

'Disabled Yemenis Suffering Most in Saudi-Led War'

SANAA (Press TV) – Amnesty International has raised the alarm about the dire situation of millions of people with disabilities in Yemen, saying they are hit the hardest by a years-long Saudi-led military campaign against the impoverished state.

In a report, entitled "Excluded: Living with disabilities in Yemen's armed conflict", the London-based rights group called on international donors to address the suffering of at least 4.5 million disabled Yemenis amid the bloody Saudi-led war.

The report was published on Tuesday as the world marks the International Day of Disabled Persons.

"Yemen's war has been characterized by unlawful bombings, displacement and a dearth of basic services, leaving many struggling to survive. The humanitarian response is overstretched, but people with disabilities — who are already among those most at risk in armed conflict — should not face even greater challenges in accessing essential aid," said Rawya Rageh, senior Crisis Ad-



Yemenis protest against Saudi airstrikes on the eve of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in front of United Nations' office in the capital city of Sana'a on December 02, 2018.

visor at Amnesty International.

"International donors, the United Nations, and humanitarian organizations working with the Yemeni authorities must do more to overcome the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from meeting even their

most basic needs," she added.

The report is based on a six-month research, including visits to three southern Yemeni provinces and interviews with nearly 100 people.

Many of those interviewed said

they undertook exhausting displacement journeys without wheelchairs, crutches or other assistive devices, adding that such equipment is in very short supply.

Migdad Ali Abdullah, an 18-year-old with limited mobility and difficulties in communicating, described as "torturous" his trip alongside his family from Hudaydah to Lahij in early 2018.

Saudi Arabia and a coalition of its vassal states launched the war on Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall a Riyadh-backed former regime.

The Western-backed military aggression, coupled with a naval blockade, has plunged Yemen into "the world's worst humanitarian crisis," according to the United Nations.

The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the Saudi war has claimed more than 100,000 lives so far.

Due to Zionist Regime Occupation Palestinian Economy Sustains \$2.5bn Yearly Revenue Loss

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's occupation has cost the Palestinian economy more than 2.5 billions of dollars on a yearly basis for the nearly past two decades, and it continues to rise, a UN report says.

The report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), titled "Economic cost of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people: Fiscal aspects" said that the total fiscal loss for the Palestinian government between 2000 and 2017 was estimated at \$47.7 billion.

The report added that the figure is almost thrice the size of the Palestinian economy in 2017, and it comprises lost public revenues and interest payments.

It further noted that the estimated cumulative fiscal cost of occupation includes \$28 billion in accrued interest, and \$6.6 billion in leakage from Palestinian fiscal revenues.

It said the amount would have been enough to eliminate the Palestinian government's \$17.7 billion budget deficit over the same period, but would have also generated a surplus nearly twice the size of the deficit.

The UN report also highlighted that the Palestinian economy would have generated 2 million job opportunities over the 18-year period, an average of 111,000 jobs each year, if the \$48 billion fiscal costs were not lost but instead injected through expansionary fiscal policies.

The report then attributed the fiscal losses to the measures imposed by the Israeli regime, including restrictions on the free movement of the Palestinian people and goods; Zionist troops' control of areas in the West Bank and all border crossing points; denying the Palestinian people their right to freely utilize their land, natural and human resources; and depriving



Zionist troops clash with Palestinian demonstrators on November 26, 2019, in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah.

the Palestinian government of meaningful control over its fiscal resources.

Israel occupied the West Bank and East al-Quds during the Six Day War in 1967. It later annexed East al-Quds in a move

not recognized by the international community.

More than 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds.

German Court Annuls Ban on Armored Vehicles Export to Saudi Arabia

BERLIN (Dispatches) – A German court has annulled a de facto export ban on a producer of armored vehicles to the Saudi regime which the government had imposed following the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The German government authority for exports control had failed to meet formal requirements when it withdrew an export permission for 110 armored vehicles to the Royal Saudi Land Forces, an administrative court in Frankfurt said.

