

Palestinian Hunger Striker on Verge of Death

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) — Palestinian prisoner inside the Zionist regime's jails Sheikh Khader Adnan, who has been on hunger strike for 58 days, wrote his will on Monday and said that he is close to death.

"I am writing my will as I am feeling close to martyrdom," he wrote. "I am sending my words after my flesh and bones have gone and I became pale inside Al-Ramlah Prison. I am sending my words to my family, my sons, my wife and my people."

He added: "If I became a martyr, do not allow the occupation to anatomize my body, bury me beside my father and write on the tombstone: This is the grave of the poor man Khader Adnan."

The hunger striker continued: "Oh, Palestinians, I am sending



Palestinian Islamic Jihad member Khader Adnan gestures as he speaks during a rally honoring him following his release, near the West Bank city of Jenin on July 12, 2015.

you my will with great confidence that Allah will help ending the occupation. Do not lose hope, victory is very close."

He went on to send his greetings to the families of Palestinian martyrs and prisoners, as well as to the resistance fighters and free people.

Adnan, from Arraba village near Jenin, launched his hunger strike immediately after he was arrested by Zionist occupation forces on 5 February.

He is reported to have been deprived of blankets and warm clothes despite the cold winter weather in what is said to be an official act of retaliation for his hunger strike.

The father of nine — whose youngest is just 18 months old — has been detained by the occupation authorities 12 times and he has spent eight years in the Zionist regime's jails, mostly in the so-called administrative detention.

A Zionist military court was scheduled to hold a hearing of his case on 7 March, but it was postponed for the fourth time and it is now due to be held today.

Chamber of Commerce in China, put it more bluntly. "Our sales are miserable," he told AFP.

"Last year, we only shipped 1.6 million containers to China, exports went down dramatically - and China has been incredibly successful, shipping 6.4 million containers into Europe."

Wuttke also estimated that European investments in China have gone down by as much as 50 percent - with the exception of German carmaker BMW, which has invested heavily in electric vehicle development in the country recently.

Foreign investors were spooked by the stringent zero-COVID regulations in place throughout most of the pandemic, which regularly shut down factories and disrupted supply chains.

They also battered the Chinese economy, which grew only three percent in 2022, the lowest in decades.

The European diplomat who spoke to AFP said that she believed China would use the meetings to raise the issue of the EU's stalled Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with Beijing - held up by rows over human rights and sanctions.

"Chinese companies have a strong interest to invest in Europe, that's why China is pushing again for the ratification of the investment agreement," said Wuttke.

But according to the diplomat, "the geopolitical conditions have changed so much since the conclusion of the negotiations in 2020, so there is no chance of progress on that point".

versed the balance in favor of itself on the battleground.

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He also strongly condemned "the unlawful military strikes by the U.S. forces against civilian infrastructure in Syria ... which resulted in the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives and severe damage to Syria's infrastructure."

"The United States must bear its responsibility for committing such a heinous crime that has violated Syrian national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the UN Charter as well as the basic rules of international humanitarian law," Iran's UN envoy said.

The Iranian diplomat went on to say that Syria has explicitly and repeatedly stated that the presence of U.S. forces on its soil is illegal and constitutes a violation of Syrian national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the other hand, he said, "Iran's presence in Syria is fully legal and based on a formal request and consent from the Syrian government to provide assistance and support [to Damascus] in the fight against terrorism." He emphasized that Iran is totally committed to "Syria's national sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence."

"The United States must acknowledge that the continued plunder of Syrian resources, the ongoing occupation of Syrian territory, and its support for separatists are the main causes of the confrontation of the Syrian people against the United States military forces and it cannot place the responsibility for its blunders and crimes on others," Iran's UN ambassador said.

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of culture and art, the Islamic world assimilated the creative energies, technical skills and local customs of the conquered peoples, rejuvenating them with original, novel concepts.

Luca Mozzati underlines that Islam and its language, Arabic, constituted a powerful 'glue' that bound together various cultural traditions, composing a surprisingly homogeneous amalgam spanning over a wide range of civilizations. Sharing one and the same perspective, each gradually developed idioms of art and custom which, although stamped with a common Islamic identity, gained an individual character over time. Aided and abetted by vigorous input from indigenous communities, these codes were complemented by contributions from new arrivals and by the constant flux of populations for religious, commercial or even scientific reasons.

In addition to the detailed introduction, Luca Mozzati offers chapters about the basic principles of the interpretation of Islamic art, the forms of Islamic architecture, calligraphy and applied arts. In the history section about Islamic art, he presents the Umayyads, the Abbasids, information about the Mediterranean basin between the 8th and 11th centuries, including the birth of regional identity. He offers chapters about Islamic art in central Asia between the 10th and 12th centuries, the Mediterranean basin between the 11th and 15th centuries, the Seljuqs, the Ilkhanids, the Timurids and the Khanates, the Ottoman Empire, Persia from the Safavids to the Qajar dynasty as well as about the Indian subcontinent. Appendixes include a glossary, a presentation of the principal dynasties and figures of the Islamic world as well as an bibliography for further reading.

