

# Apple Files Lawsuit Against NSO Over Spyware

**WEST BANK (Dispatches)** – Apple has filed a lawsuit against the Zionist regime's company NSO Group over the use of its Pegasus spyware to attack Apple users.

The lawsuit is the second of its kind by a private company, after Facebook sued NSO Group in 2019 for targeting its users on WhatsApp, and represents a growing trend among U.S. tech companies attempting to curb the use of Zionist spyware across their platforms.

"State-sponsored actors like the NSO Group spend millions of dollars on sophisticated surveillance technologies without effective accountability. That needs to change," Craig Federighi, Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, said in a statement.

"While these cybersecurity threats only impact a very small number of our customers, we take any attack on our users very seriously, and we're constantly working to strengthen the security and



The suit aims to ban NSO Group from using any Apple software, hardware, or services, which would deal a direct blow to NSO's Pegasus software.

privacy protections in iOS to keep all our users safe."

In addition to holding NSO accountable for targeting Apple devices, the California-based tech giant also wants to permanently prevent it from using any Apple software, services or devices.

Such a move could potentially render the company's Pegasus spyware product worthless, given that much of its business is to give clients full access to a user's Apple or Android smartphone.

"The steps we're taking today will send a clear message: in a free

society, it is unacceptable to weaponize powerful regime-sponsored spyware against those who seek to make the world a better place," said Ivan Krstic, the head of Apple security engineering and architecture.

After filing its lawsuit, Apple also announced that it would provide assistance, as well as donate \$10mn, to Canada-based Citizen Lab and other groups working to combat digital surveillance.

In July, Amnesty International, Forbidden Stories and a group of international media organizations revealed that Pegasus spyware had been used in hacks of smartphones belonging to journalists, government officials, human rights activists and political leaders. The investigative group revealed it had acquired a list of 50,000 phone numbers that appeared to be targets identified by the Zionist company's clients to be spied upon using Pegasus.

## Dozens of Palestinian Families Face New Demolition Threat



Dozens of Palestinian homes in Silwan in occupied East Al-Quds are facing demolition to make way for enlarging a Zionist park in the area.

**SILWAN (Al Jazeera)** – About 84 Palestinian homes in the Wadi Yasoul neighborhood of Silwan in occupied East Al-Quds are facing demolition to make way for enlarging a Zionist park in the area.

Fakhri Abu Diab, a member of the Silwan Lands Defence Committee, said the threats against homes in Silwan are part of an attempt to target neighborhoods in the "Holy Basin" where the occupying regime is forging ahead with the theme park.

Some 600 Palestinians living there will be rendered homeless if a Zionist regime court rules in favor of the demolition.

Diab said that if the Wadi Yasoul expropriation went ahead, it would be the second-largest forced displacement of residents in Al-Quds since the 2019 forced displacement in Sur Baher's Wadi al-Hummus neighborhood when more than 10 residential buildings were demolished, making hundreds homeless.

Forced displacement, or unlawful transfer of civilians in occupied territory, violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Diab said urgent international action is needed to stop the regime's demolitions in Wadi Ya-

soul, which lies just south of Al-Quds' Old City.

Ziad Qawar, the lawyer representing the affected families, told Al Jazeera it is unclear when the regime's district court may issue a ruling over the case, but that it could be in the coming days or weeks.

Qawar appealed to the district court on November 18 against an earlier municipal court ruling that greenlighted the demolition in Wadi Yasoul, home to more than 1,000 Palestinian residents and comprises some 310 dunums (31 hectares).

In 2019, the Israeli-controlled Al-Quds municipality demolished 12 residential buildings, and a horse stable, in Wadi Yasoul, displacing more than 70 residents.

The owners of the threatened homes, and other buildings, were given repeated notices by the regime authorities over the years that the buildings would be destroyed because they were built without 'permits'.

NGOs and human rights organizations have repeatedly released reports on how regime authorities issue very few building permits to Palestinian residents, despite extreme overcrowding, while illegal Zionist settlement construction is simultaneously encouraged with economic incentives.

## Saudi Strike on Yemen Kills Two

**SANA'A (Dispatches)** – Two people were killed and two others wounded on Wednesday when Saudi-led coalition airstrikes hit a building under construction in Yemen's capital Sana'a, Yemen's al-Masirah TV reported.

The airstrikes also destroyed a factory for producing plastic materials, al-Masirah reported.

Both sites under attack are located in northern Sana'a.

Meanwhile, the coalition announced it targeted what it claimed to be sites used by resistance fighters for storing and firing "bomb-laden drones, including a building under construction used as a secret factory

for assembling the drones," the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported.

The development came hours after Saudi-led fighter jets conducted more than a dozen aerial assaults against al-Jubah and Sirwah districts in Yemen's central province of Ma'rib, but no reports about possible casualties were quickly available.

