

# Hamas Urges UN to Hold Zionist Criminals Accountable



Khalil Hayye, head of Hamas’ Islamic and Arab Relations Office in Gaza City, Gaza on July 14, 2022.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – On the occasion of the United Nations (UN) sponsoring the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has urged the international organization to hold the Zionist re-

gime’s criminals accountable for their crimes against Palestinians. Hamas, in a statement, criticized the UN sponsoring of the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism as, “An opportunity to confirm that our Palestinian people, land and

holy sites are victims of the most dangerous and longest ongoing terrorist occupation in the world.” Palestinian land, people and holy sites have been victim of the Zionist occupation for more than seven decades. The occupation is the worst

and most brutal occupation in history. Hamas added, “This occupation resulted in about a hundred thousand Palestinians martyred, hundreds of thousands injured, more than a million detained and millions of displaced Palestinians and refugees.” The Palestinian movement continued, “These facts tell stories of the unbearable suffering the Palestinians have been experiencing due to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.” “The UN has to recall the ongoing tragedy the Palestinian people have been going through across occupied Palestine and in the diaspora and shall shoulder its power to hold leaders of the Israeli occupation accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people, land and sanctities.” Hamas concluded, “The UN must also stand by the Palestinian people’s just cause and support their legitimate right to resist the occupation until liberation and return.”

## Afghan Girls Protest School Closure

KABUL (AFP) – Dozens of girls protested in an eastern Afghan city on Saturday after Taliban authorities shut their secondary schools just days after classes resumed, an activist and residents said. Last week, five government secondary schools in the eastern province of Paktia restarted classes after hundreds of girls and tribal leaders demanded they reopen. But when students in provincial capital Gardez went for classes on Saturday, they were told to return home, a women’s rights activist and residents said. “This morning when they

did not allow the girls to enter schools, we held a protest,” said activist Yasmin, an organiser of the rally. Dressed in their school uniforms -- a white headscarf and black shalwar kameez -- the girls marched through the center of Gardez to protest the closure. Four of the newly reopened schools are in Gardez and one in Samkani. The Taliban have imposed harsh restrictions on girls and women to comply with their rules since returning to power in August last year -- effectively squeezing them out of public life.

In March, they shuttered all girls’ secondary schools hours after reopening them for the first time under their rule. Images posted on social media Saturday showed the girls marching through the city center as residents and shopkeepers watched. “The Taliban did not allow anyone to take footage of the protest. In fact, they broke some protesters’ mobile phones,” Yasmin told AFP by telephone. Two residents from the city also confirmed the protest, which journalists were not allowed to cover. “The students protested peacefully, but soon the rally was dis-

persed by security forces,” one Gardez resident who asked not to be named told AFP. Officials maintain the ban is just a “technical issue” and classes will resume once a curriculum is defined. A few public schools continue to operate in parts of the country following pressure from local leaders and families. They remain shut in most provinces, however, including the capital Kabul as well as Kandahar, the de facto power center of the Taliban. Around three million girls are currently banned from getting secondary education in Afghanistan, according to UNICEF.

## Cholera Deaths Reported in Northern, Eastern Syria

QAMISHLI (AFP) – Three people have died of cholera in northern and eastern Syria, the region’s Kurdish administration said Saturday, appealing for help to contain the outbreak. Health authorities warned of “a large number of cholera cases in Raqqa province and the western countryside of Dayr al-Zawr province.” Cholera is generally contracted from contaminated food or water and causes diarrhea and vomiting. It can spread in residential areas that lack proper sewage networks or mains drinking water. The Kurdish administration called on international agencies, “especially the World Health Organization, to provide necessary support to limit the spread of cholera.” The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the disease had spread in western parts of Dayr al-Zawr after local authorities stopped distributing chlorine to water pumping stations.

