

Report: Israel Kidnapped 3,000 Palestinians Since Start of Genocidal Aggression

GAZA (Dispatches) – A human rights group says Zionist troops have kidnapped 3,000 Palestinians from Gaza since the start of the aggression on the besieged strip last October, including women and children.

“Since the onset of the genocidal military campaign against Gaza, Israeli forces have detained at least 3,000 Palestinian residents of Gaza, including women, children, elderly people, as well as professionals such as doctors, nurses, teachers and journalists,” Al Mezan Center for Human Rights said in a report.

According to the report, around 1,650 Gazans are held in total isolation from the outside world at Nafha and Negev (Ketziot) prisons “under the Unlawful Combatants Law”, and are denied access to lawyer and legal advice.

This law “has been extensively utilized on Palestinian residents of Gaza as an alternative to administrative detention”, which is commonly used against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East al-Quds.

Under its policy of administrative detention, the occupying regime



A Palestinian family returns to Khan Yunis after Zionist troops withdrew from the city, amid the ongoing war on Gaza, in the southern part of the strip, on April 8, 2024.

detains Palestinians without trial or charge for up to six months; a period which can be extended for an indefinite number of times.

Citing their testimonies, Al Mezan said the detainees are subjected to torture and inhumane treatment from the moment of their arrest.

“They were forced to strip naked, wear blindfolds, and have their wrists tied. They were also brutally beaten, deprived of sleep for sev-

eral days, denied food and deliberately starved as a form of torture and collective punishment.”

Noting that the “systematic and widespread” torture inflicted upon Palestinian detainees also constitutes crimes against humanity, the group called upon the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to “swiftly” issue arrest warrants against “all individuals implicated in perpetrating and/or ordering such egregious crimes.”

Issam Younis, director general of Al Mezan, said, “The evidence and testimonies gathered by our lawyer reveal a level of reprisals and torture that lacks any semblance of humanity. What Israel is doing to Palestinian detainees forms part of its genocide against the Palestinian people.”

“It is imperative to halt this genocide and ensure accountability for those responsible for heinous genocidal acts.”

Al Mezan also urged the international community to shoulder its “moral and legal responsibilities” and prevent and punish the crime of genocide, as well as to pressure Israel to comply with international law and abide by its obligations as an occupying power.

Israel waged the genocidal war on Gaza after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out a historic operation against the occupying entity on October 7 in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Since the start of the war, the Israeli aggression has killed at least 33,800 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

its steadfastness against pressures, sanctions and animosities over the years. Khatib said other country in the region has ever managed to stand so firmly against a regime which is enjoying support from all powers of the world.

President Raisi told Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Monday that the slightest action against Iran’s interests will be met with an “extensive and painful response”.

The president underlined the need for deterrence, especially by Muslim countries, against the occupying regime of Israel which keeps committing crimes in Gaza.

“The Zionists’ child-killing, genocide and horrific crimes have continued with the full support of the US and some Western states, while the oppressed and powerful people of Gaza are still victorious in the battlefield thanks to their resistance.”

Sheikh Tamim praised Iran’s tactical measure in designing and carrying out the retaliatory operation against Israel, saying it sent a clear message to everyone.

As the globe is witnessing the highest level of convergence in support of the Palestinian cause, the Zionist regime is escalating tensions in a bid to divert the world’s public opinion from its Gaza crimes, he said.

Sheikh Tamim hailed the unique relations between Iran and Qatar that are based on mutual trust, saying the two countries have been supporting each other in all circumstances.

Iran’s armed forces spokesman on Monday warned the Zionist regime and its Western backers against crossing the Islamic Republic’s red lines.

“We remind some of the heads of state of the United States, the UK, France, and Germany to stop their support for the moribund regime of roguish, lawless, terrorist, and child-killing Israel,” Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said.

The Islamic Republic, he said, has proven not to be warlike and does not seek expansion of warfare.

“However, if anyone, including you and that desperate and helpless regime, oversteps the mark, we will cut off its feet with a more powerful response than the previous one that we served the aggressive and roguish Israel,” he added.

Shekarchi noted that the Iranian retaliation saw the country’s missiles and drones evading the regime’s and its supporters’ advanced radar systems and its “so-called Iron Dome.”

The operation, during which “we plowed through the bogus and criminal regime’s military fortresses,” represented only “a fraction of” the Iranian military’s might, he added.

The spokesman advised Israel’s Western backers to “be wise” and “not throw yourselves into a burning furnace”.

