

Holding U.S. Responsible

Report Says 1,600 Afghan Children Killed in Past 5 Years



Of the 3,977 deaths caused between 2016-2020, nearly 1,600 were children.

KABUL (Dispatches) – A new report says forty percent of all civilian airstrike casualties in the past five years in Afghanistan were children, adding the U.S. has launched the majority of the attacks.

Data published on Thursday by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) said of the 3,977 deaths caused between 2016 and 2020, nearly 1,600 were children.

“Sadly, these numbers are no surprise,” said Chris Nyamandi, country director for Afghanistan at Save the Children International. “Afghanistan has been the deadliest country for children for years.”

Leading up to the departure of U.S.-led forces expected later this year, casualties from international coalition airstrikes more than tripled from 247 in 2017 to 757 in 2019, according to data from United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The UN body’s concerns over airstrikes on structures and in support of Afghan ground operations raised in 2018 went unheeded.

Nyamandi said for the past 14 years five children were killed or maimed in Afghanistan every single day.

“These are gut-wrenching numbers when you realize that these were children with futures,

families, children who went to school and just wanted to live their lives in safety,” he said.

Iain Overton, executive director of Action on Armed Violence, said in 2018-19 the U.S. military dropped more munitions on Afghanistan than at the height of bombing in 2011 – a rate of more than 20 a day. Such heavy bombardment resulted in the deadliest year of airstrikes for children in Afghanistan on record.

In 2018, there was an 85 percent increase from the year before, resulting in a rate of four child casualties every three days. The majority of these child casualties, 57 percent, were caused by U.S.-led troops.

The U.S. has failed to restore peace to the country as violence has not subsided since the invasion of the country by American forces in 2001.

The Taliban have captured Afghanistan’s second-biggest dam after fierce fighting in their former bastion of Kandahar as militants step up raids around the war-torn country following a missed U.S. troop withdrawal deadline for May 1.

Local officials said on Thursday that Dahla Dam in Arghandab district, which provides irrigation to farmers via a network of canals as well as drinking water for the provincial capital, was now under the Taliban control.

Haji Gulbuddin, the governor of an adjacent district, confirmed that government forces had lost the dam to the Taliban.

“Our security forces... asked for reinforcements but they failed to get it,” he said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the group had seized the strategically important dam after clashes in the southern province.

unit and they should adopt the strategy of coalescence. Every part should defend another part and when under pressure, they should utilize the tools at their disposal.

Today, hope of achieving victory is stronger than ever. Today, the balance of power has swung in favor of the Palestinians. The Zionist enemy has become weaker year after year while its army, which used to describe itself as “the army which will never be defeated”, has turned into “an army which will never taste victory” after its debacle in the 33-day war in Lebanon and its experiences in 22-day and 8-day wars. As for its political condition, it has been forced to hold four elections in the space of two years. In terms of security as well, it continuously tastes defeat. Moreover, the increasing desire among Jews to emigrate from that country has become a source of embarrassment for that overconfident regime. Its serious endeavor to normalize relations with a few Arab countries, with the assistance of the US, is another sign of the decline of that regime. Of course, this will not help that regime in any way either. Tens of years ago, it established relations with Egypt, but since then, it has become much weaker and much more vulnerable. Therefore, will the normalization of relations with a few weak and small countries be able to help that regime? Of course, those countries will not benefit from the relations either, as the Zionist regime will transgress against their properties and their land and it will promote corruption and insecurity in their countries.

Of course, these truths should not make others forget about their heavy duty. Muslim and Christian ulama should announce the act of normalization as haram from a religious perspective and intellectuals and liberated individuals should explain to everyone the results of this treachery, which is a stab in the back of Palestine.

Contrary to the downward movement of the regime, an increase in the capabilities of the camp of Resistance is a sign of a bright future: An increase in defensive and military power, self-sufficiency in building effective weapons, the self-confidence of mujahids, the increasing awareness of youth, the extension of the Resistance circle to the entire country of Palestine and beyond, the recent uprising of youth in defending Masjid al-Aqsa and the simultaneous promotion of the Palestinian nation’s spirit of jihad and innocence among public opinion in many parts of the world.

The logic behind the Palestinian cause, which has been registered in the United Nations documents, is a progressive and attractive logic. Palestinian warriors can bring up the idea of holding a referendum with the participation of the main inhabitants of Palestine. The referendum will determine the political system of the country and the main inhabitants, including the displaced Palestinians, no matter what their ethnicity and religion are, will participate in it. That political system will bring back the displaced [Palestinians] and will determine the fate of the foreigners inhabiting there.

This demand is based on the common democracy accepted in the whole world and no one can question its progressiveness.

The Palestinian fighters should continue their legitimate and moral fight against the usurping regime until it is forced to give in to this demand.

