

Football Fans Don't Forget Palestine as FIFA World Cup Kicks Off

DOHA (Dispatches) – Palestine wasn't forgotten by football fans at the opening of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Al-Resalah has reported.

Fans chanted their support for Palestine and called for the protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Arab and international football fans chanted together "With souls and blood, we sacrifice for Palestine." They also raised Palestine and Qatar flags together.

Even though the Palestine national team didn't qualify for the tournament, Palestinian football supporters and pro-Palestine activists are using the World Cup to spread awareness about the Palestinian cause and to expose Zionist crimes.

The government of Qatar is one of the biggest supporters of the Palestinians, and has provided a large space in the fan zone for the Palestinians and their supporters to raise the issue of the occupation of their land. The Palestine flag was projected onto the



Soccer fans gathering ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 opening match between Qatar and Ecuador at al-Bayt Stadium in al-Khor City, Qatar on November 20, 2022.

sides of Qatari buildings.

According to Al-Resalah reporter Alaa Shamali, the sizable Palestinian presence will shed a much-needed light on the Palestinian cause as thousands of football fans arriving in Qatar do not know much about it. He pointed out that around 8,000

Palestinians are in Qatar to watch the matches, the largest ever Palestinian presence at a World Cup tournament.

Lebanese and Saudi youths refused to speak to Zionist regime media during the 2022 Qatar World Cup, showing their rejection of normalization of relations with the occupying

regime.

Israeli media said that Lebanese fans in the World Cup "Qatar 2022" refused to speak with the Channel 12 reporters after knowing that he was Israeli.

The Israeli channel's correspondent in Qatar said on Sunday night that the Lebanese youth were angry when they found out that the Israeli media were talking to them.

Channel 12's reporter admitted that "almost all Arab fans we meet and introduce ourselves to generally refuse to speak to us. But there was a group of Lebanese young men, whose attitude changed 180 degrees the moment we told them that we are from Israel."

A video circulating across social media shows Lebanese fans walking away as soon as the reporter said, "I am from Israel," asking him "why are you even here?"

"There is no such thing as Israel. It is Palestine. Israel does not exist,"

Quake...

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"The quake felt so strong. My colleagues and I decided to get out of our office on the ninth floor using the emergency stairs," said Vidi Primadhania, an employee in South Jakarta in the capital area, where many residents ran into the streets and others hid under desks in their offices.

Earthquakes occur frequently across the sprawling archipelago nation, but it is uncommon for them to be felt in Jakarta.

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

In February, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed at least 25 people and injured more than 460 in West Sumatra province. In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed more than 100 people and injured nearly 6,500 in West Sulawesi province.

A powerful Indian Ocean quake and tsunami in 2004 killed nearly 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.

Ukraine...

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freezing in winter months. The cold forces people to turn on their heaters, which drastically increases the load on the grid and makes power outages longer. In light of the dropping temperatures, the Kyiv authorities announced they were setting up communal heating points.

In the city of 3 million people, 528 emergency points have been identified. Here, residents will be able to keep warm, drink tea, recharge their phones and get any necessary help. The heating points will be equipped with autonomous power sources, as well as special boiler rooms.

Mayor Klitschko, too, spoke of measures taken to prepare for energy outages with the onset of colder temperatures: "We prepared and we (asked for) electric generators (from) our partners, which they send to us. For this case, we have a reserve of diesel, (of) oil. We have a lot of warm stuff. We have medication."

Many residents in Kyiv have begun to leave boxes of food, flashlights and power banks in elevators, in case anyone gets stuck in one for a long time. Due to the lack of electricity, public transport is disrupted, many small shops cannot operate, and some medical institutions can only work to a limited capacity.

Dentist Viktor Turakevich said that he was forced to postpone his patients' appointments "for an indefinite time" because without electricity his central Kyiv clinic cannot function even during the day, and the generator will only arrive in a few weeks.

"We cannot accept patients even with acute toothache, people have to suffer and wait a long time, but the light comes on only for a few hours a day," Turakevich said. "Generator prices have skyrocketed, but even with money, they are not easy to come by."

Most hospitals in Kyiv have already received generators and there are no power outages there yet. The Oleksandrivska hospital, the largest and oldest one in the center of Kyiv, reported that it had not canceled elective surgeries because the hospital had received electric generators from France. Generators have also been supplied to educational institutions and social services.

"Such facilities are a priority for us, and most of them are equipped with autonomous energy sources," Ukrenergo head Volodymyr Kudrytskyi said on Friday. However, many schools in Kyiv have endured significant disruption to the learning process, with a lack of electricity meaning internet outages that make remote learning near impossible.

Yaroslav, age 8, stopped attending his school in the Vynohradar district of Kyiv after a rocket attack blew out all the windows of the school and damaged a shelter there.

"Most of the children studied remotely, but now it is no longer possible to do this," said Yaroslav's mother, Olena, who asked for her last name to be withheld for safety reasons, in a phone interview. "We are trying to protect children from the horrors of war, but the cold and the lack of power greatly hinder this."

Analysts say that Russian rocket attacks on the energy industry do not affect the successful advance of the Ukrainian army in the south and the situation on the battlefield in general.

Russia: Terrorists Creating Weapons Depots in Refugee Camps in Syria

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – The Russian Defense Ministry has warned that members of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorist outfit are stockpiling various types of weapons at two refugee camps in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, amid reports that the extremists are also planning to stage false-flag attacks against civilians in coordination with the so-called civil defense group White Helmets.

