

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday he will host the leader of Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Turkey this weekend.

"The leader of the Palestinian cause will be my guest this weekend," Erdogan, an outspoken critic of the Zionist regime, told lawmakers.

Private television channel NTV reported that the two men would meet on Saturday at the Dolmabahce palace in Istanbul.

Their last meeting was in July 2023 when Erdogan hosted Haniyeh at the presidential palace in Ankara alongside Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Guard against cold in its beginning (of the season) and welcome it towards its end because it affects bodies in the same way as it affects the plants.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Reports: Palestinian Detainees

Subjected to 'Terrible Crimes' by Israel

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A report from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) on the treatment of Palestinian detainees found that in "most" reported incidents, the Israeli army forced Palestinian detainees to "strip down" to their underwear.

"Both men and women reported threats and incidents that may amount to sexual violence and harassment [by the Zionist regime's army] while in detention. Male victims reported beatings to their genitals while one detainee reported being made to sit on an electrical probe," the report said.

The report added that female detainees had also described "psychological abuse".

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS), an independent and non-governmental rights organization, also said the Zionist regime has committed terrible crimes against Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails since October 7 last year, when it launched a genocidal war against the besieged Gaza Strip.

PPS announced the information in a fact sheet issued on the occasion of the Palestinian prisoners'



Zionist troops stand by a truck packed with shirtless Palestinian detainees in the Gaza Strip, December 8, 2023

Day on Wednesday.

It said the terrible crimes against detainees led to the martyrdom of 16 detainees due to systematic measures of torture, medical crimes, the policy of starvation and many other violations and assaults conducted against male and female detainees, minors and elderly detainees.

The PPS went on to say that October 7 constituted a phase that imposed radical transformations on the conditions of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, adding that females, minors and elderly prisoners were subjected to systematic measures of torture,

medical crimes, the policy of starvation and many other violations and assaults.

Statistics reflecting the escalation imposed since October 7 show that more than 9,500 detainees are currently held in Israeli prisons, excluding detainees from Gaza, under the "forcible hide," it added.

The prisoners include 80 women, excluding detainees from Gaza, the PPS said, adding that 200 minors under the age of 18 are detained in Megiddo, Ofer and Damon prisons, including 24 children from Gaza who are held at Damon.

The society also said more than 3,660 detainees, including 22 women and more than 40 children, are held under the so-called administrative detention policy, which allows incarcerating Palestinian inmates without trial or charge.

The PPS further noted that 56 journalist are kept in Israeli jails, including 45 who were arrested after October 7 and are still under arrest, adding that 17 members of the legislative council are also held under administrative detention, the oldest of whom are Marwan Barghouthi and Ahmad Saadat.

More than 5,168 orders of administrative detention have also been issued, it said, adding that 600 detainees are sentenced to life imprisonment.

On the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, Palestinians assert that, "There is no liberation without the freedom of all our prisoners from the prisons of the Zionist entity and Palestinian Authority."

They said the liberation movement is facing escalating Zionist repression at the hands of far-right Israeli minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and the racist Zionist entity.

UN Appeals for \$2.8bn in Gaza, West Bank Aid



A woman carries three babies as she reaches the central part of the Gaza Strip after fleeing the Shifa Hospital compound in Gaza City, March 21, 2024.

GENEVA (Dispatches) – The United Nations appealed on Wednesday for \$2.8 billion in funding to assist more than three million people in Gaza and the West Bank until the end of the year, to help ease food shortages and prevent looming famine in Gaza.

A flash appeal published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that sum was needed to help 3.1 million people and "reduce human suffering and prevent further loss of life."

A major chunk of funding — \$782.1 million — will be destined for food aid for 2.2 million people in Gaza and 400,000 people in the West Bank, the appeal said.

More than six months of war have created critical food shortages among Gaza's Palestinians that in some areas now exceed famine levels, according to the United Nations.

A senior UN aid official said on Tuesday that the United Nations was struggling to prevent famine in the Gaza Strip and while there had been some improvement in coordination with the Zionist regime, aid deliveries in the enclave still faced obstacles.

Gaza health authorities say Israel has killed more than 33,000 people since, in its onslaught on the enclave since October 7.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) has announced about 1.7 million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced inside Gaza due to the Zionist regime's genocidal war against the people of Palestine.

UNHCR spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said during a press conference at the United Nations office in

Geneva that "resolving the catastrophic situation experienced by civilians in Gaza must remain a priority."

"UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk urges all states with influence to do everything in their power to halt the increasingly horrific human rights and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, rising violence and targeted attacks in the West Bank, and the heightened risk of a wider escalation of conflict in the Middle East," Shamdasani said.

She said that "Israel continues to impose unlawful restrictions on the entry and distribution of humanitarian assistance, and to carry out widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure."

Shamdasani added, "There are about 1.7 million forcibly displaced people in Gaza. These people live in terrifying conditions and under constant threat."

"In the past week alone, fighting has intensified in Middle Gaza leading to the displacement of some 10,000 people from in and around a Nuseirat camp and near Wadi Gaza," she said.

