

AMMAN (Independent) – At least 826 people have been hospitalized and a child has died after a Jordanian shawarma restaurant served unrefrigerated meat-based meal despite a 40-degree heatwave.

Reports say everyone who fell ill, including the five-year-old boy who died, had eaten at the restaurant in the Ein al-Basha neighborhood, just outside the capital Amman. Huge numbers of customers were reportedly attracted to the eatery because it was offering half-price shawarma, a popular meal of grilled meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie.

Knowledge is power and it can command obedience. A man of knowledge during his lifetime can make people obey and follow him and he is praised and venerated after his death. Remember that knowledge is a ruler and wealth is its subject.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Due to Ongoing Saudi-Led Siege

Thousands of Yemeni Patients at Risk of Death



The file photo shows Yemeni children present documents to receive desperately-needed food.

SANA'A (Press TV) – The Yemeni health minister has warned that thousands of patients in the country are at serious risk of losing their lives as a result of the ongoing Saudi-led blockade and a decision by international humanitarian organizations to leave the war-torn country.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital Sana'a on Thursday, Taha al-Mutawakel said the tight blockade imposed on Yemen prevents the repair of medical equipment, adding that some 93 percent of medical devices in

Yemen have worked way beyond their average life span, while all magnetic resonance diagnostic devices have stopped working.

He added that the Saudi-led coalition does not allow the entry of medicines, especially refrigerated ones, which has enormously aggravated the health conditions of Yemeni patients grappling with cancer and malignant tumors in particular.

Mutawakel noted that many international humanitarian organizations have officially announced their decision to withdraw from

Yemen in light of the closure of Sana'a International Airport and suspension of fuel deliveries.

The health minister went on to say that the departure of such organizations will result in the collapse of Yemen's health system, saying the closure of some 162 centers by international institutions amid the coronavirus pandemic equaled "the deliberate killing of Yemeni people."

He then held the international community and the Saudi-led coalition of aggression fully responsible for any dire consequences

of the withdrawal of international humanitarian organizations.

Mutawakel also appealed for an immediate end to the Saudi-led blockade, establishment of a sustainable medical air bridge and unrestricted entry of oil derivatives into Yemen.

He said Yemeni public and private hospitals are about to stop their operations due to the lack of oil derivatives, emphasizing that medical oxygen generators are now working at only 50 percent of their nominal capacities.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia has been waging a bloody military aggression against Yemen with help from its regional allies, and using arms supplied by its Western backers. The aim of the war has been to bring former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and defeat the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Over 100,000 people have lost their lives as a result of the military aggression in the past five years, according to some figures.

The war has also destroyed, damaged and shut down Yemen's infrastructure, including a large number of hospitals and clinics.

The Yemeni population has been subjected to large-scale hunger and diseases aggravated by the naval blockade imposed on the country by the coalition of aggressors.

Sanctions Violate Syria's Sovereignty, Support Terrorism: UN Envoy



A man rides a motorbike past damaged buildings in the rebel-held town of Nairab, Idlib region, Syria April 17, 2020.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria's Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Jaafari has denounced the Western economic sanctions against his country, saying the coercive measures are used as a pretext to keep up violations of Syrian sovereignty and support the terrorist groups wreaking havoc on the Arab country.

Addressing a Security Council session via video link, Jaafari said the financial restrictions by Western states against his country and their attempts to hinder efforts to deliver aid to Syria expose their fake humanitarian claims.

"The motive behind all that is to find pretexts to continue violation of Syria's sovereignty, threaten its territorial integrity, supporting the terrorist organizations," Jaafari said.

This month, he said, the Security Council has witnessed "feverish Western endeavors" to extend a 2014 resolution on aid delivery to Syria.

"The motive behind that is not to bring in aid to needy people, but to continue violation of Syria's sovereignty, threaten its territorial integrity which contradicts with the General Assembly Resolution No. 46/182," he said.

After three attempts, the UNSC finally voted to extend aid deliv-

eries to Syria for a year through a single border crossing from Turkey within the framework of a 2014 mechanism. Russia and China abstained from voting.

