

# Over 300 Filmmakers Reject Zionist Fund in Protest Against ‘Apartheid Mechanism’



Elderly Palestinians chants slogans during a demonstration against Zionist land confiscation and the cutting of water supply for Palestinians villages, in the West Bank city of al-Khalil, on October 2, 2021.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – In one of the largest protests against the Zionist regime’s apartheid, more than 300 filmmakers signed a petition in which they refuse to cooperate with the Shomron Film Fund.

Oscar-nominated filmmakers were amongst the signatories who slammed the fund as being “part of

the apartheid mechanism”. Shomron is the Hebrew word for Samaria – which is the Biblical name of the occupied West Bank.

Founded by controversial former Zionist so-called minister of culture Miri Regev, the fund distributes grants exclusively to Zionists in illegal settlements in the occupied West

Bank. With the regime grant denied to non-Jews, it is one of the clearest examples of the regime’s many racist policies which every major human rights group has concluded amounts to the crime of apartheid.

The signatories pledged that they will not seek funding from, nor co-operate with the Shomron Film Fund

following its inaugural film festival in the occupied West Bank in July, the signatories said that “Israeli Cinema Will Not Be Instrumentalized to Whitewash the Occupation.” The statement was sparked by the stormy controversy that erupted after the Samaria Film Festival was held for the first time about two months ago, in the illegal West Bank settlement of Ariel, in the presence of a number of leading Zionist cinema figures.

The group, which includes Israeli and international filmmakers, said that the fund was “part and parcel of the mechanisms of apartheid.” They dismissed its claim to be in support of diversity and pluralism. “The term ‘diversity’ becomes devoid of meaning when in practice it obfuscates systematic violence and serious violations of human rights,” said the letter.

The signatories urged filmmakers to “draw a red line” in rejecting the Zionist regime’s ongoing occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory.

They warned that the inaugural festival and the fund “is not a love of culture but a politic aimed at erasing the green line and the distinction between military and civilian regimes.”

## Zionist Regime Delays, Amends New Restrictions on Foreigners in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has delayed the implementation of a set of recently revised restrictions for foreigners entering the occupied West Bank after a widespread backlash against the rules, which initially included stipulations that foreigners notify the occupying regime’s authorities within 30 days of starting a relationship with a Palestinian resident.

COGAT, the regime’s military body responsible for Palestinian civil affairs, has amended some of the restrictions, which were set to be implemented on Monday, including the re-

moval of the 30-day rule, in a new document published on Sunday, but many other rules remain.

The original text had also said that foreign spouses of Palestinians would initially be only granted three or six-month permits, with most then required to leave the West Bank for six months before obtaining a new permit.

The rules would also have forced foreigners married to Palestinians to leave for half a year after 27 months of marriage for a “cooling off” period.

The requirement to remain outside the West Bank for six

months does not appear in the latest draft. However, many of the changes in the 90-page document released appeared to be largely cosmetic, and none of the rules applies to people visiting the occupied territories or the more than 130 illegal settlements in the West Bank.

The regime had recently come under sharp criticism for the document, which was initially published without much fanfare in February.

COGAT has not commented on the document.

Rules regulating the entry of foreign academics and students to the occupied West Bank are

still included in the updated document, although restrictions on the number of foreign students and teachers have been dropped.

HaMoked, an Al-Quds -based human rights organization criticized the new rules, saying that the Zionist regime will “prevent thousands of families from living together for blatantly political reasons”.

“The Israeli military’s procedure on the entry of foreigners to the West Bank violates Israel’s international legal obligations and HaMoked will continue its legal challenge of it,” the group tweeted.

## Iraqi Army, Hash al-Sha’abi Launch Anti-Daesh Operation, Kill 5 Terrorists

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – At least five Daesh terrorists, including two local leaders, have been killed in an operation by Iraqi army forces along with the popular anti-terror forces to track down the militants in northern Iraq, the Iraqi military says.

A statement by the media office of Iraq’s Joint Operations Command (JOC) said that the Iraqi security forces attacked two Daesh hideouts, killing three terrorists inside, during an operation in Iraq’s northern province of Kirkuk.

