came

hours after a roadside bomb killed three paramilitary soldiers in Bajaur, around 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of Peshawar.

“Three paramilitary soldiers were killed when they walked over an IED (improvised explosive device) planted on a roadside in Damadola area of Bajaur tribal district,” local official Suhail Khan told AFP.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. However, the Pakistani Taliban, and its splinter factions, have regularly hit security forces in the northwest.

Pakistan has been fighting home-grown terrorists, who have killed thousands of ordinary Pakistanis in recent years.

The Pakistani government and

military have reaffirmed their determination to defeat pro-Taliban militants following a massacre at a school in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Tuesday.

During the Peshawar incident, terrorists killed 148 people, including 132 children, at a school in the country’s deadliest ever terror attack.

## Trial of Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Opens in Jordan

AMMAN (Press TV) – A senior Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood official has gone on trial at a military tribunal in Jordan’s capital, Amman, for criticizing the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Zaki Bani Irsheid, the Jordanian Brotherhood’s deputy secretary general, went on trial at Amman’s state security court after criticizing the UAE for putting the group

on the list of “terrorist organizations.”

Irsheid and the legal team supporting him have rejected the trial, saying that his case should be handled by a civilian court, not the state security court.

“I reject this trial and my presence here before the state security court. This court does not have the jurisdiction to look into my case,”

he said on Thursday.

After the group was blacklisted by the UAE, Irsheid described the Persian Gulf state as “the prime godfather of terrorism,” serving the interests of the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

The Jordanian Brotherhood’s spokesman, Murad Adaileh, said Irsheid was arrested on November 20 over an op-ed piece he had

written, deemed to be critical of the UAE. Irsheid was taken by security forces after a meeting at the group’s headquarters in Amman’s Abdali neighborhood.

He has been accused of “acts that could harm Jordan’s relation with a brotherly state.”

Irsheid is also a leader of the Brotherhood’s political arm, the Islamic Action Front.

## Iraqi Officials Confirm Death of ISIL Top Terrorist

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi officials have confirmed the death of a key aide to the ISIL group leader and one of his military chiefs in the US-led coalition airstrikes in northern Iraq.

The airstrikes killed a confidante of Ibrahim Samarrai, who is known by the alias Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and one of his military chiefs. A third terrorist, described as a mid-level leader, was also killed in the airstrikes.

Iraqi officials also said that their operations are beginning to weaken the terrorist group’s leadership structure in Iraq.

Earlier, US officials also confirmed that two senior ISIL leaders were killed in coalition airstrikes in north of Iraq.

The ISIL terrorists, who have seized swathes of land in Iraq, have been carrying out horrific acts of violence against all communities in the Arab country.

The US-led coalition began targeting positions held by the Takfiri ISIL terrorists in Iraq in August but the raids have so far failed to dislodge the ISIL.

## Pakistani Beheaded in Saudi Arabia for Smuggling Heroin

RIYADH (Press TV) – Saudi Arabia has executed a Pakistani man for smuggling heroin into the Persian Gulf kingdom, the Saudi Interior Ministry says.

Mohammed Sadiq Hanif was detained during his attempt to smuggle “a large amount” of heroin into the country, the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to reports, the beheaded Pakistani national had hidden the

narcotics in his stomach and his execution was carried out in the eastern town of al-Khobar.

Last month, Saudi authorities executed four Pakistanis charged with smuggling heroin into the country.

Also in November, Saudi Arabia beheaded a Turkish man convicted of drug trafficking. The man known as Ali Agridas was executed in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Agridas had been sentenced to death after being convicted of receiving a “large amount of drugs,” the ministry noted.

The latest beheadings reportedly increase the number of executed people in the kingdom this year above 80, amid concerns raised by the international community.

A United Nations independent expert called in September for an immediate halt to the execution of the

death penalty in Saudi Arabia.

Christof Heyns, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said the trials in the kingdom “are by all accounts grossly unfair” and defendants are often not permitted to have a lawyer represent them at court.

He added that coerced confessions were attained under torture.

Drug trafficking carries the death penalty under Saudi Arabia’s law.

## U.S. ...

(Continued From Page One)

the committee, went on to express “frustration that the department had decided to delay publication of the Iran volume” based solely on political concerns, according to the meeting’s minutes.

Release of the controversial and “long-awaited” report was originally slated for last summer, according to Immerman, a Temple University professor. The report, in fact, has been completed and ready for release since at least last June.

“We were expecting it to come out,” Immerman told the Free Beacon, explaining that higher-level officials apparently stepped in to put a kibosh on the scheduled release.

“We were told that it had been placed on hold based on, or largely because of the ongoing negotiations (with Iran) and the concern ... that this would further roil the waters and make the prospects of reaching some sort of agreement less likely,” Immerman said.

