

# Saudi Blockade Drives Yemeni Kids Into Severe Malnutrition

SANAA (Dispatches) – **The International Rescue Committee says Saudi Arabia’s ongoing blockade on Yemen drives 500 children into malnutrition every week.**

The New-York based relief group said on Wednesday that the siege was responsible for the “humanitarian misery for millions of Yemenis.”

On November 6, Saudi Arabia announced that it was shutting down Yemen’s air, sea, and land borders, after Yemeni fighters targeted an international airport near the Saudi capital, Riyadh, with a cruise missile. The United Nations made a plea for the Saudi war machine to remove its blockade, warning that without aid shipments “untold thousands of innocent victims, among them many children, will die” and that a partial lifting was not enough.

“Sanctions and inspections should not be used as weapons of war,” the aid group said in a statement.

It also denounced as a “disgrace” the international community’s inaction, saying its silence “is enabling what could be collective punishment.”

Saudi Arabia has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to crush the Houthi Ansarullah movement and reinstate former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is a staunch ally of the Riyadh regime, which has failed to fulfill the objectives of its campaign.

More than 12,000 people have been killed



*A malnourished Yemeni child receives treatment at a hospital in the port city of Hudaydah, November 21, 2017.*

since the onset of the campaign. Much of the Arabian Peninsula country’s infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and factories, has been reduced to rubble due to the war.

In another development, Yemen’s capital Sanaa airport controlled was reopened and received two planes carrying humanitarian aid and diplomats on Wednesday after two weeks of closure imposed by a Saudi-led coalition, airport officials and state Saba news agency confirmed.

The first flight was for the International Committee of the Red Cross carrying humanitarian aid landed in the airport in the morning. The other plane carrying Russian diplomats landed in the airport hour later, according to the officials and Saba agency.

The move came a day after Houthi group announced the readiness of the airport to receive international flights after repairing the airport’s radio navigation system.

## Palestinian Factions Agree on Implementation of Cairo Deal

GAZA/CAIRO (Dispatches) – **Leaders of Palestinian factions and political powers, who convene in Cairo for two days, have agreed on a full implementation of the Egyptian-brokered reconciliation deal reached in October 12, a senior official said Wednesday.**

Jamil Mezher, member of the Palestinian left-wing Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who is participating

in the comprehensive dialogue, said in a press statement that the agreement was reached on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, leaders of the factions, including rival Hamas movement and Fatah Party of President Mahmoud Abbas resumed their broader dialogue, for the second day in a row, on finalizing an end of ten years of internal division.

“It was agreed on Tuesday that the Egyptian security intelligence would send a special team to Gaza soon to observe and follow up on the implementation of the reconciliation agreement signed in Cairo in October 12,” the statement said.

Leaders of rival Fatah and Hamas agreed in Cairo to transfer power to the Palestinian consensus government, including

running ministries and crossing points on the borders either with the Zionist regime or with Egypt.

On Tuesday, leaders of 13 factions and political power leaders started their broader dialogue in Cairo. The session lasted for 11 hours, where they discussed the finalization on all the reconciliation agreements and understandings reached in the past.

## Iraq’s Kurdistan Urged to Respect Court Ruling on Secession Vote

NEW YORK (Press TV) – **The United Nations has called on the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to abide by a top court ruling that declared the recent secession referendum in northern Iraq unconstitutional.**

Iraq’s Supreme Federal Court, which is responsible for settling disputes between the central government in Baghdad and the country’s regions, announced it had made a “decision to consider the Kurdish region’s referendum unconstitutional and this ruling is final.”

It also decided to annul “all the consequences and results” of the plebiscite which was held on September 25 in defiance of strong objection from both Baghdad and Iraq’s neighbors, particularly Iran and Turkey.

On Tuesday, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) urged the KRG authorities “to acknowledge and respect” the verdict and the Iraqi constitution.

The UN mission also demanded that Baghdad and Erbil engage in negotiations without delay within the framework of the constitution and discuss issues ranging from the control of borders and the reopen-

ing of airports to the federal budget, the payment of salaries and the management of oil exports.

Speaking on Monday, KRG Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani called the top court ruling “unilateral” and claimed that it had been reached without the presence of KRG representatives.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, however, welcomed the verdict in a statement, saying, “We call upon everybody to ... avoid taking any step which violates the constitution and law.”