The court did not identify the company that had brought the case and said the ruling was not yet definitive and could still be appealed.

The economy ministry, which supervises the exports supervision office, was not immediately available for comment.

The ban was initially put in place over humanitarian concerns with the war with Yemen in 2017, then tightened last year after Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul last

year. Saudi Arabia and its regional allies in the Middle East have been leading a deadly military aggression against the people of Yemen since March 2015, using weapons and intelligence supplied by Western countries, most notably the United States, France, Britain and Canada.

Merkel's government had come under pressure from many conservatives at home to end the ban, who argue that a continued ban could jeopardize projects such as the development of a Franco-German combat jet and other arms deals.

The arms ban, however, has been praised by human rights advocates, who said it had more effect than expected.

Despite international outrage over both the Khashoggi murder and the war in Yemen, however, most countries have decided to maintain profitable arms deals with Riyadh.

Prosecution Lines Up Over 300 Witnesses in Zionist PM Case

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's Attorney General officially submitted his indictment of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the Knesset, laying out a sweeping case in which an estimated 333 witnesses, including wealthy friends and former aides, could be called to testify.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit sent the indictment to the regime's parliament, setting the clock ticking on a 30-day period during which the Zionist prime minister can seek parliamentary immunity from prosecution as a Knesset member.

Mandelblit stated that Netanyahu's trial will be held at the al-Quds District Court and that a date — not yet made public — has been set for the proceedings.

The prime minister was charged with bribery,

fraud and breach in three corruption cases, dubbed Cases 4000, 2000 and 1000.

In a decision that could delay the formal indictment of the premier by several months, the Knesset's top legal advisor ruled that the currently dormant Knesset House Committee must decide whether to grant Netanyahu parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

The House Committee has been nonfunctional due to ongoing political disarray after inconclusive elections in April and September and the failure of Netanyahu and his main challenger, Benny Gantz, to secure a ruling majority in the legislature.

In a Twitter post, Netanyahu dismissed the large list of witnesses.

"When there is a real case, you don't need 333 wit-

nesses, and when there's no real case, even 333 witnesses won't help," he wrote.

The ruling raised the likelihood Israel will be heading to elections for the third time in under a year.

A new election would not only buy Netanyahu additional time in office, it would also give him the opportunity to secure a more sympathetic parliament.

The occupying regime's political system has been in disarray for the last year, in large part because of Netanyahu's legal woes.

Two elections held this year ended in deadlock. Neither Netanyahu, nor Gantz, the leader of center-left Blue and White political alliance, had enough support in parliament to form a cabinet.

Iran's...

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Mideast Security Rouhani separately urged all neighboring states to stand shoulder to shoulder against foreign interference in regional affairs and work collectively to safeguard the region and its strategic waters.

"Through the expansion of cooperation, we should establish security in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and should not allow foreigners to interfere," Rouhani said in a meeting with visiting Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi.

He added that Iran has unveiled an initiative for regional security — known as Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE) — with the purpose of boosting regional security.

Rouhani said Iran sees no problem in expanding ties with its neighbors and resuming diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, adding all countries should stand together in order to ensure security and stability in the region.

Rouhani hailed Tehran's cordial relations with Muscat in different fields and said the Islamic Republic "attaches special significance to the expansion of ties and cooperation with its neighbors, particularly with Oman."

The president said the Saudi war on Yemen has had no achievement but destruction, massacre of people, hatred and grudge between the two countries' nations and threats to Yemen's territorial integrity.

"Despite their superficial claims, Europe and the U.S. are unfortunately not interested in the restoration of peace to Yemen because they have been able to sell huge amounts of arms," Rouhani added.

"We should all make efforts to end the war in Yemen as soon as possible and bring stability and security to this country in the framework of Yemen-Yemeni peace talks."

