

# Zionist Regime's Desecration of Palestinian Dead Body 'War Crime'

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Human rights advocates have expressed outrage after video footage of an Israeli military bulldozer dragging the body of a Palestinian man shot dead by Zionist troops in the occupied Gaza Strip circulated widely on social media over the weekend.

"This is a war crime," tweeted the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, a nonprofit group known as Adalah, in response to the Shehab news agency video, Common Dreams reported.

The group demanded in a letter that the Zionist regime's military immediately launch an investigation into the incident.

On Sunday, Zionist troops killed 27-year-old Mohammed Ali al-Naim, a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, east of Khan Yunis, for allegedly trying to plant "an explosive device" near the fence separating Gaza from the Israeli-occupied territories.

The video that went viral on



This picture taken on February 23, 2020 shows men trying to collect a body as an Israeli bulldozer approaches them, along the Gaza fence east of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

social media over the weekend showed what appeared to be the lifeless body of the resistance fighter dangling from an Israeli military bulldozer as it removed the corpse. Two other men were wounded while trying to retrieve Mohammed's body.

"In the letter, Adalah attorney Sawzan Zaher detailed a series of

international laws—including the Rome Statute, the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment, and the Hague Regulations—which classify the Israeli military actions depicted in the video as war crimes and blatant violations of international criminal law, and international human

rights, and humanitarian law," the group said in a statement.

Islamic Jihad later fired a barrage of rockets into the occupied territories in retaliation for the Zionist troops' move. The Gaza-based movement said in a statement the video showed a "brutal crime."

A spokesman for the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas told Al Jazeera that the incident was reflective of the regime's occupation of the Palestinian territories and its treatment of Palestinian people.

In a statement reported by the Middle East Eye, Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said Mohammed was unarmed.

Mohammed's mother, Mirvat, 56 said, "Isn't it horrendous enough that they killed my young man? What they did is a great crime against humanity."

"All I want is for them to bring my son back ... It's my right to see him for the last time and bid farewell to him and bury him near me to be able to visit him," she said.

## Hindu... (Continued From Page One)

Critics say the country is moving toward a religious citizenship test. At a massive rally in Ahmedabad after Trump's arrival on Monday, the president praised India's history of religious tolerance, saying many faiths "worship side by side in harmony."

Trump failed Tuesday to strike any major trade deal with India at the end of a visit big on photo opportunities but short on substance and overshadowed by deadly riots. Speaking after talks in New Delhi with Modi, the U.S. president said only that they had made "tremendous progress" towards a comprehensive agreement and that he was "optimistic we can reach a deal".

While minor compared to his trade war with China, Trump has slapped tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium and suspended duty-free access for certain goods in an effort to cut the \$25-billion U.S. trade deficit with Asia's third-biggest economy.

Under pressure to deliver ahead of elections in November, he had pressed for greater access to the vast Indian market of 1.3 billion people for U.S. dairy producers, makers of medical goods and for Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

But Modi, who has a lot in common with Trump with his "Make in India" mantra echoing Trump's "America First" slogan, has responded with higher tariffs on U.S. goods including \$600 million worth of Californian almonds.

Modi, speaking alongside Trump a day after they appeared together at a raucous rally in front of 100,000 people, said only that both sides "have agreed to start negotiating for a big trade deal".

Trump and Modi did however announce \$3 billion in military deals, including for the sale of naval helicopters, proof of their deepening strategic alliance to counter China.

But the absence of a trade deal between the world's biggest economy and its second most populous nation showed that behind the bonhomie they remain far apart. At Monday's rally Trump described Modi as "very very tough".

## Toppled... (Continued From Page One)

Born on May 4, 1928 in the Nile Delta village of Menufiah, Mubarak went on to rise through the air force ranks before becoming vice president and then Egypt's leader.

Seen as a somewhat bland politician, he earned the moniker "The Laughing Cow", after the mascot of a processed cheese brand, an image that would be sprayed on Cairo walls during the Arab Spring protests.

Critics say that during the Mubarak years the government and economy were hobbled by rampant corruption, bureaucratic mediocrity and rights abuses.

Mubarak did not introduce Egypt's police state, but under him the secret police, known to torture and disappear opponents, came to control almost every aspect of daily life.

"We knew everything about everyone," said one senior secret police official after Mubarak's overthrow.

The stifling police state impacted society and culture. Even as Egypt's population boomed during the Mubarak era, the Arab world's one-time intellectual and cultural center faded as a regional power.

In 2005, Mubarak emerged the winner of what observers said was Egypt's latest rigged election. His principal opponent, Ayman Nour, was later jailed.

In the last years of Mubarak's reign, it was unclear whether he was truly in charge or had devolved many of his responsibilities to his son Gamal, then a senior party figure.

Mubarak's ouster came in the heady Arab Spring days, soon after Tunisians overthrew their leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011. Egyptian activists took to the streets on January 25 and quickly hundreds of thousands demanded Mubarak's departure.

