


**Report: Israel Dropped 65,000 Tons of Bombs on Gaza**

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Israel has dropped more than 45,000 bombs on Gaza weighing more than 65,000 tons, the Gaza Media Office has said. “Occupation aircraft dropped over 45,000 missiles and giant bombs, some of them weighing 2,000 pounds of explosives, during the comprehensive genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, deliberately targeting entire residential areas,” it said. “The weight of the explosives dropped by the army on the Gaza Strip exceeded 65,000 tons, which is more than the weight and power of three nuclear bombs like those dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.” The office said about “two-thirds of the bombs and missiles ... are unguided and imprecise, commonly known as dumb bombs.”

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**Maersk to Avoid Red Sea for ‘Foreseeable Future’**

# Millions Rally in Yemen in Support of Palestinians

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Massive crowds gathered in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, and other cities on Friday in a demonstration of solidarity with Palestinians.

Al-Masirah television said that two million Yemenis participated in the “Blood of the Free People...on the Road to Victory” march.

Live footage from the al-Sabeen Square in Sana'a showed an endless sea of demonstrators, many carrying Palestinian flags. Ansarullah officials addressed the crowds.

A rally statement said the Yemenis are ready to fight the U.S. and commemorated their 10 fighters killed by the U.S. last week, condemned al-Arouri's assassination in Lebanon, and urged an Arab boycott of Israeli and U.S. goods and products, Al Jazeera reported.

At least 22,600 people have been killed and 57,910 wounded in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

The developments come shipping giant Maersk said Friday that it would divert all vessels around Africa instead of using the Red Sea and Suez Canal for the “foreseeable future” after Yemeni resistance fighters attacked its merchant ships.

The Danish company cited the highly volatile situation and noted that the security risk remains high.

“We have therefore decided that all Maersk vessels due to transit the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden will be diverted south



Yemenis march with Palestinian flags chanting the slogan “We are with you until victory” as they stage a protest against Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Sana'a, Yemen.

around the Cape of Good Hope for the foreseeable future,” it said in a statement.

On Tuesday, the shipping giant said it would not resume passage on the route “until further notice” after putting it on hold over following an attack on the Singapore-flagged Maersk Hangzhou.

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement has cautioned that the U.S. militarization of the Red Sea in an attempt to serve the Zionist regime will pose a serious threat to international shipping in the strategic waterway.

Ansarullah made the statement on Friday after the United States, which has

over the past weeks been spearheading a maritime coalition in the Red Sea under the pretext of safeguarding the transit of vessels in the area, claimed that the Yemeni forces and the popular resistance movement were targeting international ships and jeopardizing the security of the Red Sea.

The United States and the coalition members warned Yemen's Armed Forces of “consequences” if they continued their missile and drone attacks against ships en route to Israeli ports in support of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Ansarullah said the Yemeni armed forces never attacked international ships

and that the security and safety of international maritime transport in the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait was guaranteed by them.

“The U.S. claim and the statement of 12 countries regarding the [Yemeni] threat to international shipping is not true. This threat stems from the militarization of the Red Sea by the United States to serve the Israeli regime and encourage the regime to continue its crimes against Gaza,” the resistance movement said in a statement.

“The Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and its genocidal crimes against Palestinians, which has entered the fourth consecutive month, should have forced the so-called international community or the UN Security Council to stop such massacres by the Israeli regime,” it added.

Ansarullah censured the Israeli aggression against the besieged territory and said it has so far killed more than 22,000 Palestinians, injured tens of thousands of others, and “destroyed everything in Gaza.”

“The bloody events that have been taking place in Gaza for the past three consecutive months would not have been possible without the support of the United States and the complicity of Western countries with the criminal Zionist regime and encouraging it to continue its crimes against civilians in the Gaza Strip,” Ansarullah said.

