

# Russia: Western-Imposed Order Provides for Racist Division of World



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Saturday the Western-imposed "rules-based order" envisages a racist division of the world.

MOSCOW (TASS) – The Western-imposed "rules-based order" envisages a racist division of the world, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Saturday. In a video address to the fifth Global Young Diplomats Forum, Lavrov reiterated Russia's adherence to the basic principles of the UN Charter and said his country had consistently supported the cultural diversity of peoples and

their right to determine their own path. "We categorically reject the neocolonial 'rules-based order' being imposed by the U.S.-led West," Russia's top diplomat emphasized. "This order provides for a racist division of the world into a privileged group of countries who a priori have the right of any action and the rest of the world, obliged to follow the tracks

of this 'golden billion' and service their interests," he added.

Along these lines, Moscow has been expanding and deepening "fruitful cooperation with the overwhelming majority of members of the global community who represent more than 80% of the planet's population," Lavrov said.

He referred to the CSTO, EAEU, CIS, BRICS, SCO and other alliances and said dialogue should be intensified.

Ambitions by individual countries to solve their issues at the expense of others have never yielded fruit, Russian foreign minister warned, and these "destructive policies" are doomed to fail today, he added.

According to Lavrov, powerful and independent players in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa have been pursuing a nationally oriented foreign policy of late and those have achieved impressive results in various spheres.

"So, there is currently objective multipolarity, and this geopolitical reality cannot be ignored," Lavrov concluded.

## Operator: Risk of Radioactive Leak at Ukraine Nuclear Plant

KIEV (AFP/Al Jazeera) – There is a risk of a radioactive leak at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant currently occupied by Russian troops, the state energy operator said Saturday.

Energoatom said Moscow's troops had "repeatedly shelled" the plant site over the past day.

"As a result of periodic shelling, the infrastructure of the station has been damaged, there are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high," the nuclear agency said on Telegram.

The agency said that as of midday on Saturday (09:00 GMT) the plant "operates with the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards".

Authorities began distributing iodine tablets on Friday to residents who live near the plant in case of a radiation leak.

Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that Ukrainian forces had shelled the grounds of the nuclear facility in the last 24 hours.

"A total of 17 shells were fired, four of which hit the roof of Special Building No. 1, where 168 assemblies of U.S. Westinghouse nuclear fuel are stored," the Russian defence ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said 10 shells exploded near a dry storage facility for spent nuclear fuel and three more near a building that houses fresh



A Russian military convoy on the road to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in May 2022

nuclear fuel storage.

It said the radiation situation at the plant remained normal.

Reuters could not verify the battlefield report.

Recent satellite images from Planet Labs showed fires burning around the Zaporizhzhia complex over the last several days.

Kyiv and Moscow have for months traded accusations over shelling in the vicinity of the complex, located in the city of Enerhodar.

Grad rockets and artillery shells hit the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each about 10 kilometers (six miles) and across the Dnieper river from the Zaporizhzhia plant,

said Valentyn Reznichenko, governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

The Zaporizhzhia facility was seized by Russian troops in the opening weeks of conflict in Ukraine in February and the site has remained on the front line of fighting ever since.

Ukrainian staff continue to operate the plant and in recent weeks both sides have traded blame for shelling near the plant.

On Thursday, the power plant was cut off from Ukraine's national electricity grid for the first time in its four-decade history.

## FBI: Trump Mixed Top Secret Docs With Magazines, Other Items

WASHINGTON (AP) – Fourteen of the 15 boxes recovered from former President Donald Trump's Florida estate early this year contained classified documents, many of them top secret, mixed in with miscellaneous newspapers, magazines and personal correspondence, according to an FBI affidavit released Friday.

No space at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate was authorized for the storage of classified material, according to the court papers, which laid out the FBI's rationale for searching the property this month, including "probable cause to believe that evidence of obstruction will be found."

The 32-page affidavit — heavily redacted to protect the safety of witnesses and law enforcement officials and "the integrity of the ongoing investigation" — offers the most detailed description to date of the government records being stored at Mar-a-Lago long after Trump left the White House. It also reveals the gravity of the government's concerns that the documents were there illegally.

The document makes clear how the haphazard retention of top secret government records, and the apparent failure to safeguard them despite months of entreaties from U.S. officials, has exposed Trump to fresh legal peril just as he lays the groundwork for another

potential presidential run in 2024.

"The government is conducting a criminal investigation concerning the improper removal and storage of classified information in unauthorized spaces, as well as the unlawful concealment or removal of government records," an FBI agent wrote on the first page of the affidavit.

Documents previously made public show that federal agents are investigating potential violations of multiple federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defense information under the Espionage Act. The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

Trump has long insisted, despite clear evidence to the contrary, that he fully cooperated with government officials. And he has rallied Republicans behind him by painting the search as a politically motivated witch hunt intended to damage his reelection prospects. He repeated that refrain on his social media site Friday, saying he and his representatives had had a close working relationship with the FBI and "GAVE THEM MUCH."

