

# Canada Slammed for Inaction Over Zionist Shooting of Journalist

OTTAWA (Dispatches) – A rights advocacy organization has hit out at the Canadian government for failing to hold the Zionist regime accountable for the 2015 shooting of a Canadian journalist photographer in the occupied West Bank.

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) denounced Ottawa’s inaction as “shocking” and calling on the government to impose sanctions against occupying regime over the crime.

The group made the revelation in a series of tweets, saying that the government in Ottawa, as confirmed by Canada’s Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, had taken “no actions” to protest the shooting of Rehab Nazzal by a Zionist sniper in December 2015.

The Canadian-Palestinian journalist was photographing a protest rally in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah at that time when she was shot in the leg by the sniper.

“CJPME calls on the Canadian government to take immediate action to investigate the shooting of Rehab Nazzal, and to impose sanctions against the Israeli au-



Canadian-Palestinian journalist Rehab Nazzal was shot by a Zionist sniper in December 2015.

thorities responsible for this crime,” the advocacy organization said in one of its tweets.

“If Canada won’t even reprimand Israel when it shoots a Canadian citizen, how

little value does Canada give to the lives of those under Israel’s occupation?” it added.

The rights organization also included in another tweet a statement from Nazzal’s daughter, Rana, who had censured as “racist” Canada’s response to her mother’s case.

“Six years ago, my mom was shot by an Israeli sniper. She photographed a soldier aiming at her, saw medics running and looked down to see blood,” Rana said. “Freeland’s callous response is in perfect line with Canada’s racist policy of pretending to not see Israeli violence, even as blood spills.”

The Canadian government has in certain cases adopted a pro-Zionist approach to the issue of Palestine, which has been taken to task by rights groups and activists in the North American country.

In December last year, human rights activists in Canada called for an end to the recruitment of Canadian citizens by the Zionist regime’s military after reports indicated that hundreds of Canadian citizens had joined the occupying regime’s military in the recent years.

## Saudi King Sacks Senior Officials

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia’s King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud issued decrees on Friday to sack some high-ranking officials and appoint new ones, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The king dismissed Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benten and appointed Issam bin Saad bin Saeed as the acting minister of Hajj and Umrah, who also serves as the minister of state and a cabinet member.

“Mohammed Saleh bin Taher Benten, Minister of Hajj and Umrah shall be relieved from his

position,” SPA tweeted, without giving reasons behind the decision.

In recent years, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has faced criticism over the handling of the annual pilgrimage.

On September 24, 2015, a human crush occurred during Hajj rituals in Mina, near Mecca, leaving thousands of Muslims dead.

Unofficial sources put the death toll at almost 7,000 people based on individual reports from the countries whose nationals had been among the victims of the

incident.

Earlier that month, a massive construction crane operated by the Saudi Binladin Group conglomerate collapsed onto Mecca’s Grand Mosque, killing more than 100 pilgrims.

Meanwhile, Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Duailej was appointed as the head of the General Authority for Civil Aviation, replacing Abdulhadi bin Ahmed Al-Mansouri.

In a separate decree, King Salman named Sheikh Ali bin Suleiman bin Ali al-Sa’awi as the

new head of Supreme Administrative Court. He replaced Ibrahim bin Suleiman bin Abdullah al-Rasheed.

In addition, Mansouri was named as assistant minister of foreign affairs for executive affairs and Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Aziz al-Arifi as the assistant to the minister of transport.

Some analysts say that cabinet reshuffles by King Salman are meant to bring in officials more loyal to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

## Rifts Within Fatah Widening Ahead of Palestinian Elections

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Senior Fatah leader Nasser Al-Qudwa has called for Fatah leaders to stand against Mahmoud Abbas, who he described as “the main reason for Fatah’s weakness”, Arabi21.com reported.

Al-Qudwa’s remarks came in response to Fatah’s decision to dismiss him over his attempt to run for the parliamentary elections on a separate list to Fatah.

“The door is open for every initiative,” he asserted, “I respect all the Palestinians, including Mohammad Dahlan, who fought too much for the sake of the Palestinian people.”

Al-Qudwa added: “I think a lot of the Palestinians want to change as they believe it is the time to choose a new track for hope,” referring to his proposal to reform Fatah as a condition for him to run on the official list for parliament.

Al-Qudwa stated that he is still committed to supporting jailed Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti if he runs for presidency, because “there are no other choices on the table.”

President Abbas announced in a decree in January that the 2021 general

elections will include legislative elections being held on May 22, presidential elections on July 31 and the Palestinian National Council elections on August 31.

Several Arab states are reportedly putting pressure on Palestinian political factions to reinstate exiled former Fatah strongman Mohammed Dahlan and field him against Hamas in the upcoming elections.

Sources told Arabic Post news website on Saturday that the UAE, Egypt and Jordan are trying to compel Fatah, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas to reinstate the Israeli-backed Dahlan and his supporters.

Abbas dismissed Dahlan from the movement in 2011 and stripped the 58-year-old of all his merits, after which he fled to the United Arab Emirates.

Last September, U.S. ambassador to the occupied territories David Friedman set off an uproar after suggesting Washington was considering supporting Dahlan to overthrow Abbas as the next Palestinian Authority chief.