## Hamas Deputy Leader Laid to Rest in Beirut



Mourners gather during the funeral of deputy head of Hamas Saleh al-Arouri in Beirut, Lebanon, Jan. 4, 2024.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – As Saleh al-Arouri's coffin was laid to rest in Martyrs Cemetery in Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon's capital, an elderly man saw a familiar routine play out.

“In every period of Palestinian history, we have leaders that rise up and then die. We'll have more in the future. It's cyclical,” said the man, who did not disclose his name.

Arouri was Hamas's deputy commander and the group's most senior figure to have been martyred since the start of the Zionist regime's war on Gaza on October 7. More than 23,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed since then.

Thousands of mourners have held the funeral for Arouri and officials assassinated with him in the drone strike on Tuesday.

The attack was widely attributed to Israel which has laid waste to the Gaza Strip in a genocidal war, but the regime has neither confirmed nor denied that it assassinated Arouri.

Their coffins were draped in Palestinian flags and carried by men wearing green caps with “Hamas” written on the front.

Arouri, 57, was one of the founders of the Qassam Brigades before taking on a political portfolio in recent years.

He was seen as a key player in the

movement, masterminding its operations in the West Bank from exile in Syria, Turkey, Qatar and finally Lebanon after long stints in Israeli prisons. Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh said Thursday Israel's assassination proved the regime is seeking to evade defeat and cover up its failure in the genocidal campaign in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The regime has further revealed its criminal mentality by assassinating Arouri, he added. “If the enemy thinks it can make the Palestinian nation despair and surrender through terror, it is completely wrong.”

Haniyeh said the “cowardly assassination” was a “flagrant crime that demonstrates, once again, the brutality exercised by the occupiers against our people.”

Islamic Jihad's commander Ziad al-Nakhalah said Arouri was “one of the distinguished and devoted leaders of the Palestinian people.”

“We have lost him when we needed his presence the most. He was a leader who instilled confidence and tranquility in those around him and those he dealt with.”

The head of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, on Wednesday said Arouri's assassination was “a major, dangerous crime about which we cannot be silent”.

## Report Finds State-Led Censorship, Suppression of Palestine Solidarity Across Europe

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – European governments are systematically censoring and repressing solidarity for Palestine, a new report by CAGE international has found.

The report, titled “European Policy Briefing: Special Edition on Palestine”, analyses state policies from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK in relation to the Zionist regime's brutal attack on Gaza.

From Vienna to London, European governments have adopted a unified stance in response to the genocidal bombardment of Gaza by the Zionist regime. This

involves the condemnation of the Palestinian people's right to resistance and self-determination and the unequivocal support for Israel. As a result there is active repression of support and solidarity movements for Palestine.

European governments are associating pro-Palestine activism with support for ‘terrorism’. This is reflected in the decisions undertaken by the French and German government to ban pro-Palestine demonstrations. Although this ban continues to be enforced in Germany, it was overturned in France by the Su-

preme Court following a major backlash.

Similar policies have been pursued in Austria, Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands where pro-Palestine activism is censored. Right-wing parties are using the issue to attack immigration, threatening the already vulnerable lives of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Despite these concerning trends, political, diplomatic and military backing for Israel persists among these European states, further fuelling the mass murder of innocent Palestinian lives.

Muhammad Rabbani, manag-

ing director of CAGE International, said: “Across Europe, a discernible pattern of systematic repression is emerging. Governments have been actively seeking to curb public solidarity with Palestine. This effort has manifested in numerous arrests, prosecutions, and even the outright banning of legitimate civil society organizations. Overall, it appears these policies of intimidation have failed to achieve their intended goal. Public outcry against Israeli actions and sympathy for the Palestinian cause are now at unprecedented levels.”

## Report: Israel in Talks With Rwanda, Chad to Exile Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist regime officials are in talks with Rwanda and Chad to receive Palestinians pushed out of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli news site Zman Yisrael reported on Friday.

