

Navy Chief: Iran Took Back What U.S. Had Stolen
TEHRAN – The U.S. oil tanker confiscated by Iran in the Sea of Oman on Thursday has been seized in compliance with international law, as Iran has taken back what had been stolen by the U.S., Navy chief Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said Monday. Speaking to reporters in Bushehr, he said Iran has retrieved what has been stolen by the U.S. The American forces had committed a theft in a bullying manner, so it was necessary for Iran to earn back its right, he added. The Navy commander underlined that Iran has acted in accordance with the norms of international law in seizing the oil tanker.
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French MP Threatened for Condemning Zionist Atrocities
PARIS (Dispatches) -- French lawmaker Aymeric Caron said on Monday that he continued to receive threats for denouncing Israeli massacres in Gaza.
“The insults and threats also continue to rain down, because I denounce the ongoing massacres in Gaza and I demand a ceasefire,” he said on X. Caron also revealed that Le Monde and Liberation, two major newspapers in France, refused to publish his pieces in which he requested the International Olympics Committee (IOC) to sanction Israel from taking part in the Paris Olympics that will be held this summer.


Viewpoint

The Fate Awaiting the Exultant Killers

India, Iran Finalize Chabahar Development Plan



Iranian Athletes Win Two Gold Medals at Karate 1-Series A Athens



World Leaders Condemn Israeli Genocidal Campaign



Gaza Genocide Tops 24,000 ‘Martyrs’

GAZA STRIP, Palestinian Territories (Dispatches) – Health officials in the besieged Gaza reported on Monday more than 24,000 deaths in the war with Israel which has sent shockwaves across the region, as the fighting passed the grim 100-day milestone.

Further Israeli violence in the occupied West Bank and clashes along the Lebanese border with Zionist forces as well as strikes by U.S. forces on Yemen have raised fears of an escalation beyond the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli war has created a humanitarian catastrophe for the 2.4 million people in the besieged strip, the United Nations and aid groups warn, and reduced much of the territory to rubble.

The health ministry in Gaza, ruled by Hamas since 2007, reported more than 60 “martyrs” overnight, in what the group’s media office described as “intense” Israeli bombardment across Gaza.

The Hamas government media office said two hospitals, a girls’ school and “dozens” of homes were hit.

Hospitals in Gaza have been hit repeatedly since the war erupted, and the World Health Organization (WHO) says most of them are no longer functioning.

AFPTV footage showed smoke billowing over Khan Yunis, southern Gaza’s main city, as explosions could be heard from nearby Rafah, on the territory’s southern border with Egypt.

The relentless military invasion has martyred at least 24,100 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the territory’s health ministry.

In a statement marking the 100th day of the Israeli aggression, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken fell short of mentioning 24,000 Palestinian victims and only referred to the Israeli captives held in Gaza.

Palestine’s UN mission lashed out at Blinken for ignoring the Palestinian death

toll and not calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

“100 days and not a single mention of the nearly 24,000 killed - 1/2 of which are children,” it said in an X post on Monday.

“Shame on those who remain complicit and not call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.”

The UN says more than three months of fighting have displaced roughly 85 percent of the territory’s population, crowded into shelters and struggling to get food, water, fuel and medical care.

“My daughter can’t sleep, she always tells me she’s freezing,” said Hanin Odwan, one of many displaced to makeshift camps in Rafah, where Palestinians huddled together around small fires to keep warm.

Echoing earlier warnings of a fast-approaching famine, UN agencies said in a joint statement that “a fundamental step change in the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza is urgently needed”.

The WHO, World Food Program (WFP) and UNICEF called for “safer, faster” supply routes to be opened, warning that the current levels of aid “fall far short of what is needed to prevent a deadly combination of hunger, malnutrition and disease”.

The WFP said an aid convoy brought food to the territory’s north on Thursday, the first such delivery since a one-week truce ended on December 1.