The troops found four explosive devices, an explosive belt, a motorcycle, a camera, and other equipment at the hideouts, the statement said.

An anonymous security source told Xinhua that one of the killed militants is known as the local ringleader of the al-Dibis area in the north-western part of the province.

Another JOC statement said that a joint force from the army and Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), also known in Arabic as Hashd Sha’abi, killed a local Daesh leader in the Himreen mountain range and another terrorist after surrounding them in the mountainous area on the provincial border between the provinces of Kirkuk and Salahudin.

Over the past months, Iraqi security and PMU forces have conducted operations against terrorists to crack down on their intensified activities.

The security situation in Iraq has been improving since the defeat of the Daesh in 2017 with the help of Iranian and Russian forces. However, its remnants have since melted into urban centers, deserts, and rugged areas, carrying out frequent terrorist attacks against the security forces and civilians.

## Four Siblings Killed in Syria Mine Blast

SYRIA (Dispatches) – Four children from the same family were killed in a mine blast inside a house in rebel-held north Syria on Monday, a relative told AFP.

The family had been displaced and moved two weeks ago into the unfinished house in Binnish, near the city of Idlib, their uncle, Abu Dahham al-Muhammad, told AFP.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said the victims were siblings.

Although fighting has subsided, remnants

of explosives laid by terrorists in Syria’s 11-year-old foreign-backed conflict are now claiming more lives than anywhere else in the world, according to the United Nations.

The latest mine blast deaths bring to 176 the total number of people killed by explosive remnants since the start of 2022, according to the Britain-based Observatory.

On Sunday, three children were killed by an explosive device in the village of Daba’a south of the central province of Homs, ac-

cording to the UK-based watchdog group and the state news agency SANA.

About 10.2 million people, or roughly half of all Syrians, live in areas contaminated with explosive devices, the UN says.

Almost every week, the Syrian army detonates explosives it uncovers in various previous battle zones.

In June, the UN said explosive ordnance contamination represents a major protection concern, with one in two Syrians estimated to be living in contaminated areas.

## IRGC... (Continued From Page One)

“This is the Islamic Republic of Iran’s first domestically-developed warship which is equipped with vertical launch, short-range and medium-range air defense systems,” General Baqeri said.

“It is also equipped with automatic and semi-automatic systems, in addition to 20mm and 30mm cannons for peripheral defense in case of confrontations with enemy aerial and maritime objects.”

The vessel is equipped with the first combined launch system of short and medium-range surface-to-surface (SSM) missiles, enjoys an operation room that relies on an indigenous software for integrated management of combat zones, and has the ability to detect different type of targets and threats and assign them to offensive and defensive systems, Gen. Baqeri added.

For his part, the commander of the IRGC Navy said that Shahid Dara high-speed and missile-launching assault boat has four engines, weighs six hundred tons and has an operational range of five thousand knots.

Rear Admiral Tangsiri highlighted that the Shahid Rouhi military vessel is 37 meters long, has a missile range of 180 kilometers, and can cruise at 850 nautical miles.

Catamarans are typically faster than average vessels owing to their use of two small hulls instead of one large one, lessening hydrodynamic resistance and increasing speed.

The twin-hulled catamaran is a type of small, nimble warship that operates on the offensive in close proximity to the coast.

The vessels were unveiled amid rising threats posed to the region by the U.S. military and the occupying regime of Israel

The United States said Monday that two long-distance warplanes flew across the Middle East as part of a simulated bombing exercise.

Top U.S. general Lieutenant General Alexis Grynkeiwich said the “Bomber Task Force” simulation on Sunday showed that the United States and its allies can “rapidly inject overwhelming combat power into the region on demand.”

A Central Command statement said fighter jets from Britain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia escorted the two B-52H Stratofortresses from the U.S. Global Strike Command on Sunday.

In the fourth exercise of its kind this year, the planes started at the Fairford air base in England and flew above the eastern Mediterranean, Arabian Peninsula and Red Sea “before departing the region”, the statement said.

The U.S. army “simulated firepower from the ground”.