Both countries expressed a basic agreement to continue talks, according to unnamed sources, unlike other countries which have refused in principle.

According to the Israeli outlet, the initiative is spearheaded by the foreign ministry and Mossad, Israel's spy agency.

“The business is very complex,” an official told Zman Yisrael. “We must promote this channel, but be very careful of the reactions in the world and also of the fear that it will be interpreted as a transfer and not a voluntary migration. That's why we work with close legal advice,” they added.

On Wednesday, Zman Yisrael reported that similar talks were held with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which appeared less will-

ing to accept that offer.

The policy to cleanse Gaza of Palestinians wholesale “is slowly becoming the leading and official policy of the regime and the coalition”, the report said.

The Zionist regime is keen to say that Palestinians are not being ethnically cleansed from Gaza, but rather that the move would be a “voluntary immigration policy”.

The distinction has been scrutinized because Israeli politicians have gone on the record explicitly laying out plans to make Gaza unlivable for its inhabitants and replace the population with Zionist settlers.

Voices in Israel are increasingly open about plans to forcibly remove Palestinians from Gaza after almost three months' bombardment of the besieged Palestinian territory.

In November, Zionist finance minister Bezalel Smotrich backed a plan for the “voluntary migration” of Palestinians.

In addition to Smotrich, the far-right minister

Itamar Ben Gvir said on Monday there should be a “migration of the residents of Gaza” to outside of the besieged enclave.

On Tuesday, U.S. State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller took the unusual step of directly calling out the two ministers over their support of the plan.

The international community has condemned Israeli proposals to attempt to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from Gaza.

On Thursday the United Nations' high commissioner for human rights, Volker Turk, said he was “very disturbed” by comments made by Zionist regime ministers about transferring Gaza's population to other countries.

“Eighty-five percent of people in Gaza are already internally displaced. They have the right to return to their homes,” Turk said in a post on X.

International law bans “the forcible transfer of protected persons within or deportation from occupied territory,” he added.

## UN Expert: 80 Percent of Global Famine Currently in Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's starvation campaign in Gaza is so severe that the vast majority of people across the world who are experiencing famine are located in Gaza, according to a UN food expert.

There are currently roughly 706,000 people in total across the world who are in populations experiencing “catastrophic” or “famine” levels of hunger, global food researchers have found. Of those people, about 577,000 are Palestinians in Gaza, according to a recent report by the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Truthout reported.

This means Palestinians in Gaza make up 80 percent of the global population that is currently experiencing famine, as Chief Economist for the UN World Food Program Arif Husain said in an interview with The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner. Some of the other countries facing some level of famine are Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, according to the IPC.

Husain emphasized that the hunger crisis in Gaza, which IPC researchers have determined is acute across the entire region, is unprecedented in its severity.

“I've been doing this for the past two decades, and I've been to all kinds of conflicts and all kinds of crises. And, for me, this is unprecedented because of, one, the magnitude, the scale, the entire popula-

tion of a particular place; second, the severity; and, third, the speed at which this is happening, at which this has unfolded, is unprecedented,” Husain said, adding, “In my life, I've never seen anything like this in terms of severity, in terms of scale, and then in terms of speed.”

Husain also pointed out that the IPC report determined that the entire population of Gaza, or about 2.2 million people, will be under “full-fledged famine” within the next six months if Israel continues its blockade of food and other basic needs. The economist said that the escalating crisis is largely the result of Israel barring food from entering and being distributed in the region, adding that its relentless bombing campaign has endangered humanitarian workers and made it nearly impossible to distribute resources.

Famine is the worst level of hunger under IPC's classification system, characterized by three main criteria, as Husain explained. First, more than 20 percent of a region's population must be starving. The second is that 30 percent of children in the region must be malnourished or extremely thin, known as being “wasted”. Then, the mortality rate must be double the average rate.

Currently, Gaza is not classified as a full famine because its population only meets the first criteria, he said, but the population is on the way there.