The affidavit does not provide new details about 11 sets of classified re-

ports recovered during the Aug. 8 search at Mar-a-Lago but instead concerns a separate batch of 15 boxes that the National Archives and Records Administration retrieved from the home in January. The Archives sent the matter to the Justice Department, indicating in its referral that a review showed "a lot" of classified materials, the affidavit says.

## Hundreds of Asylum Seekers Evacuated From 'Inhumane' Dutch Camp



Some of the refugees sleep under canvas sheets near the official Ter Apel reception center

AMSTERDAM (Middle East Eye) – Hundreds of asylum seekers were evacuated late on Friday from the Netherlands' main asylum center, where overcrowding and harsh conditions have been described as "humiliating" and "inhumane".

More than 700 people have been sleeping in the open for days at the facility in the northern town of Ter Apel, prompting Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to send in a team to assist with medical needs.

It marks the first time MSF, which is mostly active in poorer nations, has worked in the Netherlands.

"Several hundred people were taken by bus late last night to other reception locations across the country," Leon Veldt, spokesman for the Dutch government's refugee organization COA, told AFP on Saturday. "We hope to slowly normalize the situation at Ter Apel."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said there were "shameful scenes at the center" and admitted to mistakes being made, promising a "structural solution".

His government announced a number of measures to deal with the crisis, including opening more centers and a new registration location at a military base.

It also pledged to temporarily suspend accepting 1,000 asylum seekers

annually under an EU migrant deal with Turkey, and only bring over the families of successful asylum applicants once they have confirmed housing in the country.

Middle East Eye spoke to asylum seekers at the center who said they were forced to sleep on muddy ground because they could not get access to safe shelter due to overcrowding.

"We don't want money, we only want to sleep," one asylum seeker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told MEE.

"After all the suffering we've been through, we've experienced three storms, our clothes got wet from the rain," a Palestinian refugee said. "That alone had me go back to [the Nakba] 1948."

The Nakba, or "the catastrophe", is the name Palestinians give to the massacres and forced expulsion they endured at the hand of Zionist militias in 1948.

The asylum seekers at the facility come from several countries, including Nigeria, Morocco, Eritrea and Tunisia.

"I regret that I came to Europe... if I knew it was this undignified and humiliating," a Kurdish refugee told MEE. "We are living like dogs. I've been here for 10 days and I have not even had one shower yet."

## Deadly Clashes Shake Libyan Capital as Political Crisis Deepens

TRIPOLI (AFP) – Rival armed groups exchanged gunfire in the Libyan capital Saturday, killing at least two people and raising fears of all-out conflict in a country embroiled in a grave political crisis.

The fighting follows months of rising tensions between two administrations vying for control of the North African country and its vast oil resources, the latest configuration in a complex and often violent power struggle since the 2011 overthrow of dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Small arms fire and explosions rocked several districts of Tripoli overnight and into Saturday, when smoke could be seen rising from damaged buildings.

The two rival administrations exchanged blame as videos posted online showed burned-out cars and buildings riddled with bullet holes, as well as a mosque and a health clinic on fire.

The UN's Libya mission called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", citing "ongoing armed clashes

including indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-populated neighborhoods" that it said had damaged hospitals.

Oussama Ali, a spokesman for Tripoli's ambulance service, told al-Ahrrar television that an unknown number of civilians had been wounded but that his service was "having difficulties moving around".

Local media reported fatalities but no official toll has been released.

News agency Lana said actor Mustafa Baraka had been killed in one of the neighborhoods hit by fighting, sparking anger and mourning on social media.

The Government of National Unity (GNU) of Abdulhamid Dbeibah said fighting had broken out after negotiations to avoid bloodshed in the western city collapsed.

Dbeibah's government, installed as part of a United Nations-led peace process following a previous round of violence, is challenged by a rival government led by former interior minister Fathi Bashagha.

## Rich Countries Blamed for Impasse Nations Fail to Reach Deal on UN Treaty to Protect Sea Life

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas, after a fifth round of talks ended in impasse.

Negotiations at UN headquarters in New York were suspended early Saturday following two weeks of talks that environmentalists had hoped would close a gap in international marine protection measures.

A proposed treaty would set rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions.

Talks centered on how to share benefits from marine life, establish protected areas, prevent harm from human activity on the high seas and to help poor countries gain the skills and means for ocean exploration.

Campaigners expressed disappointment at the failure to reach a deal but said the talks produced some progress.

Laura Meller, who leads Greenpeace's ocean protection campaign, accused rich countries such as the United States of being too slow to compromise.

"Russia has also been a key blocker in negotiations, refusing to engage in the treaty process itself, or attempting to compromise with the European Union and many other states on a wide range of issues," Meller said.

The talks will resume next year unless a special emergency session is called before the end of 2022. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Monica Medina also voiced disappointment but expressed hope that the work done so far would carry forward.