Last, but not least, this book is a feast for the eyes with photographs ranging from architecture to painting, from calligraphy to ceramics, from glass to carpets.

The Prestel front cover shows the Nasir al-Molk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran. On page 279, you can find details about this mosque built 1876-1887: The assured sculptural style of classical Persian architecture counterpoints with superficial color was debased in the Qajar period by shrinking dimensions and a proliferation of multi-linear decorative motifs dominated by an unmistakable yellowy pink tonality. Clarity of form was submerged in a sense of horror vacui that reflected the culture of the time — ambitious, superficial and profoundly vacuous. The driving force of Islamic culture, which had sublimated the humble materiality of things in light and thus in spirituality was henceforth a thing of the past. Art was forced to gratify neo-feudal courtly desires and a craving for theatrical spectacle on the part of crude and ignorant spokesmen of the dynasty, men of military and tribal origin interested in ostentation more than the meaning of things.

UN: Up to 1mn People 'Disappeared' in Iraq in Last Half Century

GENEVA (Reuters) — Up to 1 million people have been "disappeared" in Iraq during a tumultuous last half century spanning the dictatorial rule of Saddam Hussein, U.S.-led military occupation and the rise of Daesh militants, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

The UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances urged Iraq, which has one of the highest numbers of missing people in the world, to seek victims and punish perpetrators.

But that was hampered by the lack of definition of enforced

disappearance as a crime in Iraqi law, its report said.

"The UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances urged Iraq to immediately establish the basis to prevent, eradicate and repair this heinous crime," it said.

There was no immediate reaction from an Iraqi government spokesperson or the interior ministry.

Up to 290,000 people, including some 100,000 Kurds, were forcibly disappeared by Hussein's "genocidal campaign" in Kurdistan between 1968 and 2003, the

UN report said.

Disappearances continued after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, which saw the capture of at least 200,000 Iraqis, nearly half of whom were held in prisons run by the U.S. or Britain.

"It is alleged that detainees were arrested without a warrant for their involvement in insurgency operations, while others were 'civilians in the wrong place at the wrong time'," the committee said.

A new wave of abductions accompanied Daesh's proclamation

of a caliphate over part of Iraq's territory.

"Other ongoing patterns include the alleged enforced disappearance of children, especially Izadi children born after their mothers were abused in Dae'sh camps," the committee said.

Saying that between 250,000 and 1 million people were estimated to have disappeared since 1968, the committee also asked Iraq to create an independent task force to ensure detainees are listed and families informed of their location.

Zionist Troops Shoot, Injure Palestinian Youth Over Alleged Stabbing Attack

WEST BANK (Dispatches) — Zionist troops have shot and injured a young Palestinian man over an alleged stabbing attack against the regime's forces, amid heightened tensions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Israeli media outlets alleged that the unidentified Palestinian stabbed two soldiers near the Tzrifin military base in central occupied territories on Tuesday morning.

The Magen David Adom emergency service said in a statement that the two injured were in serious and good condition respectively and were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Both of the injured individuals were said to be in their 20s.

The Zionist police said the suspected attacker was arrested and taken for questioning.

Central police commander Avi Bitton said in a statement at the scene of the attack that the suspect was a 20-year-old Palestinian man from the West Bank city of Al-Khalil.

Bitton said the attacker was believed to have acted alone, after initial reports suggested he may have had an accomplice.

The Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement welcomed the operation and tied it to expected attempts by Jewish extremists

to sacrifice an animal at the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of Al-Quds ahead of the upcoming Passover holiday.

"We welcome the stabbing attack which is the first response to the war that the Zionist regime is waging in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the intention to make a sacrifice. What is to come will be even worse," the movement said in a statement.

"Israel and the settlers will remain in a state of fear and lack of security," the group added.

Over the past months, the occupying regime has ramped up attacks on Palestinian towns and cities throughout the occupied

territories. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

Most of the raids have focused on Nablus and Jenin, where Zionist troops have been trying to stifle a growing Palestinian resistance against occupation.

On Saturday night, Zionist troops fatally shot a young Palestinian man, identified as Mohammad Ra'ed Baradiyah, 24, as he purportedly hit three soldiers south of Bethlehem in a ramming attack.

The regime's military said the driver accelerated toward the soldiers and hit them near the West Bank village of Beit Ummar.

Islam's dress code of hijab, saying it is a legal and Sharia requirement.