On November 6, Iraq’s Supreme Federal Court ruled that no region or province can break away from the mainland. The KRG said last week it would respect that order and expressed hope that the decision will set the stage for Baghdad-Erbil dialog.

The Iraqi government responded to the controversial Kurdish vote by conducting a military campaign to retake the areas overrun by the Kurdish militants in the course of the fight with the Daesh terrorists. It also banned direct flights to the semi-autonomous Kurdish region and demanded control over border crossings.

## Amnesty Calls on Australia to Disclose Arms Deals With Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Dispatches) – **An international rights group has called on the Australian government to disclose all of its arms deals with Saudi Arabia amid the worsening humanitarian situation in Yemen.**

On Tuesday, the Amnesty International stated that Australia is “legally obliged” to certify that its arms sold to the Saudis are not being used in situations which violate human rights in Yemen.

“In the past 12 months the Australian Department of Defense has approved four different military licenses to Saudi Arabia,” said Amnesty’s Rasha Mohamed.

“We’re calling on Australia to fully disclose all transfer details and deals they’ve made with the Saudi-led coalition, and make public what are the end user agreements,” she added.

So far Australia’s Department of Defense has refrained from disclosing the specifications of the deals.

Saudi Arabia was the world’s second largest arms importer in 2016 after India, purchasing over \$15 billion in weapons, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

On Monday, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the Yemeni capital of Sana’a and the south-central city of Bayda have joined the list of urban centers without clean water due to a persisting blockade imposed on the impoverished nation by a Saudi-led military coalition.

Saudi Arabia has been ceaselessly pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to

crush the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement and reinstate the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of the regime in Riyadh.

Latest figures show that the war has so far killed over 12,000 Yemenis and wounded thousands more. The Saudi aggression has also taken a heavy toll on the country’s facilities and infrastructure, destroying many hospitals, schools, and factories.

Riyadh has also imposed a tight blockade on nearly all Yemeni air, land and sea ports on November 6, prompting human rights and charity groups to raise the alarm over deteriorating situation in the country as people, particularly children, are increasingly suffering from the lack of food and medical supplies.

### Leader...

(Continued From Page One)

The Leader’s remarks came in response to a letter by Quds Force chief General Qasem Soleimani who declared the ultimate defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria and congratulated him on the victory.

“By disintegrating this cancerous and deadly tumor, you not only provided great service to regional countries and the Muslim world, but also all nations and the humanity,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and motivated, maintaining unity, removing any dangerous remnants of the terrorist group, conducting cultural activities and staying fully prepared.

The Leader warned that the enemy’s deceit should not be overlooked and said those who made huge investment to create the Daesh terrorist group would try to re-hatch their evil plots in another part of the region or in other forms.

### Butcher ...

(Continued From Page One)

Aleksandar Vucic, president of Serbia whose late nationalist strongman Milosevic was Mladic’s patron but died in a tribunal prison before the end of his trial, said Serbia “respects the victims” and called for a focus on the future.

“I would like to call on everyone (in the region) to start looking into the future and not to drown in tears of the past ... We need to look to the future ...so we finally have a stable country,” Vucic told reporters when asked about the verdict.

Serbia, once the most powerful Yugoslav republic, is now democratic and seeking ties to the European Union.

Bosnian Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic said he hoped that “those who still call for new divisions and conflicts will carefully read the verdict rendered today ...in case that they are still not ready to face their past.”

He was alluding to enduring separatism in post-war federal Bosnia’s autonomous Serb region.

Srebrenica, near Bosnia’s eastern border with Serbia, had been designated a “safe area” by the United Nations and was defended by lightly armed UN peacekeepers. But they quickly surrendered when Mladic’s forces stormed it on July 11, 1995.

The Dutch peacekeepers looked on helplessly as Serb forces separated men and boys from women, then sent them out of sight on buses or marched them away to be shot.

A bronzed and burly Mladic was filmed visiting a refugee camp in Srebrenica on July 12. “He was giving away chocolate and sweets to the children while the cameras were rolling, telling us nothing will happen and that we have no reason to be afraid,” recalled Munira Subasic of the Mothers of Srebrenica group.