The Britain-based group said that hundreds of people in the area were complaining of vomiting, diarrhea and headaches. More than a decade of foreign-backed war has devastated Syria’s water supply and sewerage infrastructure. Nationwide, the war has damaged two thirds of water treatment plants, half of pumping stations and one third of water towers, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said. Nearly half the population relies on alternative and often unsafe sources of water while at least 70 percent of sewage goes untreated, UNICEF said. An outbreak of cholera hit neighboring Iraq this summer for the first time since 2015. Worldwide, the disease affects between 1.3 million and four million people each year, killing between 21,000 and 143,000 people.

## Egypt’s Huge Spending on Air Force Questioned

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – Egypt appears close to finalizing a \$3bn deal with Italy for 24 Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets, its first order for this model of aircraft. The deal is the latest in a series of fighter acquisitions Cairo has made from several countries over the past eight years. As a result, the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) has a diverse fleet of jets. After the signing of the Egypt-Zionist treaty in 1979, Cairo procured the vast majority of its fighter planes from the United States, which replaced the Soviet Union as its leading arms supplier. Consequently, Egypt acquired the fourth largest F-16 fleet in the world. Fast forward to 2014 and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is Egypt’s president. He sought to diversify the Egyptian military, including the air force, and make it less dependent on Washington. As part of this endeavor, Cairo became the first foreign buyer of France’s Dassault Rafale multirole fighter jet in 2015 as part of a

landmark multi-billion dollar arms deal. Acquiring French fighters in addition to American ones is neither rare nor unique. Qatar, for example, is buying advanced F-15s from the U.S., Rafales from France, and Eurofighters from the United Kingdom. But Sisi was not content with just the French fighters to diversify the EAF’s predominantly American arsenal. He went a step further and initiated Egypt’s most significant purchase of Russian weaponry since the 1970s, including 46 MiG-29M/M2 fighters for the EAF. In 2018, he pushed ahead with an order for the more advanced Russian Su-35 Flanker-E in a \$2bn deal - despite firm U.S. warnings that this could trigger sanctions against Cairo under the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Of course, integrating Western and Russian military aircraft into one cohesive air force is not straightforward. One analysis even suggested that the EAF’s Russian jets will likely

become little more than “an air force within an air force” due to interoperability issues. “Egypt has had significant difficulties integrating its Russian-supplied MiG-29 and Su-35 aircraft into its largely Western-supplied networks and command and control systems,” Justin Bronk, senior research fellow for airpower and technology in the Military Sciences Team at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), told Middle East Eye. Meanwhile, the Rafales and F-16s “are designed according to NATO STANAG (Standardization Agreement) standards, and so are much more easily integrated and interoperable from a weapons perspective.” “I’d ascribe Egypt’s tendency to collect jets from everywhere as reflecting a political strategy - one you also see in nearby wealthy Middle Eastern countries - aimed at building relationships with various influencers at the expense of logistical efficiency,” Sebastien Roblin, a defence journalist said.

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

Tuesday, with the outlet quoting ministry officials as saying “everyone is at each other’s throats.” The report did not provide details of the investigation but said that a few of the complaints were made by former employees of the Israeli mission in Rabat whom Govrin had fired on different occasions. Govrin is currently in Occupied Palestine and is involved in the ongoing investigation, an Israeli diplomatic source said. Morocco became the third Arab state to normalize ties with the occupying regime of Israel under U.S.-brokered deals in 2020, joining the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The Zionist regime’s liaison office in Rabat had been closed in late 2000, when Morocco decided to call off the existing low-level ties between the two regimes with the outbreak of the Second Intifada. Though the two regimes’ liaison offices were closed some 20 years ago, the properties remained in their respective possessions, allowing the two sides to rapidly reopen them. Recent months have seen a series of top-level visits by Israeli officials to Morocco and the two sides have signed a host of economic, cultural and military cooperation agreements. Govrin, 58, is considered a senior diplomat and has served at the foreign ministry since 1989. He speaks fluent Arabic, and served as the ambassador to Egypt from 2016 to August 2020.