Move forward in the Name of God and know that: “Allah will certainly aid those who aid His cause” [The Holy Quran, 22: 40].

Greetings be upon you and Allah’s mercy.

Iran’s... (Continued From Page 2)

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and not destroyed, the network said.

“Not only will Iran not give in to the excessive demands of the Westerners, but in case of insistence on the part of the other side, the possibility of the JCPOA, and not just the negotiations in Vienna, unraveling altogether will be real,” Press TV said, citing its learning from the ongoing negotiations.

The new demands have been made while the U.S. has not even agreed to remove all the JCPOA-related sanctions, the English-language television said.

Because the U.S. is currently out of the deal, there was no American representation at the talks. Diplomats

involved are shuttling between the Iranian side and a delegation from Washington elsewhere in Vienna.

Between the high-level meetings, expert groups have been meeting to try and come up with solutions to the outstanding issues.

The Associated Press cited it described as a senior U.S. official as saying that it remains possible to reach an agreement before Iran’s June presidential election.

Iran’s delegate to the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, told IRNA late Thursday that his team was trying to reach an agreement as soon as possible but would not act in haste and would act in Iran’s national interests.

“We are on a specified path about which there are, fortunately, agreements, but there are serious obstacles in the way as well,” Araqchi said.

Heading into the talks, Ulyanov tweeted that he saw positive signs from the Iranian minister’s statements.

“The head of the Iranian delegation is cautious in his assessment of the current state of affairs at the Vienna talks (very similar to assessments of the U.S. colleagues),” he tweeted. “But both #Iran and #U.S. refrain from pessimistic conclusions. This seems to be not a bad sign.”

Tens...

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Abu Sunainah. “Our people will remain steadfast and patient in their homes, in our blessed land,” Abu Sunainah said of the multiple Palestinian families in East Al-Qud’s Sheikh Jarrah who could be evicted by the occupying regime of Israel.

Following prayers, thousands remained on the compound to protest against the evictions, with many waving Palestinian flags and chanting a refrain common during Al-Quds protests: “With our soul and blood, we will redeem you, Aqsa”. The Zionist regime’s supreme court will hold a hearing on the Sheikh Jarrah evictions on Monday. Sheikh Jarrah’s residents are overwhelmingly Palestinian.

Government...

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based on a color-coding system which shows the severity of coronavirus outbreaks in various locations in Iran. The announcement comes as the government struggles to contain a fourth wave of coronavirus in Iran nearly 15 months after the disease started to spread in the country. It also comes amid concerns that a mutated and more dangerous form of the virus that is currently circulating in India and Pakistan could hit Iran from the eastern borders and make the situation more complicated.

Envoy...

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to modernize the munitions at an alarming rate,” Takht-Ravanchi said.

The ambassador criticized the technical and legal bases of the recent decision taken by member states of the Conference of State Parties to the CWC on Syria as rooted in political goals of Western countries, dismissing the measure as biased and inconsistent with the provisions and objectives of the convention.

“This is a significant setback to the principles of neutrality and professionalism in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and will have adverse effects on disarmament and non-proliferation in the current tumultuous international environment,” he said.

“Iran is the biggest victim of widespread use of chemical weapons in the contemporary history,” Takht-Ravanchi noted. “Once again, we strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances.”

The Iranian envoy also called for concerted efforts to accomplish the universality of the CWC, including pressure on the Zionist regime to sign it.

He said the elimination of chemical weapons has not yet been achieved as a result of flagrant non-compliance of the United States with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Takht-Ravanchi finally called for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the CWC and safeguarding the authority of the OPCW, stating that Tehran is ready to offer its assistance in this regard.

Jordan Facing ‘One of the Most Severe’ Droughts

AMMAN (AFP) – Experts say Jordan is now in the grip of one of the most severe droughts in its history, but many warn the worst is yet to come.

The environment ministry says Jordan is among the world’s most water-deficient countries, and fears that a warming planet will make the situation more severe.

“The increased temperatures and lower precipitation resulting from climate change would adversely affect crops and water availability,” the ministry says, in its National Climate Change Policy.

Mean annual temperature is expected to increase by two degrees Celsius, and rainfall cut by a fifth

by 2050, according to projections used by the World Bank.

On a nearby nine-hectare (22-acre) farm, 43-year-old Ibrahim Dgheimat sits in his pickup, overwhelmed by the heat. He watches as several women pick beans.

“Normally, I grow peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, zucchini and cabbage,” he said, and added “But this year, the lack of water destroyed two-thirds of my crops.”

The financial losses have been heavy – as much as \$42,000.

“I don’t have any way to pay the workers,” Dgheimat said.

To make matters worse, prices of produce slumped after exports dropped by a fifth last year due to

coronavirus-related border closures.