Rouhani also called for humanitarian aid delivery to the Yemeni people and expressed hope that efforts by Iran and Oman would lead to the establishment of peace, stability and security in the region and the enhancement of friendship and brotherhood among nations.

Iran believes that regional countries should work together to solve the existing problems, he said.

"The policies of the Saudi government in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon have brought no gains for them and we hope that this country's officials will change their path of politics."

Alawi noted that Tehran and Muscat have identical stances on many regional and international issues, adding that Iran's Hormuz Peace Endeavor would definitely be beneficial to all countries and help develop stability and security in the region.

Alawi arrived in Tehran on Monday on his third trip to the country over the past nine months. Prior to his talks with Rouhani, he met with his Iranian counterpart Muhammad Javad Zarif, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani and Parliament speaker Ali Larjani.

UAE...

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The UAE broke with the U.S. and Saudi Arabia by not naming Iran as the culprit behind suspicious attacks in May and June on oil tankers as they sailed toward the Strait of Hormuz, the world's foremost oil shipping chokepoint.

It sent coast guard officials to Iran for the first time in six years and President Hassan Rouhani hinted at other meetings with senior UAE officials. "We're moving toward improved relations," he said Oct. 14.

Spooked by the prospect of a wider catastrophic conflict in the region, Persian Gulf monarchies are in the midst of a strategic rethink, American news provider Bloomberg said on Monday.

"The UAE, whose economic model relies in large part on its international links, quickly realized it had most to lose from a military escalation. It had removed most of its troops from Yemen by the end of a turbulent summer that saw oil tankers targeted and a U.S. drone downed in the Persian Gulf without significant American response," it said.

According to Bloomberg, there's an increasing recognition among the Persian Gulf Arab states that no one stands to gain from a military escalation in the world's top oil-exporting region.

In a Nov. 10 speech, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said he saw "a path to a deal with Iran that all parties might soon" be ready to embark on if Tehran demonstrated commitment.

Nasty...

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reflecting," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a forum before the NATO summit, sitting alongside his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte.

Rutte said it made sense to set up a proposed "wise persons" group of experts to consider how to reform NATO politically after splits between Turkey, France and the United States have emerged, and he called for a "fundamental rethink".

Trump explicitly linked his complaint that Europe does not pay enough for NATO's security missions to his staunch "America First" defense of U.S. commercial interests, saying it was time for Europe to "shape up" on both fronts.

"It's not right to be taken advantage of on NATO and also then to be taken advantage of on trade, and that's what happens. We can't let that happen," he said of transatlantic disputes over everything from the aerospace sector to a European "digital tax" on U.S. technology giants.

Dismissing recent signals from Germany that it was ready to do more to match a NATO target of spending two percent of national output on defense, Trump accused it and other nations which spend less than that of being "delinquent".

The U.S. leader's broadside came only hours after splits opened up elsewhere in the alliance, with Turkey threatening to block a plan to defend Baltic states and Poland against Russian attacks unless the alliance backs Ankara in recognizing the Kurdish YPG militia as a terrorist group.

"If our friends at NATO do not recognize as terrorist organizations those we consider terrorist organizations... we will stand against any step that will be taken there," Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said before traveling to London.

Erdogan, who has already strained alliance ties with a move to buy Russian air defense systems, said he would meet Polish President Andrzej Duda and leaders of Baltic countries.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday branded NATO's continued expansion as pointless because the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 had removed the threat, and told a meeting of military leaders in Sochi that it was a danger for Russia.

While Trump hailed Turkey as a good NATO ally, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper earlier warned Ankara in a Reuters interview that "not everybody sees the threats that they see" and urged it to stop blocking the Baltics plan.

In a bid to placate Trump, Europe, Turkey and Canada will pledge \$400 billion in defense spending by 2024, and also agree to reduce the U.S. contribution to fund the alliance itself.

The allies will approve a new strategy to monitor China's growing military activity, and name space as a domain of warfare, alongside air, land, sea and computer networks.