“After the cameras left he gave an order to kill whoever could be killed, rape whoever could be raped and finally he ordered us all to be banished and chased out of Srebrenica, so he could make an ‘ethnically clean’ city,” she told Reuters.

The remains of Subasic’s son Nermin and husband Hilmo were both found in mass graves by International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP) workers. The ICMP have identified some 6,900 remains of Srebrenica victims through DNA analysis.

“While (this conviction) does not end the suffering of those relatives who have waited more than 20 years to see this day, seeing justice delivered might offer them some closure,” said John Dalhuisen of rights group Amnesty International.

“It is also an important reminder that more than 20 years after the Bosnian war, thousands of cases of enforced disappearances remain unresolved, and victims and their families continue to be denied access to justice, truth and reparation.”

Mladic is still seen as a national hero by some Serbs for presiding over the swift capture of 70% of Bosnia after its Serbs rose up against a Muslim-Croat referendum vote for independence from Serbian-led federal Yugoslavia.

Defense lawyers fell short in swaying the ICTY given the mountain of evidence of Serb atrocities produced at previous

trials. Four of Mladic’s subordinates received life sentences.

Karadzic was convicted of genocide in 2016 and sentenced to 40 years, and is appealing. Mladic was indicted along with Karadzic in 1995, shortly after the Srebrenica killings, but evaded capture until 2011.

His trial in The Hague took five years in part because of delays due to his poor health and will be the last case - barring appeals - to be heard by the ICTY.

Mladic has suffered several strokes, though ICTY judges rejected a flurry of last-minute attempts by defense lawyers to put off the verdict on medical grounds.

The ICTY indicted 161 people in all from Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Of the 83 convicted, more than 60 of them were ethnic Serbs.

### U.S. ...

(Continued From Page One)

“President Abbas believes the plan could be okay only if we add to it the words ‘1967 borders’. We are willing to give Israel time if they are willing to give us land.

“We told them, if the plan states clearly that the ‘ultimate deal’ is to have Palestinian statehood (based) on the 1967 borders with a slight land swap, (then) we will accept the first stage of it, which (is) establishing a state with provisional borders.”

The official, who is close to the talks, said the only Palestinian concerns were that the occupying regime of Israel will make the provisional deal final.

Another Palestinian official said Abbas believes the plan, which was drafted by Kushner and Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, initially originated from Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu. “This is Netanyahu’s plan and he sold it to the U.S. team and they are trying to sell it to the Palestinians and Arabs,” the source said.

The official added that the Palestinians are now expecting more pressure from Washington and Arab capitals.

“The U.S. is waving sanctions against the Palestinians if they reject the plan, like shutting down the PLO mission office in Washington DC and stopping the financial aid to the Palestinian Authority,” the source said.

That threat came to pass this week as the U.S. shut down the office of the Palestinian representative in Washington and the Palestinians in turn froze all meetings with the U.S., officials said on Tuesday.

Many Palestinians say they would reject any Saudi-led “peace” deal which compromised on the right of return of Palestinian refugees and sought to “normalize” Arab relations with Israel.

“This will never be accepted by any Palestinian, inside Palestine, outside Palestine, anywhere,” Major General Sobhi Abu Arab, the Palestinian national security chief in the Ain el-Helweh refugee camp in Sidon, Lebanon, told MEE.

“This is not a new idea. It is brought up every so often and Abu Mazen (Abbas) would never agree to it.”

“These are empty words that have been used for decades.”

Zafer al-Khateeb, a Palestinian activist inside Ain el-Helweh, said that the occupying regime of Israel was seeking to use the opportunity with Saudi Arabia to “break the taboo on Arab normalization with Israel.”

“They know the right of return cannot be removed. That is not to say there isn’t something being cooked. There is certainly work being done, but until now it is unclear and there is no reality on the ground,” he said.

### U.S. ...

(Continued From Page 2)

jurisdiction over Clearstream, and whether state or federal law prevents the plaintiffs from recovering bond proceeds.

In April 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court said in a separate case that Bank Markazi must pay nearly \$2 billion, which had been frozen, to terrorism victims, and Congress had not exceeded its authority by passing a law making it easier to recover damages.

In April, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif denounced U.S. confiscation of \$3.5 billion of Bank Markazi assets as an instance of international banditry.