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the heavily populated Gaza strip, martyring more than 30,000 people, many of them women and children.

Despite calls for a ceasefire from numerous countries and an order from the UN’s top court, the international court of justice (ICJ), to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza and “prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide”, Israel has yet to pull back.

Zionist forces have instead continued their invasion and disrupted humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza, where Palestinians remain at risk of famine and the healthcare infrastructure is almost totally destroyed.

The UN says of the 36 hospitals in Gaza only a dozen are partially functional while the others are ruined.

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bodies which have been buried in the hospital, they added.

The Civil Defense Service in Gaza had previously announced the recovery of 409 bodies from the city of Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza Strip, and the Shifa Medical Complex and its surroundings, west of Gaza City, after the Israeli forces withdrew from the two areas.

Israel is preventing UN investigators from speaking to witnesses and victims of the October 7 attack, former UN rights chief Navi Pillay, who is chairing a three-person probe, said Tuesday.

The unprecedented Commission of Inquiry was established by the UN Human Rights Council in May 2021 to investigate alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

“I deplore the fact that people inside Israel who wish to speak to us are being denied that opportunity, because we cannot get access into Israel,” Pillay said.

The investigation briefed diplomats at the UN in Geneva on its work and said that since 7 October, it had focused on the Israeli war on Gaza.

“So far as the regime of Israel is concerned, we have faced not merely a lack of cooperation but active obstruction of our efforts to receive evidence from Israeli witnesses and victims to the events that occurred in southern Israel,” said Chris Sidoti, one of the three members of the inquiry.

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the action of the Zionist regime against the Iranian embassy in Damascus and expressed hope that by stopping the aggression of the Zionist regime, stability and peace will be provided in the region.

Iranian Foreign Minister discussed with his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi and said that Israeli regime is the main source of tension in the region.

The duo discussed the latest developments in the region as well as relations between Tehran and Jakarta.

The top Iranian diplomat said Tehran has never been for escalation in the region, and the Islamic Republic will always remain the pillar of regional stability.

Amir-Abdollahian thanked Jakarta’s position in condemning the Zionist regime’s April 1 attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria, and invited his Indonesian counterpart to visit Tehran.

Marsudi, for her part, said Indonesia was ready to cooperate further with Iran regarding the Palestinian issue.

Iran’s foreign minister in a telephone conversation with the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the country’s recent retaliatory strikes against the Israeli regime could have been wider in scope.

The top diplomat was referring to the Islamic Republic’s Saturday reprisal against the Israeli regime’s deadly attack of April 1 against the country’s diplomatic premises in the Syrian capital Damascus.

“Although, the Islamic Republic was capable of conducting this operation across a wider radius, it just targeted parts of the Zionist regime’s positions, from which the Israeli attack against our country’s Embassy in Damascus had taken place,” the foreign minister said.

The retaliation, he added, fitted within the country’s right to legitimate defense and the international law.

Due to the UN Security Council’s refusal to condemn the attack, the Islamic Republic was left with no option but to resort to the defensive operation and punish the Zionist regime, Amir-Abdollahian stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the foreign minister pointed to the Israeli regime’s genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, which began on October 7 last year following Operation al-Aqsa Storm by the coastal sliver’s resistance groups.

“The United States and its allies refuse to stop the regime,” he noted, and denounced the international community’s failure to put an end to the genocide.

The Iranian official welcomed the United Nations’ efforts towards cessation of the warfare and transfer of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

For his part, Guterres pointed to Iran’s retaliation against the Israeli regime, advising parties to regional conflicts to exercise restraint.

The UN chief noted how he had condemned acts of violation targeting diplomatic premises on several occasions.

He expressed delight in Iran’s current refusal to take additional measures against the occupying regime, advising Tel Aviv to refrain from committing fresh aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Document Reveals Israel Criminalization of Word ‘Martyr’ on Social Media

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A document prepared by the Zionist regime’s attorney general’s office reportedly reveals plans to criminalize social media posts containing the Arabic word for martyr ‘shaheed’, as well as Qur’an verses used in particular contexts, Israeli news site Ynet reported on Tuesday.

The disclosure of the document came during secret deliberations of the constitution, Law and Justice Committee in the Knesset, the Zionist regime’s parliament.

According to Ynet, Simcha Rothman,

the committee’s chairman, accused public prosecutors of being “lenient” in pursuing those who shared “inciting” social media posts after the war on Gaza started.

Rothman made references to posts that included religious prayers, invocations to God and the use of the word shaheed.