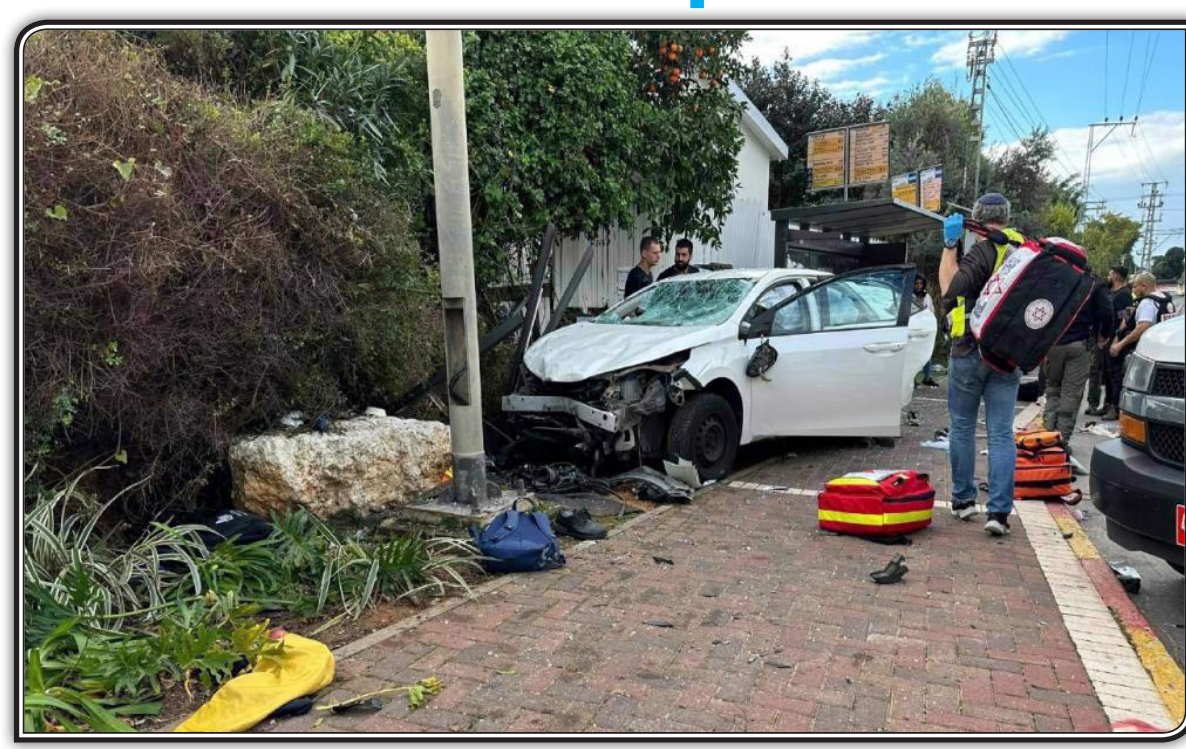
Cindy McCain, the WFP’s director, said: “People in Gaza risk dying of hunger just miles from trucks filled with food. Every hour puts countless lives at risk.”

On Sunday, thousands of Palestinians swamped two aid trucks delivering flour and tinned food to warehouses in Gaza City, an AFP correspondent said.

“We are only eating rice, but rice is not enough for a human being,” said 53-year-old Omar al-Shandogi.

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Two Zionists Killed, 20 Injured in Ra'anana ‘Natural Response’ to Gaza Genocide



This photo shows the scene of a car ramming attack in Ra'anana city, near Tel Aviv, on January 15, 2024.

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- At least two Zionists were killed and 20 others injured on Monday in a ramming and stabbing incident in the central city of Ra'anana.

Among the injured at least one person is in a critical condition and two people in serious condition, according to the Israeli daily Haaretz.

Not much is known about the identity of the attacker.

Hamas praised the retaliatory operation near Tel Aviv as a

“natural” response to the Zionist regime’s ongoing genocidal war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

“We confirm that the ‘Ra’anana’ operation, carried out by the heroes of our steadfast Palestinian people, is a natural response to the massacres of the Nazi occupation and its continuous aggression against our Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza,” Hamas said.

The popular resistance move-

ment stressed that the retaliatory attacks would continue against the “Nazi” Israeli regime until the occupation was ended.

“The heroes of our people and ... fighters from Rafah to Jenin will continue to defend our people, our land, and our holy sites against the criminal Nazi enemy. The blood of children and unarmed civilians shed by the Zionist war machine in the West Bank and Gaza will be a curse upon the occupation and its ... settlers, who

will find no safety or security on our occupied land,” Hamas said.

“We mobilize our revolutionary youth throughout the West Bank and Al-Quds, calling on them to escalate the struggle and revolution until the Nazi occupation is defeated, our land and holy sites are liberated, and our Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital is established, God willing,” it added.

The Islamic Jihad movement also hailed the “heroic operation” by the Palestinians and called it a natural response to “the crimes of the occupation against our steadfast people.”

“The Zionist enemy’s insistence on pursuing policies of oppression, terrorism, and brutal killing in the cities of the West Bank and Gaza, and targeting all its components in full view of the entire world, is a losing bet that will not undermine the steadfastness of our people, wherever they are,” it said in a statement.

Israeli media claimed that two Palestinians carried out the combined operation after gaining control of several vehicles and using them in three different areas of Ra'anana, before they were arrested by the occupation forces.

The two Palestinians were identified as Mahmoud Zaidat, 44, and Ahmad Zaidat, 24, hailing from the occupied West Bank city of Al-Khalil.

Hezbollah to Continue ‘War of Attrition’

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement has vowed to continue its “war of attrition” against Israel in support of Palestinian victims of Tel Aviv’s US-backed genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.

Nabil Qaouk, a member of Hezbollah’s Central Council, made the remarks during a memorial service of one of the movement’s members who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon last Wednesday.

Qaouk said Hezbollah has fought “the longest war of attrition” along the border with Occupied Palestine to support Gaza and defend Lebanon, stressing that war is not aimed at achieving any political gains.

“Hezbollah would not fight the longest war of attrition on the border with occupied Pal-

estine for the sake of a political bargain or political gain, but rather for the sake of supporting Gaza and defending the homeland with its sovereignty and protecting its people,” he said.

He said the initiatives presented by some countries’ delegations to Lebanon are Israeli pleas that do not aim at helping Lebanon, but helping the occupying regime.

“All the U.S. and other initiatives and diplomatic efforts are meaningless for us unless the aggression on Gaza stops.”

Qaouk described the U.S. initiatives as an attempt to help Israel get out of the predicament.

“What concerns us is to remain in the field and continue with the war of attrition so that the enemy remains in position of defeat.”

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More Tankers Shun Red Sea After U.S. Strikes on Yemen

LONDON (Dispatches) -- At least six more oil tankers were steering clear of the southern Red Sea on Monday, as disruptions on the vital route for energy shipping increase in the wake of U.S.-led strikes against Yemen, Reuters reported.

Following the strikes, the U.S.-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) based in Bahrain warned all ships to avoid the Bab al-Mandeb Strait at the south end of the Red Sea for several days on Friday, according to tanker body, INTERTANKO.

Prior to the U.S. and British strikes on Yemen, it had been mostly container ships which were avoiding the Red Sea, with oil tanker traffic largely unchanged in December.

But since the CMF’s warning, a growing number of oil

tankers are avoiding the region, increasing the potential for disruptions to east-west oil supply via the Suez Canal.

Reuters counted six tankers to have altered their course since the strikes on Monday, making a total of at least fifteen vessels to do so since the start of the strikes, ship tracking data from LSEG and Kpler showed.

The tankers Torm Innovation, Proteus Harvonne and Alfios I appeared to have turned away from the Suez Canal in favour of the longer route around Africa’s Cape of Good Hope for voyages to Europe and the US.

The Pacific Julia and STI Topaz are also heading straight for the Cape route.

The Octa Lune performed a U-turn in the northern part of the

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