“This is unusual since all of the agencies have signed off on the document,” Immerman explained. “It’s not being held up by the continued classification of documents. It’s being held up, based on my understanding, by the State Department’s perspective that it would not serve the interests of U.S. foreign policy.”

One volume of information covering the historical period in question already has been public release, the official went on to note.

“While it does not include all documentation from every U.S. government agency, it is an extensive record of State Department documentation from that period,” the official said.

The State Department’s hesitance to release the report “has been a source of frustration for decades”, according to Federation of American Scientists (FAS), which discussed the issue in a recent publication.

A volume on this time period published in 1989 makes “no mention of CIA covert action” in Iran, according to FAS.

The unreleased volume “will provide documentary evidence, and also officially put the U.S. on the record as admitting its involvement in the 1953 overthrow”, according to historical committee member Immerman.

“It was decided that in this political environment, it would be counterproductive” to go forward with the release, he said.

Additional information about the United States’ action in Iran may “hold the power to move whole countries and to alter the course of events today”, the FAS speculated.

## Iran...

(Continued From Page One)

be tested and evaluated in the war games,” he added.

Sayyari said tests would include assessing the capability of Iran’s “surface-to-surface, surface-to-sea, surface-to-air and air-to-surface missiles”.

The objective of the exercise, Mousavi explained, is to bolster Iran’s combat power, including practicing counter-terrorism maneuvers.

The exercise will also serve as a “show of lasting might, peace, and friendship under the banner of Islamic and regional unity” and to demonstrate that Iran is “opposed to the presence of foreigners in the region”, Mousavi added.

## Tehran...

(Continued From Page One)

terrorism and extremism constituted the main source of crisis in the Middle East.

Iran is committed to international rules and regulations and seeks to promote the human rights condition in the country as well as in the region and the world, she said.

Iran’s envoy to the United Nations dismissed the UN General Assembly resolution as “political, prejudicial and unbalanced”.

Deputy Ambassador to the UN Ghol-

am-Hussein Dehqani also protested that the resolution does not acknowledge the “positive developments” in Iran.

The resolution builds on reports by UN Human Rights Rapporteur on Iran Ahmed Shaheed.

On June 17, 2011, the UN Human Rights Council, under pressure from the United States and its allies, named Shaheed, a former Maldivian foreign minister, as its human rights investigator on Iran.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly criticized biased reports on its human rights situation, saying the appointment of a UN special rapporteur on Iran’s human rights situation is a selective, politically-tainted and unacceptable move.

## IAEA...

(Continued From Page One)

Russian President Vladimir Putin meanwhile said negotiators are “very close” to resolving the standoff over Iran’s nuclear program.

Speaking at a live news conference, the Russian leader praised the Iranian leadership for “demonstrating great flexibility” in the talks, according to the state news service Sputnik News.

“I do not understand why the final deal has not been inked yet. I hope it will happen in the near future,” he added, according to the Sputnik report.

The Russian leader may soon be visiting the Iranian capital Tehran, he said.

“My trip to Tehran is possible. We are currently arranging it through diplomatic channels.”

He hinted that such a visit might be intended to defy Western pressures, saying, “If we find that we need a separate meeting (with the Iranian president), then we have no limits. We have no limits regarding any sort of external pressure.”

The French UN mission posted on Twitter on Thursday that “new ideas submitted during the talks in Vienna deserved careful consideration by the P5 + 1 members”.

Iran and the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia failed last month to meet a self-imposed deadline to resolve the standoff, extending the talks for seven more months.

Under the interim deal’s extension, Iran would continue to convert higher-grade uranium oxide into reactor fuel.

Friday’s IAEA report said Iran on Nov. 25 “temporarily stopped the operations for conversion and fuel manufacturing” in preparation for the UN agency’s inventory checks at the facility that were subsequently carried out Dec. 14-16.

The language implied that Iran was soon expected to resume conversion and one diplomatic source said he saw no problem.

Iran converted 25 kg of uranium oxide enriched to 20% fissile concentration under the first extension of the interim agreement, or a quarter of the total stock. Diplomats said this should continue at an average rate of about five kg per month.

## Cleric...

(Continued From Page 2)

over a jury decision not to indict an officer who killed an unarmed black American.

Angry protesters took to the streets across the United States after a jury decided not to indict police officer Darren Wilson who shot dead unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in August.

Ayatollah Movahedi Kermani further lashed out at Washington for supporting the Tel Aviv regime in its atrocities against Palestinians.

“How longer does the U.S. want to back the child-killing Israeli regime?” asked the cleric.

He then blasted U.S. statesmen for seeking to tarnish the image of Iran by distorting the realities.

“How longer do you want to keep telling so many lies about Iran and portray Iran as a sponsor of terrorism?” he said.

The U.S. has time and again accused Iran of sponsoring terrorism. The Islamic Republic has been on the U.S. State Department’s blacklist of state sponsors of terrorists for three decades.