"It is not a government restriction. It is legal and a religious must. Discarding hijab is forbidden in Sharia, it is politically forbidden. It is both a Sharia and political haram."

The Leader said many of those who flout hijab rules do not realize what lies behind the act.

"If they know who are behind what they are doing, they will definitely not do it," he said, stating that the intelligence services of the enemies are behind the move.

Wary...

(Continued From Page One)

Still, she said, the fact that EU-China face-to-face meetings were resuming was a positive development.

The other big topic up for discussion is the trade imbalance between the two sides. "We need to rebalance this relationship," von der Leyen said Thursday.

Joerg Wuttke, president of the EU

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planted explosives using a 50 foot sailboat. Investigators are now saying the Yacht, the Andromeda, could not have been the only vessel used to carry out the operation and think it could have been used as a decoy to distract from the true perpetrators.

The idea that a yacht was used in the attack first surfaced in a report from the German newspaper Die Zeit in an article published on March 7. Hersh recently published another report that cited anonymous sources who said the Die Zeit story and another article published in The New York Times on the same day were planted by the CIA.

Hersh said the CIA was ordered to develop a cover story in coordination with German intelligence following a March 3 meeting in Washington between President Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. An American intelligence source told Hersh that the cover-up was concocted to discredit his Nord Stream report.

"It was a total fabrication by American intelligence that was passed along to the Germans, and aimed at discrediting your story," the source told Hersh.

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upon war and insecurity, to escape internal dissolution.

He said the Zionist regime has intensified its adventurist activities as the course of diplomacy and convergence in the West Asia region is getting a boost.

"The reason is clear; the existence and survival of the fake Israeli regime is always based on war, insecurity and creating division in the region. Of course, it has no way to escape an internal dissolution," the spokesman added.

His tweet came against a backdrop of deteriorating political crisis and angry protests against the Zionist regime in the occupied territories.

The protests have been a weekly fixture since late December, when Netanyahu announced his intention to implement the changes.

Official...

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exhibitions and the considerable enthusiasm that foreign customers have shown for Iranian defense products.

In July 2020, Iran and Syria signed a comprehensive agreement to enhance their cooperation in the military and defense sectors.

Iran began providing Syria with advisory military assistance after numerous countries, at the head of them the U.S. and its Western and regional allies started funding and arming militants and terrorists with the aim of deposing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government in 2011.

Despite initially losing considerable expanses of territory to Daesh (ISIS or ISIS) and other terror outfits, the country, however, rallied with the help of Iran and Russia, another ally of Damascus, and re-

Most...

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"It is very harmful for the country to make continuous changes in our monetary and financial policies. This leads to uncertainty and makes the entrepreneur - the one who wants to invest - hesitant.

"We are now also looking for foreign investment; we tell foreigners to come and invest - anyone who is willing to come and invest, he will benefit, we will also benefit.

"But foreigners look at domestic investors, who are the showcase of the system. They want to see how you treat domestic investors, employers and entrepreneurs; then if they see that you behave well, they will come too."

The Leader also touched on turmoil in the occupied Palestinian territories which have been hit by unprecedented waves of protests, prompting some prominent Israeli figures to warn of a looming collapse and disintegration of the Zionist entity.

"We said that the Zionist regime will not see another 25 years, they are in a

hurry and want to leave sooner," Ayatollah Khamenei said, referring to his famous 2015 prediction about the imminent collapse of Israel.

The Leader made several key recommendations regarding the economy, at the top of which is the fight against corruption.

"The fight against corruption, which was included in the slogans of the Honorable President [Ebrahim Raisi] during the elections and after the elections, we all really believe in it. The fight against corruption is essential. Of course, it is a very difficult task. Like a seven-headed dragon, it threatens man from all sides."

Corruption, the Leader said, frustrates people and reduces their desire for healthy conduct.

"When someone sees that a certain person can fill his own pocket with an illegal method, he is also tempted. Corruption is a contagious disease, it is a very dangerous disease that really destroys the society.

"The fight against corruption is necessary. It is necessary to fight corruption wherever it is, without any inhibition. It is

at the top of the important tasks that are necessary in the field of economy."

One of the country's problems, Ayatollah Khamenei also said, is its reliance on the dollar in different sectors of the economy.

"Some countries have weaned themselves off the dollar, carrying out their transactions through systems other than SWIFT after they were dropped from the platform. These are the countries whose situation has improved now."

The Leader said the world is going through an important political transformation, where the international order is changing.

"I would like to say today that this global development is fortunately heading toward weakening the front of the enemies of the Islamic Republic. This is an important thing.

"Changes are happening very fast. In our foreign policy, we should increase the mobility of our initiatives in foreign policy. We must increase initiative, mobility, and activity, and take advantage of the opportunity."

Ayatollah Khamenei also touched on