In response, Deputy State Attorney Alon Altman revealed there was already a policy in place to deal with such posts but prosecution depended on the context, a reference to the document, which contains guidance on prosecuting those ac-

cused of incitement.

According to the document, using the word martyr to refer to someone killed by Zionist troops can be viewed as criminal.

The policy also states that investigation can be initiated against users who post supplications to God linked to persons or events deemed connected to a resistance operation.

In unclear cases, investigations can be opened based on “reasonable suspicion”.

However, Altman said that the religious text is not criminalized in and of

itself, according to Ynet.

Since the Zionist regime’s war on Gaza began in October, Palestinians say they have faced repressive measures implemented by the regime, including arrests for social media posts, bans on peaceful anti-war protests, and dismissals from jobs and universities over their views on the conflict.

According to rights group Adalah, which advocates for Palestinian rights in Israel, hundreds of people have been arrested in relation to their social media posts since the start of the war.

U.S. Professor Placed on Leave for Describing Oct. 7 Operation as ‘Exhilarating’

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A leading American political theorist who wrote an essay describing how mainstream academia and scholarship have tried to police how people feel about the Hamas-led operation on October 7 has been placed on leave from her teaching position at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

The incident involving Jodi Dean, a celebrated and distinguished political theorist, has had a chilling effect on faculty and students at the New York university, scholars and academics have said.

According to the letter sent out by

president Mark Gearan, Dean’s removal from her duties, while an investigation takes place, was predicated on the possibility there “may be students on our campus who may feel threatened in or outside of the classroom” on account of her essay.

Dean becomes one of several professors across the U.S. to be targeted for either speaking or writing contrary to mainstream American narratives of the Hamas-led operation on southern parts of the Israeli-occupied territories on October 7.

But academics and scholars say that seeing her being singled out and tar-

geted, as a fully tenured member of faculty, sets an entirely new precedent.

“It has had chilling effect on faculty - tenured and untenured - on the whole college community, including students - that somebody would be singled out and disciplined for this. It violates our institutional procedures,” Paul Passavant, a professor of politics at HWS told MEE.

“It is a total violation of academic freedom. And it violates the integrity of the institution as an academic institution.

“I have been here for 20 years and I haven’t seen anything like this,” Pas-

savant, who is also president of the university chapter of the American Association of University Professors, added.

In her essay, published by Verso Books, titled: Palestine Speak for Everyone on April 9, Dean described the images of the paragliders soaring over the fence separating the occupied territories from the Gaza Strip as “exhilarating”.

“Who could not feel energized seeing oppressed people bulldozing the fences enclosing them, taking to the skies in escape, and flying freely through the air?” Dean wrote.

Scores Killed in Afghanistan as Heavy Rains Set Off Flash Floods

KABUL (Arab News) – Extreme rainfall in Afghanistan and devastating flash floods have killed at least 66 people and damaged homes, infrastructure, and farmlands across most of the country’s provinces, authorities said on Tuesday.

The storms, which started over the weekend, are adding to the challenges facing Afghanistan, which is still recovering from decades of conflict and natural disasters, including unprecedented droughts in the past four years, as well as a series of deadly earthquakes.

“According to primary reports from the provinces, at least 66 people lost their lives, and 36 others are injured,” Janan Sayeq, spokesperson of the National Disaster Management Authority, told Arab News on Tuesday.

The number of reported casualties has doubled since Sunday, raising fears the actual toll could be higher. Many of the victims were killed when their homes collapsed on them.

Sayeq said that 1,235 houses were destroyed.

Flash floods were reported in 23 of the country’s 34 provinces, damaging crops ahead of the harvest season, and further affecting food security in the country as UN agencies estimate that more than half of its population has been in need of humanitarian assistance.

“The wheat crops will be ready for collection in a few weeks. But the rainfalls could destroy most of it,” said Gul Hussain, a farmer from the eastern Laghman province, which is one of the main agricultural regions.

The impact of drought, and now also floods,

has been devastating for rural families struggling with access to water.

“The floods have had severe effects on the lives of people in the southeast, southwest and east of the country and have caused loss of life and damage to houses, as well as economic and agricultural effects as crops are destroyed and livestock are killed,” Najibullah Sadid, a hydromorphologist, told Arab News.

The country’s mountainous topography and reduced vegetation left little to no space for people to escape flood events, as preparedness and prevention in the face of the changing climate are almost nonexistent.

Water management infrastructure — such as check dams, trenches, terraces, and reservoirs that could help reduce flooding — is insufficient.