NEW DELHI (AP) – Hundreds of people on Saturday held demonstrations in several parts of India to protest a recent government decision to free 11 men who had been jailed for life for gang raping a Muslim woman during India's devastating 2002 religious riots. The protesters in the country's capital, New Delhi, chanted slogans and demanded the government in the western state of Gujarat rescind the decision. They also sang songs in solidarity with the victim. Similar protests were also held in several other states. The 11 men, released on suspended sentences on Aug. 15 when India celebrated 75 years of independence, were convicted in 2008 of rape, murder and unlawful assembly. The victim, who is now in her 40s, recently said the decision by the Gujarat state government has left her numb and shaken her faith in justice. The Associated Press generally doesn't identify victims of sexual assault. The victim was pregnant when she was brutally gang raped in communal violence in 2002 in Gujarat, which saw over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, killed in some of the worst religious riots India has experienced since its independence from Britain in 1947. Seven members of the woman's family, including her three-year-old daughter, were also killed in the violence. "The whole country should demand an answer directly from the prime minister of this country," said Kavita Krishnan, a prominent activist.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) – Thousands of people living near flood-swollen rivers in Pakistan's north were ordered to evacuate Saturday as the death toll from devastating monsoon rains neared 1,000 with no end in sight. Many rivers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — a picturesque province of rugged mountains and valleys — have burst their banks, demolishing scores of buildings including a 150-room hotel that crumbled into a raging torrent. "The house which we built with years of hard work started sinking in front of our eyes," said Junaid Khan, 23, the owner of two fish farms in Chrasadda. "We sat on the side of the road and watched our dream house sinking." The annual monsoon is essential for irrigating crops and replenishing lakes and dams across the Indian subcontinent, but each year it also brings a wave of destruction. Officials say this year's monsoon flooding has affected more than 33 million people — one in seven Pakistanis — destroying or badly damaging nearly a million homes. On Saturday, authorities ordered thousands of residents in threatened areas to evacuate their homes as rivers had still not reached maximum capacity. "Initially some people refused to leave, but when the water level increased they agreed," Bilal Faizi, spokesman for the Rescue 1122 emergency service, told AFP.

TUNIS (AFP) – Tunisia said Saturday it would recall its ambassador from Morocco for consultations, a day after the kingdom did the same in response to Tunisia's president hosting the Polisario movement's head. The Polisario wants an independent state in the Western Sahara, a vast stretch of mineral-rich desert which Morocco sees as a sovereign part of its own territory. Tunisian President Kais Saied had on Friday hosted Polisario chief Brahim Ghali who arrived to attend the Japanese-African investment conference TICAD. In response to what it called a "hostile" and "unnecessarily provocative" act, Morocco immediately withdrew its Tunis ambassador for consultations and cancelled its own participation in the high-profile conference. On Saturday the Tunisian Foreign Ministry voiced its "surprise" at Morocco's reaction. "Tunisia has maintained its total neutrality on the Western Sahara issue in line with international law," it said in a statement. "This position will not change until the concerned parties find a peaceful solution acceptable to all."

NEW YORK (AFP) – The UN children's agency UNICEF on Saturday condemned an Ethiopian air strike that "hit a kindergarten" in the rebel-held Tigray region, killing at least four people including two children. The government denied targeting civilian areas in Friday's air raid and accused the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of staging deaths. "UNICEF strongly condemns the air strike... (that) hit a kindergarten, killing several children, and injuring others," the agency's executive director Catherine Russell said on Twitter. "Yet again, an escalation of violence in northern Ethiopia has caused children to pay the heaviest price. For almost two years, children and their families in the region have endured the agony of this conflict. It must end." The bombardment came just days after fighting erupted on Tigray's southern border between government forces and TPLF rebels, ending a five-month truce and dashing hopes of peace talks. The TPLF said the air strike, the first in many months on Tigray, demolished a kindergarten and hit a civilian residential area. The government said only military sites were targeted and accused the TPLF of "dumping fake body bags in civilian areas" to maximize outrage.

LONDON (RT) – Julian Assange's legal team has filed an appeal to stop the WikiLeaks co-founder's extradition to the U.S., where he faces espionage charges that carry a prison sentence of up to 175 years. According to WikiLeaks, Assange's lawyers filed "perfected grounds of appeal" before the UK High Court of Justice against the U.S. government and UK Home Secretary Priti Patel, who approved the extradition of the Australian-born editor in mid-June, reported. The appeal argues that "Julian Assange is being prosecuted and punished for his political opinions", while the U.S. government "misrepresented the core facts" of the case to the UK judiciary. It adds that the request to extradite the WikiLeaks co-founder violates the relevant treaty between the U.S. and the UK, as well as international law. The document also reportedly contains some new evidence that has been compiled since the UK court ruled on Assange's extradition in early 2021. The editor's wife, Stella Assange, said, "Overwhelming evidence has emerged proving that the U.S. prosecution against my husband is a criminal abuse", adding that the high court will now decide whether her husband is given the opportunity to make his case against the U.S. before open court at the appeal.