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

against the company’s involvement with the Israeli military. Building security in plain clothes maneuvered through crowds, while a handful of police officers stood watch at opposite ends of the block. Activists passed out pamphlets to other workers emerging from the Google building. Dawlat Chebley, a tech worker unfiliated with either company, told the Middle East Online that it was clear that not enough people knew how intrusive big tech had become. “This protest is so important because people don’t realize that tech is our future. People don’t realize how controlling tech can be if it’s in the wrong hands, and as you can see, it’s already in the wrong hands,” Chebly said.

“So many people - Arabs, Muslims, Palestinians - we use Google, we use Amazon, we don’t realize that it’s hurting our own people more than helping,” Chebly said. “If Google says Palestinians don’t exist, a majority of people are going to start believing it,” Chebly added. Acknowledging the widespread ignorance on the role of tech and its profiteering off oppression, another protester, Chandra Darice, said she had specifically come to honor those “tech workers who don’t want to see their products being used to surveil and oppress the people of Palestine”. “People who work at places like Google and Amazon want to connect the world, these are global corporations that purport to be innovating in ways that are meant to help all of humankind, but at the same time, they are taking billions of dollars to violate the human rights of other people,” Darice said. Objections to Google’s involvement with Project Nimbus have also raised concerns among other stakeholders, including shareholders. On Friday, Kiran Aziz, from KLP, Norway’s largest pension fund, said she was “deeply concerned” by Google’s insistence to go ahead with Project Nimbus. “The human rights situation is worsening with the Israeli regime shutting down NGOs, expanding illegal settlements and increasing the killings of civilians - including Palestinian children in the illegally occupied Palestinian territories,” Aziz said in a statement. KLP is an investor in both Amazon and

Google. In June 2021, the pension fund divested from Motorola over its alleged contribution to surveillance in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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

example of organized support for terrorists acting against the Iranian government and nation,” Kanaani stated. Kanaani said the fresh sanctions, just like the previous illegal U.S. actions against the Iranian intelligence ministry, would not prevent its personnel by any means from serving the Iranian people and ensuring their security. He said Tehran will use all its capacities within the framework of the international law to restore the rights of the Iranian nation and protect itself against those sinister plots. On Friday, Iran’s embassy in Brussels condemned a statement issued by NATO which attributed the responsibility for the alleged cyber-attack to the government of Iran. “NATO and its members not only kept silent on cyber-attacks against Iran’s infrastructural and nuclear facilities but also directly or indirectly had aided and abetted these acts of cyber sabotage,” said the mission. “They have no standing to level such accusations against Iran.” The diplomatic mission condemned NATO and its allies for becoming a “safe haven” for the anti-Iranian terrorist organization MKO. “NATO and its allies, claiming to fight international terrorism, have turned a blind eye on the fact that a terrorist cult has found a safe haven in NATO member countries, turning them into operational headquarters to launch the widest imaginable spectrum of malicious acts against Iran.”

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

regarding the violations committed against its diplomatic and consular facilities in Tirana,” it said. Albania’s special police forces, wearing masks and helmets and carrying automatic rifles, were said to have violated the compound of Iran’s diplomatic mission after two cars with diplomatic plates had left. The reports said the Albanian police were inside the diplomatic mission for 30 minutes and searched the building which still flew the Iranian flag.

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

among the most sophisticated armed forces in the world due in large part to the eight years of ‘Sacred Defense’ against the Saddam regime as well as the fight against takfiri terrorist groups in the region. “Thank God, a significant leap has been made today in the area of confronting threats and this path of growth and evolution should be continued.” Pointing to the improved missile power of the Army Ground Force in recent years, the commander said the missiles are capable of striking targets from long distance with pinpoint accuracy. The Army’s Ground Force successfully test-fired domestically-developed surface-to-surface missile Fatih (Conquest) 360 during recent military drills. Army officials say the missile can hit strategic targets at the speed of 3,704 kilometers per hour, and its velocity can be increased to 5,000 while communicating with satellites for quick navigation and fast strikes against enemy targets. General Karim Cheshak, spokesman for the drills, said the maneuvers involve infantry, armored, artillery, air force, drone, engineering, airborne and electronic warfare units. Iran has always made it clear that it will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that its defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiation.