

TEHRAN – Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday that the “Zionist regime” has committed all the crimes enshrined in the international conventions against the Palestinian people. The statement came in support of a measure taken by South Africa to file a genocide case against the Zionist regime in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It condemned the war crimes and genocide perpetrated by the “Zionist apartheid regime” against the Palestinian nation, expressing support for the approaches of the resistance groups as their legitimate rights which are being taken in accordance with the international law.

TEHRAN -- Iranian western city of Hamadan has been picked as the Asian Capital of Tourism in 2024, according to the mayor of the city. Masoud Hussein told reporters on Wednesday that the selection of Hamadan as the Asian Capital City of Tourism has been announced in the Asian Mayors Forum. He hailed the efforts made by Hamadan city council to introduce the city's tourism potentials to the world. Hussein added that the international registration of Ekbatana was an effective measure in introducing the potentials of the city.

**Viewpoint**  
**Bloodthirsty Blinken's Bluff to Badly Boomerang on the US**

**Minister: More Arrests to be Made in Kerman Bombings**

**Fatemeh Amini Qualifies in Shooting for Olympic Games**

**PM Sudani: Iraq Wants Quick Exit of U.S. Troops**

## Yemen Targets U.S. Warship in 'Preliminary' Retaliation

SANAA (Dispatches) -- The Yemeni military said Wednesday it fired a barrage of rockets, drones and cruise missiles targeting a U.S. ship in the Red Sea in a “preliminary response” to a recent deadly attack by the U.S. Navy that sank three boats and killed nearly a dozen people off the coast of the Arab country. Spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a statement that the country's naval, missile and drone units took part in the “joint operation.” He said the targeted U.S. vessel was “providing support” to the occupying regime of Israel during its war against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. “Yemeni forces will not hesitate to exercise the legitimate right to defend their homeland and nation, and proportionally respond to all potential threats and hostile moves,” he said. Saree said Yemeni forces will continue to block passage of Israeli-owned and Israel-bound ships in the Red Sea and the Arab Sea until the bloody onslaught against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip stops and the crippling siege on the coastal territory is lifted.

Yemen's armed forces will continue to allow all international shipping companies to sail their vessels in the waters of both seas, except for ships bound for ports in the Israeli-occupied territories, Saree added. Earlier on Wednesday, the U.S. military claimed that American and British forces had shot down 18 drones and three missiles launched by Yemeni forces towards shipping lanes in the Red Sea. It was the “largest attack... to date” by the forces in the Red Sea, UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said in a statement. The U.S. Navy helicopters opened fire on a group of Yemeni boats on December 31 last year, sinking three of them and killing the people on board, according to the U.S. Central Command. The Ansarullah resistance movement acknowledged that 10 of their fighters were martyred in the confrontation and warned of consequences. The group said in a statement the boats were perform-

ing tasks aimed at “establishing security and stability and protecting maritime navigation.” In addition, the boats were “performing their humanitarian and moral duty... to prevent Israeli ships or those heading to the ports of occupied Palestine from passing through the Red Sea.” This was the latest in Yemen's retaliatory operations in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid unrelenting Israeli offensives. Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7 after the territory's Palestinian resistance movements carried out a surprise retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity. Reports revealed that Israeli shipping companies have already decided to reroute their vessels in fear of attacks by Yemeni forces. Yemeni forces have also launched missile and drone attacks on targets in the Israeli-occupied territories after the regime's aggression on Gaza.

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel, on Thursday, will for the first time in its history find itself in the dock in the International Court of Justice in The Hague — charged with genocide. The allegations that Israel is committing genocide in the war in Gaza, meaning intentionally murdering Palestinian civilians are extremely serious and even an interim ruling against the occupying regime could have a severe impact on its international status, with potentially dire diplomatic and political consequences. The application to the ICJ by South Africa alleges that Israel has violated the Genocide Convention, to which it is a signatory. It cites the large number of Palestinian civilians killed during the war, and the severely reduced access to food, water, and medical care of the Gazan population, which South Africa says are the result of a planned Israeli effort to commit genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza. Although a final ruling will likely take years, South Africa has requested the court issue provisional orders against the occupying regime that could range from demanding a total and immediate ceasefire — which Israel and the U.S. firmly oppose — to insisting that more humanitarian aid be allowed in. But it would be the interim ruling itself,

### Muslim Parliaments Demand:

## At Emergency PUIC Meeting in Tehran, Immediate Stop to Gaza Genocide



Tehran hosted an emergency meeting of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) on January 10, 2024.

TEHRAN – An emergency meeting of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member states (PUIC) to support Palestine was held here Wednesday, with participants calling for urgent practical measures to put an end to ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza. Addressing the meeting, Iran's Parliament Speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf defended the “absolute” rights of the Palestinians to resist against occupation and aggression. The Zionist regime, he said, was

founded on genocide and aggression and its survival depends on perpetrating such heinous crimes. “What is coming to pass in the Gaza Strip today is a cause of deep concern and shame for humanity. It is a double injustice to a nation that has been deprived of any human rights and has been under aggression and occupation for more than seven decades,” Ghalibaf said. “No awakened conscience can be dismissive of the heinous and

widespread bloody crimes being committed by the Israeli Zionist regime's war machine in Gaza and its horrendous effects on the peace and security of the region and the world.” Ghalibaf also touched on Washington's and its Western allies' unflinching support to the Zionist regime over the past decades. “Israel, has not only committed the most heinous crimes against the oppressed people of Palestine, but as a corrupt and pampered

child under the support of the Western political system and as the center of crisis in the region has remained immune from any accountability, responsibility and punishment,” he said. Ghalibaf also hit out at the West's double standards towards the Israeli crimes in Gaza. He said, “What we are witnessing in Palestine these days is a clear example of the hypocritical and deviant policy of the United States and its Western allies in supporting bloodshed, absolute defense of the tyrant, and categorical denial of the historical and civilizational realities of Palestine.” Ghalibaf called on the Islamic countries to use various mechanisms, including widespread political and economic sanctions, to force the occupation to stop the war on Gaza. Representatives from 26 Islamic and Asian countries, including from Bahrain, Turkiye, Algeria, Oman and China, attended the meeting. In their final communiqué, they called for the Zionist regime to be prosecuted in international courts for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. “While committing war crimes and ruthless attacks, the Zionist regime deliberately opposes any

## Zionist Regime, Allies in the Dock for Genocide

that there is even plausibility to South Africa's allegations, that would be the most damaging to Israel's standing. The bar to establish plausibility of genocidal actions is much lower than a final definitive determination, and this puts the Zionist regime in significant potential peril. For a start, it would certainly be more challenging for the U.S., or any other country inclined to stand with Israel, to do so if the ICJ determines Israel might be committing genocide. South Africa's application to the ICJ states that Israel has violated several articles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide — to which Israel is signatory — during the war, including committing genocide, incitement to genocide, attempted genocide and failure to punish incitement to genocide. It says that 70 percent of Gazan casualties are women and children, and details the heavy aerial bombardment of Gaza conducted by the Israeli air force and its use of large and sometimes unguided bombs. It also points to “reports of unarmed people... being shot dead on sight,” noting the incident in December in which three Zionist captives who managed to escape were mistakenly shot dead by Israel forces even though they were waving white flags.

## 147 Gazans Martyred as Zionist MP Repeats 'Burn Gaza' Call

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- The Zionist military has targeted a residential building only a few meters away from Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital, killing and wounding at least 40 people, according to Gaza officials. The Gaza government media office said the area had been deemed “safe” by the Zionist army. “This is a continuation of the deception and fabrications by the Israeli occupation army to mislead public opinion,” the media office said. “We condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing massacres and crimes of the occupation against our Palestinian people, and we call on the whole world to stop the genocidal war waged against civilians,” the office added. The Palestinian Red Crescent said on Wednesday that four of its staff have been killed in an Israeli attack on an ambulance in the Salah al-Din area of central Gaza. A journalist, identified as Ahmed Badir, has been killed in an Israeli bombing which targeted a house adjacent to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital in Deir al-Balah, according to Gaza's government media office. According to the office, Badir worked for the al-Hadaf media network. The Palestinian Ministry of Health says that around 113 journalists have been killed

by Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7. Zionist forces have martyred at least 147 Palestinians and wounded 243 more across the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, the health ministry said on Wednesday. This brings the death toll since October 7 to at least 23,357 with 59,410 wounded and more than 7,000 missing who are believed to be dead and buried under rubble. Overall, four percent of Gaza's population has been martyred, wounded or gone missing in three months of bombardment. The majority of victims are children and women, according to health officials. A Zionist lawmaker from the ruling Likud party doubled down on comments he made last month that Gaza should be “burned now”, saying that there are no innocent people left there. According to Haaretz, Nissim Vaturi said he doesn't see anything wrong in his words and that he stands behind what he said. “It is better to burn, to bring down buildings than for soldiers to be hurt,” Vaturi said during an interview with Kol Barama radio on Wednesday. He claimed that everyone in the northern Gaza Strip had been evacuated in an “orderly” fashion. Since the early days of the war, the Zionist

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