"Those delivering or trying to access humanitarian assistance must never be attacked," added Shamdasani.

Shamdasani said that UNHCR also received reports that during Eid al-Fitr last week, the Israel forces attacked at least eight mosques in a Nuseirat and Gaza City, and struck a further three on 14 April.

Since October 2023, 534 mosques have been destroyed or damaged according to the Gaza Government Media Office. Places of worship are protected under the laws of war, she noted.

Shamdasani pointed out that the increasing violence against Palestinian and their properties in the occupied West Bank the past days.

Qatar: Truce Talks on Gaza Hit 'Stumbling Block'

DOHA (Dispatches) – Talks on a truce in Gaza have hit a "stumbling block", Qatari mediators have warned.

The negotiations to end the Zionist regime's onslaught and secure the release of the captives held by Hamas and the prisoners by Israel are at a "delicate phase," Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said on Wednesday.

"We are trying as much as possible to address this stumbling block", Sheikh Mohammed, speaking at news conference alongside Romanian counterpart Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, said.

Qatar has been working to try to mediate a deal throughout the six months of fighting in Gaza. However, there is still no sign of any breakthrough in the negotiations.

As the longwinded talks, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, continue, the Israeli military has continued deadly aggression inside the enclave, which remains blockaded.

Close to 34,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, while the

2.3-million-strong population have been left in dire conditions, amid shortages of food, shelter and medicine.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian resistance movement continues to hold more than 100 captives taken from Israel during its operation in the occupied territories on October 7.

The Qatari prime minister said negotiators are trying to "move forward and put an end to the suffering that the people in Gaza are experiencing and return the hostages".

He condemned what he described as the policy of "collective punishment" being followed by Israel in Gaza, as well as the occupied West Bank.

Qatar has "warned from the beginning of this war against the expansion of the circle of conflict, and today we see conflicts on different fronts," he added. "We constantly call on the international community to assume its responsibilities and stop this war."

The region is braced for the potential escalation of violence.

Rights Group: U.S.-Backed Kurds Torture Prisoners in Syria

BEIRUT (AFP) – Amnesty International accused U.S.-backed Kurdish authorities in northeastern Syria Wednesday of resorting to torture and other abuses in their detention of tens of thousands of suspected militants and their dependents.

The London-based watchdog said Washington too "likely" violated the human rights of detainees in Kurdish custody.

Camps and prisons run by the Kurdish-led so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) still hold more than 56,000 detainees with alleged or perceived

links to the Daesh group, five years after the militants were ousted from their last territory in Syria.

They include militant suspects locked up in prisons, and wives and children of Daesh terrorists held in the al-Hol and Roj internment camps.

Kurdish authorities "have committed the war crimes of torture and cruel treatment, and likely committed the war crime of murder", Amnesty's secretary general, Agnes Callamard, said.

"The U.S. government is sup-

porting" the detention system and in some cases "is committing violations itself", an Amnesty report said, concluding that Washington "likely violated the human rights of many of those who have been within its effective control".

Al-Hol is the largest internment camp in northeastern Syria, with more than 43,000 detainees from 47 countries, many of them family members of Daesh terrorists.

Kurdish authorities have long urged foreign governments with nationals in the camps to repa-

triate their citizens but Western governments have responded slowly for fear of domestic backlash.

Amnesty said some 94 percent of residents at al-Hol and Roj were women and children, noting "no one in these camps has been charged or given the opportunity to challenge their detention before an independent judicial authority".

The camps and prisons likely hold thousands of human trafficking victims, including women and girls forcibly married to Daesh members, it said.

New York Times Restricts Language on Israeli Aggression in Gaza

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – An online American investigation publication has uncovered that The New York Times has issued directives to its reporters and journalists covering the Zionist regime's onslaught in the Gaza Strip regarding language use, urging them to restrict terms like "genocide" and "ethnic cleansing."

Additionally, they are instructed to refrain from using the phrase "occupied territory" when referring to Palestinian lands occupied by Israel.

The Intercept obtained an internal memo from The New York Times, revealing further instructions to avoid the term "Palestine" except in rare cases. The memo, authored by Times standards editor Susan Wessling, international editor Philip Pan, and their deputies,

also discourages the use of "refugee camps" to describe areas in Gaza settled by displaced Palestinians.

The United Nations recognizes these areas as refugee camps that house hundreds of thousands of registered refugees.

The memo "offers guidance about some terms and other issues we have grappled with since the start of the conflict in October."

Several Times staffers told The Intercept that the memo proves the paper follows Israeli narratives.

"It's the kind of thing that looks professional and logical if you have no knowledge of the historical context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," said a Times newsroom source, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, of the

Gaza memo.

"But if you do know, it will be clear how apologetic it is to Israel," the source added.

The Intercept writes that the memo presents an internal window into the thoughts of Times international editors.

The memo was first distributed to Times journalists in November. It has been regularly since then.

The regime began the genocidal campaign in Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Israel has killed at least 33,800 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, since.