## New... (Continued From Page One)

during the crisis, leaving the EU racing to find alternative supplies to refill gas storage facilities for winter.

Some energy-intensive industries in Europe, such as fertilizer makers and aluminium producers, have already scaled back production. Other industries, already grappling with chip shortages and logistics logjams, face rocketing fuel bills.

Several EU states have triggered emergency plans that could lead to energy rationing and fuelling recession fears, with inflation soaring and interest rates on the rise.

“We cannot rule out that Germany might look at rationing gas,” Uniper Chief Executive Klaus-Dieter Maubach told Reuters on the sidelines of the Gastech conference in Milan.

Germany, which is installing liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals so it can ship in fuel and expand its range of global suppliers, is at phase two of a three-stage emergency gas plan.

Phase three would see some industry rationing.

The global market for LNG was already tight as the world economy sucked up supplies in the recovery from the pandemic.

The Ukraine crisis has added further demand.

Norway, a major European producer, has been pumping more gas into European markets but cannot fill the gap left by Russia.

EU countries’ energy ministers are due to meet on Sept. 9 to discuss options to rein in soaring energy prices including gas price caps and emergency credit lines for energy market par-

ticipants, a document seen by Reuters showed.

Klaus Mueller, president of Germany’s Federal Network Agency energy regulator, said in August that even if Germany’s gas stores were 100% full, they would be empty in 2-1/2 months if Russian gas flows were halted completely.

Germany’s storage facilities are now about 85% full, while facilities across Europe hit an 80% target last week.

## Facing... (Continued From Page One)

Labour leader Keir Starmer sent his own congratulations to Truss.

“But after 12 years of the Tories all we have to show for it is low wages, high prices, and a Tory cost-of-living crisis,” he tweeted.

“Only Labour can deliver the fresh start our country needs.”

On Tuesday morning, Johnson will deliver a farewell speech at Downing Street before flying to Scotland -- where heavy rain is forecast -- to hand his resignation to Queen Elizabeth.

For the first time in her 70-year reign, the 96-year-old monarch will appoint the prime minister at her Scottish retreat, Balmoral, rather than at Buckingham Palace in London.

Judging by her words as foreign secretary and on the Downing Street campaign trail, the new UK prime minister appears to be itching for a fight with Europe, Russia and China.

Truss’s bellicose tone towards friends and foes alike -- even French President Emmanuel Macron has not been immune -- has some in the UK security establishment worried.

Defense chiefs forced Truss to back-track in February when, as foreign secretary, she gave her approval to any Britons wanting to head to Ukraine to fight against the Russian forces.

Truss says she would “double down” on his government’s support for Kyiv.

“We will keep going further and faster to push Russia out of the whole of Ukraine,” she said in a keynote speech in April, indicating that Moscow must also vacate Crimea, which it annexed in 2014.

## Zionists... (Continued From Page 2)

Espanol, Captain Ghasemi reiterated the claim that he is a flight instructor and had no ties to the Iranian military except for fighting in the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) as a volunteer in the Basij Popular Mobilization Forces.

The seizing of the plane took place as Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro was on a trip to Iran on June 10. He was there to announce a 20-year deal with Iran.

The cargo plane was indeed grounded in that 48-hour period after it had landed before it could depart, as the Venezuelan leader was preparing for his own trip.

“The Zionist regime and the United States were trying to create a story to disrupt the relations between Iran and Venezuela. For this reason, this caused the crew of the said flight to be taken hostage,” Fars News said.

## FM... (Continued From Page 2)

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — the closest allies of the U.S. in the region after the Israeli regime — have been waging the war on Yemen since March 2015.

The invasion has been seeking to change Yemen’s ruling structure in favor of the impoverished country’s former Riyadh- and Washington-friendly rulers and crush the Ansarullah resistance movement. The Saudi-led coalition has failed to meet any of its objectives.

The war, which has been enjoying unstinting arms, logistical, and political support on the part of the United States, has killed tens of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entire country into the scene of the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Yemen’s defense forces, which feature the country’s army and its allied Popular Committees, have, however, vowed not to lay down their arms until the country’s complete liberation from the scourge of the aggression.