On Tuesday evening, seven civilians, including an African refugee, suffered grave injuries when Saudi border guards indiscriminately fired shots at popular outdoor markets and residential buildings in Raqou area of the Monabbih district in the

northwestern Yemeni province of Sa'ada.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and other key Western powers, launched the war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi's government back to power and crushing the popular Ansarullah resistance movement.

Having failed to reach its professed goals, the war has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead and displaced millions more. It has also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases there.

A new report has predicted that the death toll from Yemen's war will reach 377,000 by the end of the current year, including those killed as a result of indirect and direct causes.

In a report published on Tuesday, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that 70 percent of those killed would be children under the age of five.

It found that 60 percent of deaths would have been the result of indirect causes, such as hunger and preventable diseases, with the remainder a result of direct causes like front-line combat and air raids.

## Civilians Killed in Zionist Missile Attack on Syria

**BEIRUT (Dispatches)** – Two civilians were among four people killed by Zionist strikes on Wednesday that targeted a part of Syria where anti-terrorist fighters are based, a monitor said.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group that relies on sources on the ground, said the Zionist missiles struck an area near three villages in the west of Homs province.

According to media, Syrian air defenses intercepted several missiles in the skies over the country's central province of Homs.

Syria's official news agency SANA said the airstrikes were conducted from the northeast of the Lebanese capital, Beirut, and that most of the missiles were shot down by Syrian air defenses.

"At approximately 1:26 a.m. today, the Israeli enemy carried out an air attack with bursts of missiles from the direction of northeast of Beirut, targeting some points in the central region," SANA cited an unknown military source as saying.

The latest airstrikes came exactly a week after the Zionist regime fired two missiles from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to an area in the south of the capital Damascus.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Zionist regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

Meanwhile, Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faisal Mekdad said certain Western countries are now attempting to sabotage prospects for a political end to the ongoing conflict in the country after failing to advance their agenda on the battlefield.

"I firmly believe that the entire occupied Syrian territories will be ultimately liberated. Syrian nationals also hold the opinion that each and every constituent part of our country will be soon repatriated," Mekdad said on Tuesday night.

He noted, "Having failed in their

military aggression on Syria, Western countries are now trying to strike down the country through political means."

Mekdad said the West had not succeeded in imposing its will on Syria either through terrorism or military actions, and is currently seeking to aggravate the situation and impede the political settlement of the Syrian crisis.

The Syrian diplomat blasted Western countries over failure to come up with a political solution to the Syrian crisis and said they had not shied away from hostile actions against the Damascus government.

Mekdad also strongly condemned Turkey's military occupation of Syrian lands and said the move had created an obstacle to the resolution of the Syrian conflict.

He said the United States' support for various militant groups in northeastern Syria was in line with its pressure on the Damascus government to stop anti-terror operations against terrorists operating in the area.

## HRW Demands Probe Into France's Role in Civilians Deaths in Egypt

**CAIRO (Anadolu)** – A global human rights watchdog on Wednesday called on French authorities to "immediately investigate" allegations on involvement in aerial attacks against civilians in a joint "covert operation" with Egypt at the Libyan border in 2016-2018.

The statement by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) came shortly after the investigative website Disclose leaked a number of classified documents from the French Directorate of Military Intelligence, Ministry of Armed Forces, and armed forces general staff, unveiling information on a secret French intelligence operation in Egypt dubbed Operation Sirli.

The HRW noted that France had previously aided the "appalling human rights record" of Egypt under the government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, a country that is "among France's top arms clients."

"France continues to sign major arms deals with Sisi's government -- also under a pretext of security and fighting terrorism -- despite evidence that some of these weapons had been used to violently suppress protests and commit other human rights violations," it added.

Citing a statement by the French Armed Forces Ministry on launching an investigation "into the information disseminated by Disclose" a day after its release, the watchdog said it remained "unclear whether the investigation would focus on the origins of the leaks themselves or the allegations contained therein."

"France should immediately investigate the allegations made by Disclose into the reconnaissance mission in Egypt's western desert and suspend all sales of security-related assistance to the Egyptian government."

Despite the alleged evidence of

French complicity in the killing of civilians, the Disclose said in its report that French forces were "still deployed in the Egyptian desert."

In May, the website also revealed that Egypt signed an agreement to purchase Rafale fighter jets from France in a deal worth €3.75 billion (\$4.52 billion).

It also revealed that a major weapons sale by France to Egypt was "secretly" signed on April 26 at Sisi's request.

Besides the warplanes, the deal also involved two other contracts with the France-based missile manufacturing consortium MBDA and avionics firm Safran Electronics & Defense together worth €200 million.

As a result, the total value of the deal amounted to €3.95 billion.

The Disclose documents also show that the Egyptian state has obtained a loan of which 85% is to be guaranteed by France.