The pandemic has also hit big customers like hotels and restaurants hard.

Daoud, born in Jordan to Pakistani parents – who like thousands of compatriots arrived in the 1960s onwards, many of them en route to pilgrimage in Mecca in neighboring Saudi Arabia – says all he can do is torch the failed crop.

“Five months of work is going to go up in smoke,” says Daoud, who works with his brothers and their children.

Beyond crop irrigation, the drought could reduce access to drinking water, too.

Jordan needs about 1.3 billion cubic meters of water per year, but the quantities available are around 850 to 900 million cubic meters, with the shortfall “due to low rainfall, global warming, population growth and successive refugee inflows,” head of communications at the water and irrigation ministry Omar Salameh said.

This year, the reserves of the three drinking water dams have reached critical levels, now just a third of their normal capacity.

At the same time, household water consumption has surged by 10 percent since the start of the pandemic, as people stay home amid restrictions.

mujahids who laid down their lives on this path, in particular martyr Sheikh Ahmed Yasin, martyr Sayyid Abbas Musawi, martyr Fathi Shaqqa, martyr Imad Moughniyah, martyr Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, martyr Abu-Mahdi al-Muhandis and finally, the most prominent personality among the martyrs of Resistance, martyr Qassem Soleimani. Even after their fruitful and blessed life, with their martyrdom, each of these personalities exerted a deep impact on the Resistance.

The endeavors of Palestinians and the pure blood of the Resistance martyrs have managed to hold up this auspicious flag and to increase the internal power of Palestinian jihad by a hundred times. One day, the Palestinian youth used to defend themselves by throwing stones, but today, they respond to enemy attacks with precision missiles.

Palestine and Quds has been described in the Holy Quran as the “Holy Land”. It has been tens of years now that the most impure and malicious human beings have been occupying this pure land: they are devils who massacre honorable human beings and then they confess to it with complete shamelessness. They are racists who have been harassing, for more than 70 years, the main owners of the land by murdering, looting, imprisoning and torturing them, but, thank God, they have not been able to break their willpower.

Palestine is alive and it continues to resist and it will finally overcome the malicious enemy with God’s assistance. Holy Quds and the entire Palestine belongs to those people [the Palestinians] and they will regain its possession again: “Nor is that for Allah any great matter.” [The Holy Quran, 14:20].

All Muslim governments and nations are responsible towards Palestine, but the Palestinians themselves are the pivot of the jihad and their population reaches about 14 million people inside and outside the land. The unity and the unanimous willpower of those people will work wonders.

Unity, the Biggest Weapon

The enemies of Palestinian unity are the Zionist regime, the U.S. and some other political powers, but if unity is not shattered from inside the Palestinian society itself, the extrinsic enemies will not be able to do anything.

The pivot of this unity should be national jihad and lack of trust in the enemies. The main enemies of the Palestinians -- the U.S., England and vicious Zionists -- should not be used as a source of support for Palestinian politics.

All Palestinians—including the Palestinians in Gaza, in Quds, in the West Bank, in 1948 lands and even the ones living in refugee camps—form a single

Fighting...

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Muslim countries should be a main and fundamental goal and this does not seem unlikely. The pivot around which this cooperation turns is the issue of Palestine—the entirety of that country—and the fate of Holy Quds. This is the same truth that guided the enlightened heart of the great Imam Khomeini (may God bestow mercy upon him) towards the announcement of International Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan.

Cooperation between Muslims around the pivot of Holy Quds is an absolute nightmare for the Zionists and for their American and European advocates. The failed project called “The Deal of the Century” and the effort to normalize the relations between a few weak Arab governments and the Zionist regime were desperate attempts to run away from that nightmare.

I tell you with confidence: These attempts will not get them anywhere. The downward movement of the Zionist enemy has started and it will not stop moving downward.

Resistance and Muslims Support

There are two determining factors in the future: First and foremost is the

continued activities of resistance in the Palestinian lands and the strengthening of the line of jihad and martyrdom and second, global support, on the part of governments and Muslim nations throughout the world, for the Palestinian mujahids.

All of us—government officials, intellectuals, religious scholars, political parties and groups, the brave youths and people of various social backgrounds—should determine our position in this public movement and play our part.

This is what nullifies the enemy’s plots and it will be a millennial manifestation of this ayah: “Or do they intend a plot? But those who defy Allah are themselves involved in a plot” [The Holy Quran, 52: 42], and “And Allah has full power and control over His affairs, but most among mankind do not know” [The Holy Quran, 12: 21].

I also wish to address the Arab youth in their own language.

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Greetings be upon all liberated individuals in the Arab world, in particular Arab youth, and greetings be upon the resistant people of Palestine and Quds and the defenders in Masjid al-Aqsa.

Greetings be upon the martyrs of Resistance and the large number of the