## Turkey Must End Punishment of Activists: HRW

LONDON (Dispatches) – Human Rights Watch (HRW) has demanded that Turkish authorities end a criminal investigation into rights activists after they were arrested at an International Women’s Day (IWD) rally in Istanbul for “insulting” President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The offense is punishable with a prison sentence of between one and four years. HRW said the investigation is a violation of freedom of expression.

On March 10, police detained 13 activists, including a 17-year-old, after an operation ordered by the Istanbul prosecutor’s office.

The following day, a court imposed travel bans on 17 women and additional judicial control orders on five activists, including the child. The decision requires them to attend police stations on a regular basis until further notice.

“Opening criminal investigations against women’s rights activists for non-violent slogans, and taking them from their homes in the

middle of the night, demonstrates the Turkish authorities’ profound disdain for freedom of assembly and speech, and of course, women’s rights,” said Hillary Margolis, senior women’s rights researcher at HRW.

“It speaks volumes that even on a day to celebrate women and promote equality, Turkish authorities would rather target them for peaceful demonstrations than protect their rights.”

The arrests came just a week after Turkey revealed a new human rights plan to protect freedom of speech and end police detention “out of working hours.”

Amnesty International has also slammed Turkey over “systemic human rights abuses” and urged Ankara to free two high-profile political prisoners the rights group said have been unjustly detained for years.

In a statement issued on Friday, Amnesty condemned Turkey’s imprisonment of philanthropist Osman Kavala and opposition politi-

cian Selahattin Demirtaş.

“Osman Kavala and Selahattin Demirtaş have been arbitrarily and unjustly deprived of their liberty for years, despite the binding court decisions that they be released,” the rights group said.

The European Court of Human Rights, of which Turkey is a signatory, has ruled that both prisoners should be freed — a judgment ignored by Ankara.

“Their continued detention makes a mockery of President Erdogan’s government’s attempts to whitewash systemic human rights abuses by unveiling a meaningless human rights action plan last week,” said Amnesty.

“This action plan and Turkey’s generic platitudes cannot hide the reality: The ongoing imprisonment of these two men, and scores of others, for simply exercising their rights shows that in Turkey, freedom of expression is ruthlessly punished.”

## Iran’s... (Continued From Page One)

The surge in China’s crude imports from Iran comes as many of other Iranian oil buyers are still waiting for the U.S. President Joe Biden to remove sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Iranian oil production and exports have been both increasing over the past few months despite the U.S. sanctions.

Iran’s oil ministry has announced its readiness for boosting the country’s crude oil output to the pre-sanction levels in case the U.S. rejoins the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Back in January, the data from SVB International and two other firms indicated that Iranian oil exports were climbing in January after a boost in the fourth quarter despite the U.S. sanctions.

## U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

Hikvision said late on Friday it strongly opposed the FCC decision “and is weighing all options on how to best address this unsubstantiated designation. Hikvision does not belong on a list for next-generation networks.”

The FCC in December finalized rules requiring carriers with ZTE or Huawei equipment to “rip and replace” that equipment. It created a reimbursement program for that effort, and U.S. lawmakers in December approved \$1.9 billion to fund the program.

The latest development in Washington’s war on Chinese companies comes as the administration of President Joe Biden is reinforcing a hard line on exports to the Asian powerhouse.

In a 24-page national security document, his administration described China as “the only competitor potentially capable of combining its economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to mount a sustained challenge to a stable and open international system.”

In the face of “challenges from China and Russia,” the document said, the U.S. military would shift its emphasis away from “unneeded legacy platforms and weapons systems to free up resources for investments” in cutting-edge technologies.

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

its legal duties under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

“If they are tearing up decades of progress in reducing numbers, it will be a slap in the face to the 190 other members of the treaty, and will be regarded as a shocking breach of faith.”

Britain has operated its own nuclear weapons since the 1950s but for the past 60 years, following an agreement between the then prime minister, Harold Macmillan, and the then U.S. president, John F Kennedy, the UK has been heavily dependent on U.S. technology.

Trident missiles are deployed in four submarines, one of which is continuously at sea to make sure it can strike back in the event of an unprovoked nuclear attack. It relies on an existing U.S. W76 warhead, based on a 1970s design, called Holbrook.

However, the W76 is ageing, and the U.S. has proposed developing a more powerful replacement, called the W93. The UK is particularly keen for the U.S. to start work on the W93 and last summer the defense secretary, Ben Wallace, lobbied Congress for the work to go ahead.

British MPs voted to renew Trident in principle in 2016, but the Commons is expected to have to vote on a new warhead at some point. In 2016, the Conservatives almost uniformly backed renewal, the SNP voted against, while Labour was split.

The MoD has said developing the next generation of Dreadnought submarines to carry the new warhead would cost £30bn plus a £10bn contingency. But officials have so far refused to say how much the warhead would cost.

An MoD spokesperson said: “The UK is committed to maintaining its independent nuclear deterrent, which exists to deter the most extreme threats to our national security and way of life.

“Replacing the warhead and building four new Dreadnought class submarines are UK sovereign programs that will maintain the deterrent into the future. We will not comment on speculation about the integrated review, which will be published on Tuesday.”