"The Russian Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria has received reports about deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Harim and Salkim refugee camps in Idlib province," the deputy head of the center, Major

General Oleg Yegorov, said.

He added, "According to the available information, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham militants have created weapons depots at both camps."

Yegorov noted that the terrorists do not allow representatives from international organizations to access the refugee camps in order to conceal their activities.

"The militants' actions pose a direct threat to the lives of refugees and are another example of how terrorists use civilians as a human shield," he stressed.

Last week, the Russian Center for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria said Hayat Tahrir al-Sham terrorists, in cooperation with

White Helmets representatives, intended to carry out acts of provocation in the Idlib de-escalation zone.

Yegorov said at the time that the false-flag attacks were meant to incriminate Syrian government forces and Russian troops and accuse them of operations against populated areas and civilian facilities.

On October 13, HTS terrorists took over a strategic town in northwest Syria following days of clashes with several militant groups, who were controlling the area.

Local sources said the Takfiris entered the town of Afrin after its former rulers withdrew their forces.

The HTS, by far the strongest re-

maining militant group in Aleppo, has allied with former foes, including the Hamzah Division, Sultan Suleiman Shah Division, Ahrar al-Sham and the remnants of the Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement, all terror outfits belonging to the so-called Syrian National Army.

Afrin has been under control of Turkey and its allied militant groups since 2018, following a Turkey-backed military operation that pushed Syrian Kurdish fighters and thousands of Kurdish residents from the area.

Since then, Afrin and surrounding villages have been the site of attacks on Turkish and Turkey-backed targets.

Erdogan, Sisi Meet for First Time During Qatar World Cup Opening Ceremony

DOHA (Middle East Eye) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el Sisi met for the first time during the opening ceremony of the World Cup in Qatar.

The two leaders were pictured shaking hands in the presence of Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the sidelines of al-Bayt Stadium in al-Khor, on the outskirts of Doha, ahead of the first match of the tournament.

Relations between Ankara and Cairo have been fractured for nearly a decade. Turkey refused to recognize Sisi as Egypt's legitimate leader following a 2013 military coup that ousted his predecessor Mohamed Morsi.

In February 2019, Erdogan said he would not meet Sisi until Egypt's political prisoners had been released. Human rights groups say Egypt holds 65,000 political prisoners.

"I will never meet with such a person. First of all, he needs to release all prisoners with a general amnesty. As long as he does not release those

people, we cannot meet with Sisi," the Turkish president said at the time.

Middle East Eye reported earlier this week that Erdogan had indicated that he would re-evaluate relations with Egypt and Syria after domestic presidential and parliamentary elections next year.

Along with Sisi and Erdogan, several Middle Eastern leaders were in attendance at the opening ceremony in Qatar, including King Abdullah II of Jordan, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Mohammed bin Salman, once a foe of Doha who led an economic and political blockade of its Persian Gulf neighbor between 2017-2021, looked on smiling and clapping whilst sat next to FIFA President Gianni Infantino. The Saudi de-facto ruler was seen wearing a scarf with Qatari colors earlier in the day.

Archaeological Caves in Al-Khalil Face Zionist Demolition Threats

RAMALLAH (Xinhua) – A Byzantine-era archaeological cave in Khirbet Susiya, south of the West Bank city of Al-Khalil, has become an iconic place reflecting the Palestinian struggle against Zionist demolition threats.

Fatma al-Nawajaa, a local resident of Susiya village, told Xinhua that "in a bid to protect the archaeological cave and keep our humanitarian issue alive, I came up with an idea to restore the cave and turn it into a workshop to exhibit our homemade traditional products."

Embroideries, artistic handicrafts, traditional food made from goat's milk, and cheese, as well as clothes made of sheep's wool are among the products displayed in the cave dubbed "Susiya Exhibition for Palestinian handicrafts and embroideries."

"In the beginning, we resorted to marketing our products to foreign tourists to tell them, through our own methods, about our crisis and how Israel insists on expelling us from our lands," she recalled.

Now, the cave became the main source of income for 30 women to keep their families

afloat, she said.

The town of Khirbet Susiya, which has dozens of caves that are used as homes for locals, is classified as Area C.

According to the Oslo Accords signed between the Zionist regime and the Palestinians in 1993, the West Bank was divided into three areas, with Area A under full security and administrative control of the Palestinian Authority (PA), Area B under joint Israeli security control and PA administrative rule, while Area C under full Israeli control.

"Since then, the Israeli authorities imposed tough restrictions on us, and our area has been suffering from a lack of infrastructure and urbanization, forcing dozens of the residents to work as shepherds only," complained the 52-year-old mother of four.

"Because of this, many men decided to leave the town and look for other job opportunities in the West Bank, while we stayed with our children and decided to produce traditional products to make some money to lead a life," she added.

"We protect our lands from the Israeli plans to annex them to their settlements. This archaeological cave proves that we (Palestinians) are the owners of the land," she stressed.

The unprecedented determination of Nawajaa and her pairs has attracted the Ta'ayush Arab-Jewish partnership movement, a "grassroots movement of Arabs and Jews working to construct a true Arab-Jewish partnership," said Gai Kotavia, an Israeli activist and Ta'ayush member.

"We organize daily and weekly visits to the territories of Area C to protect locals and document all Israeli violence to prevent them from cleaning the area from its real history," the 50-year-old Israeli activist told Xinhua.

"The archaeological caves are symbols for the Palestinians struggling against the Israeli threats to clean the area from its owners," he said, stressing that "together we strive for a future of equality, justice, and peace to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and to achieve full civil equality for all."