Within three days Mubarak had sacked his cabinet in a gesture to the protesters, presenting them with a tough choice: either he stayed or chaos would follow.

Later, the military decided that Mubarak could not remain in power any longer.

On February 11, he was flown to a Red Sea resort far from Cairo, leaving his hastily appointed vice president to announce his resignation and the onset of military rule.

That announcement on national television sparked jubilation by millions in Egypt. Mubarak was later arrested and put on trial over the deaths of protesters during the 18-day revolt as well as for corruption.

Once a robust man and a keen squash player, Mubarak was wheeled into court on a stretcher, his sunglasses barely disguising his look of disgust as lawyers and prosecutors demanded he be hanged.

He was condemned to life in jail in 2012, but an appeals court ordered a retrial. During his detention, Mubarak denied wrongdoing.

By 2017, he was cleared of all charges brought against him and released. His two sons, Alaa and Gamal, were also sentenced in a graft case, but were released after time served.

Mubarak spent his final days in a military hospital, leaving only occasionally.

## Bounties ... (Continued From Page One)

Among the virtues of this observance is expiation of many sins. It is mentioned that when someone who has offered this prayer dies, on the first night of his burial God Almighty sends the reward for it in the most beautiful of forms, with a bright and gracious face, to greet him/her in the grave. Speaking in an eloquent manner, it says: "My friend, congratulations for having been delivered from every hardship and suffering." The person asks: "Who are you? By God, I have never seen a more beautiful face, never heard a sweeter speech, nor smelled a better fragrance than yours!" It replies: "I am the reward of the prayer you offered on such and such a night of such and such a month in such and such a year. I have come tonight to fulfill my debt to you, to give you company in your solitude, and to relieve you of your loneliness. When the trumpet is sounded I will shade you on the plain of resurrection. So rejoice, for you will not be missing your Lord's grace!"

To perform the devotions of "Laylat-ar-Raghaeb", fast should be kept on the First Thursday of Rajab. After nightfall, between the Maghreb and Isha ritual prayers, a 12-raka'ah prayer is performed in six parts, i.e. after every two raka'ahs, the salaam is recited, followed by renewal of intention for the next two raka'ah until completion of all twelve raka'ats. In each raka'ah, Surah al-Hamd is recited once, followed by Surat al-Qadr three times and Surat at-Tawhid 12 times. After completing this prayer say 70 times: "Allahumma, Salle ala Muhammadinin-Nabi-yil-ummi, wa ala Alehi. (O Allah, bless Muhammad, the untaught Prophet, and his progeny). Then put the forehead on the ground in prostration to recite 70 times the Arabic phrase: Subbuhun, Quddusun Rabb'ul- Mala'ekate war-Rouh. (You are Glorious and Holy, O Lord of the angels and the Spirit). Then on raising your head from prostration, say 70 times: Rabbigh-fir warham, wa tajawaz amma ta'lum, innaka antal Aliul-A'zam! (Lord, forgive me and have mercy on me! Excuse what You know. Indeed You are the Most High and the Greatest) Then again put the forehead on the ground in prostration and say 70 times: Subbuhun, Quddusun Rabb'ul- Mala'ekate war-Rouh. (You are Glorious and Holy, O Lord of the angels and the Spirit). Thereafter, beseech the Almighty Creator to grant you whatever legal and rational request you have. Rajab starts with the birthday on its 1st (57 AH in Medina) of the Prophet's 5th Infallible Heir, Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS), and towards its end is the 28th on which the Prophet's grandson, Imam Husain (AS), was forced to leave Medina in 60 AH for the fateful journey that ended in his tragic martyrdom in Karbala.

In between are other significant anniversaries. These include the martyrdom of the Prophet's 10th Infallible Heir, Imam Ali an-Naqi (AS), on its 3rd in the year 254 AH in Samarra; birthday of the Infant Martyr of Karbala, Hazrat Ali Asghar (AS) on its 9th in 60 AH in Medina; birthday of the Prophet's 9th Infallible Heir, Imam Muhammad at-Taqi (AS) on its 10th in 195 AH in Medina; the glorious birthday in the holy Ka'ba of Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) on its 13th; martyrdom of the Prophet's grand-daughter, Hazrat Zainab (SA) on its 15th in Damascus; Imam Ali's (AS) miraculous single-handed conquest of the impregnable Israelite stronghold of Khaibar on its 24th in 7 AH; martyrdom of the Prophet's 7th Infallible Heir, Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS) on its 25th in 183 AH in Baghdad; and the auspicious eve and day of the 27th - Mab'ath or Divine Ordainment of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) with formal entrustment of the universal message of Islam. Fasting and other acts of worship, including reciting of the "Ziyarah" for Imam Husain (AS) reach their climax on "Laylat al-Ghufayla" (the 15th eve).

## Egypt Executes Eight Men Over Church Bombings

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egypt has executed eight men sentenced to death over deadly attacks claimed by the Daesh terrorist group on churches and a police checkpoint, judicial and medical sources said Tuesday.