Ja'afari noted that countries hostile to Syria have not stopped their documented grave violations of the UN Charter and international law, nor have they stopped perpetrating crimes against the Syrian people, plundering the country's resources and besieging and starving its people.

Besides all those crime, they also launch acts of aggression on civil passenger planes that cross the Syrian airspace in a flagrant violation of international law and international civil aviation rules, he added.

In another development, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says the deaths of "300 Russians" in a failed attack on a military base held by U.S. and mainly Kurdish militants in Syria's oil-rich eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr more than two years ago sent a warning to Moscow.

Speaking at a Senate hearing, Pompeo sought to forestall criticism over President Donald Trump's statement that he had not raised with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin accusations that Moscow paid the Taliban bounties to kill U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Hamas Warns Zionist Regime Against al-Aqsa Attacks

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, has warned the Zionist regime of the consequences of its further encroachment on the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds.

Hamas made the remarks in an official statement that marks Arafah Day, a major occasion on the Islamic calendar. It called on Palestinians to rally in mass towards the al-Aqsa Mosque.

The statement stressed that al-Aqsa is holy for the Palestinian people, and that they will not remain silent on the Zionist regime's violations against the site. Hamas said the occupying

regime should pay a heavy price if it keeps on such violations.

"Bab al-Rahma, the Marwani prayer hall, the Omar prayer hall, the Buraq prayer hall and the Buraq Wall are all part and parcel of our beloved Mosque," Hamas said.

The movement condemned the Zionist regime for continued persecution of the people of al-Quds, demolishing their homes and imposing exorbitant taxes on them to force them to leave the holy city.

The Palestinian movement also called on the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to prevent

the Zionist regime from destroying the homes of Palestinians and Judaizing al-Quds.

Zionist settlers have frequently stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds under the protection of regime forces.

Many of the Knesset members are right-wing extremists, who support the demolition of the Islamic site in order to build a Jewish temple instead.

Last year in October, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' Political Bureau, said the Zionist regime's Judaization plans in al-Quds would never succeed.

In recent months, Palestinian

officials have condemned the occupying regime's exploitation of the novel coronavirus pandemic to expand its settlement construction activities, saying the Tel Aviv regime aims to further Judaize the occupied holy city of al-Quds.

Tensions have been on the rise in recent weeks in the occupied territories as the regime has pressed ahead with its plans to annex large parts of the West Bank in line with U.S. President Donald Trump's so-called Middle East 'peace' plan, which strongly favors the Zionist regime and has been rejected by the Palestinians.

RSF Urges Egypt, Saudi Arabia to Release Detained Journalists

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has called for an independent international investigation following the deaths of two prominent journalists from Egypt and Saudi Arabia shortly after their sudden release from prison.

RSF has called on both countries to free all detained journalists "to avoid a catastrophe before it is too late" after the death of Egypt's Mohamed Monir and Saudi Arabia's Saleh al-Shehi on July 13 and July 19 respectively.

"The deaths of Mohamed Monir and Saleh al-Shehi during the pandemic speak to the urgency of releasing journalists so that they avoid a tragic fate," said Sabrina Bennoui, the head of

RSF's Middle East desk.

"We urge the Egyptian and Saudi authorities to use this occasion (the Eid) to rescue journalists from overcrowded prisons. Let's avoid a catastrophe before it is too late."

Monir was arrested after an interview on Al Jazeera - which is banned in Egypt - and charged with "spreading fake news" and "participating in a terrorist group".

Monir had shown symptoms of the coronavirus disease while in prison, according to his daughter, and was subjected to medical examination and multiple COVID-19 tests before he was finally declared positive on July 8 - almost

a week after he was released.

Al-Shehi was hospitalized less than a month after his release from prison on May 19.

He was serving a five-year sentence on the charge of "insulting the royal court" for talking about corruption within Saudi Arabia's ruling elite.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia are currently two of the world's biggest jailers of journalists.

RSF has identified 30 detained journalists in Egypt and 33 in Saudi Arabia.

Egypt is ranked 166th out of 180 countries and territories in RSF's 2020 World Press Freedom Index. Saudi Arabia is ranked 170th.