The convicts, whose final appeal against the death penalty was denied in May last year, were put to death at dawn on Monday, the sources said.

They were among 17 defendants who were sentenced to death by a military court in October 2018 for their roles in the attacks on churches in Alexandria, Cairo and Tanta and a police checkpoint in southwestern Egypt, a judicial source told AFP.

The other nine were tried in absentia and remain at large.

The four attacks in 2016 and 2017, mostly targeting Chris-

tians, killed a total of 88 people.

The Coptic Christian minority makes up between 10 and 15 percent of Egypt's 100 million population and has been particularly targeted by Daesh terrorists.

Executions have risen sharply since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi took power in 2014 after leading the army's overthrow of president Mohamed Morsi.

Human rights group Amnesty

International, which opposes the death penalty, said the severity of the convicts' alleged offences was no justification for their group execution.

"A mass execution is no way to deliver justice. These men were executed following an unfair military trial," it said.

"Everyone is entitled to a fair trial, regardless of the charges that they are facing."

## 5 Killed in Military Attacks in Afghanistan

MAZAR-I-SHARIF (Dispatches) – Five people including a civilian have been confirmed dead as militants stormed a security checkpoint in Charkent district of the northern Balkh province, district governor Salima Mazari said Tuesday.

A group of the armed militants, according to the official, attacked a security checkpoint in Parabarot village of the restive district at 03:30 a.m. local time on Monday, killing four pro-government militia members and a woman villager.

Six more villagers were wounded due to the firing, the official said. Taliban have yet to comment.

A week-long partial truce has come into effect across Afghanistan after the United States, the Taliban militant group and Afghan forces agreed to a so-called "reduction in violence" in the war-torn country on Saturday.

The development came after the United States and the Taliban agreed to sign a deal at the end of February aimed at ending America's longest war.

The two sides have been in talks over the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan in return for security guarantees from the militant

group. Details of how exactly the truce will work have remained scant. Talks restarted in Qatar later in December last year, but were suspended again following an attack near the Bagram military base in Afghanistan, which is run by the U.S.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 and overthrew a Taliban regime in power at the time. But U.S. troops have remained bogged down there through the presidencies of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and now Donald Trump.

The invasion deposed the Taliban, but the group has never ceased its operations across Afghanistan, and has vowed to keep up its attacks until the withdrawal of all U.S. troops.

Nearly two decades on, Washington is seeking a truce with the militants, who now control or have influence in about half of Afghanistan's territory.

There are now about 13,000 U.S. troops as well as thousands of other NATO personnel in Afghanistan.

## Saudi Jobseekers Move Into Uber Gear for Extra Cash

RIYADH (AFP) – Burdened by a bank loan, Ebrahim Ahmad searched for years for a second job before opting for something once seen as menial in oil-rich Saudi Arabia - driving for a ride-hailing app.

Such blue-collar occupations have largely been the preserve of low-income foreign workers in the kingdom.

But Saudis are increasingly taking on what are widely seen as low status jobs, as the government trims subsidies.

Like tens of thousands of Saudis looking to make extra money, 31-year-old Ahmad turned to the global giant Uber, whose drivers in the conservative kingdom had always been predominantly foreign workers.

For the father of three, a salary of 8,000 riyals (\$2,133) as an employee at a private company in Riyadh was not enough to support his family and cover a monthly housing loan of 4,000 riyals.

"I finish my job at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and this is what made it difficult to find a second job," Ahmad, clad in a white tradi-

tional thobe, told AFP.

"My income after paying the monthly loan would be so limited, and we went through four years of this drought."

In 2017, Ahmad sold his car to put a down payment on a new vehicle and enrolled with Uber.

The company's spokesman says it is available in 20 cities in the kingdom and employs more than 200,000 Saudi drivers.

"I work for seven hours a day, five days a week, and make an average of 6,000 riyals per month from Uber," said Ahmad, adding the second job had helped ease his financial burden.

Nearly two-thirds of all Saudis are employed by the government in secure white-collar jobs.

But as the public sector wage bill balloons, the kingdom - pushing reforms for a post-oil era - is seeking to wean citizens off government largesse.

Cultural attitudes to work are slowly changing in a country where 40 per cent of Saudis

are aged between 20 and 40, with a new crop of nationals working in food trucks and gas stations for the first time.

Often these are second jobs to augment their incomes as high costs of living push many into debt.

Uber, which launched in the kingdom in 2014, acquired Dubai-based Careem in 2019 for \$3.1 billion.

Both Uber and Careem have hired women since the kingdom lifted its ban on female motorists in 2018.

"I have paid off a third of (my wedding and car) loans thanks to Uber," said Khaled, a 27-year-old newly-wed Saudi man. "I work 10 hours a day in addition to my other job to quickly settle my two loans."

Unemployment in Saudi Arabia for the third quarter of 2019 stood at 12 per cent, according to official figures.

"Young Saudis are accepting jobs they previously would not have accepted," Abdullah Al Maghlouth, a member of the Saudi Economic Association, told AFP.