



Turkish Court Fines Somali Leader's Son Over Fatal Car Crash

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – The son of Somalia's president was sentenced by a Turkish court on Tuesday to 2-1/2 years in prison for causing death by negligence, which was converted into a fine of 27,300 Turkish lira (\$900), state media reported.

Mohamed Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud was driving a car carrying a diplomatic license plate on Nov. 30 when he hit a motorcycle courier in central Istanbul, seriously injuring him. He had left the country on Dec. 2, following a police interrogation. An arrest warrant was issued for him after the courier died in hospital on Dec. 6.

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Poll: Hamas Popularity Increases in Gaza, West Bank



The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research says support for Hamas has increased in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research says the Zionist regime's war against Hamas has increased support for the Palestinian resistance movement in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.

"Support for Hamas in the West Bank increased considerably by more than three times to 44 per-

cent but increased slightly in the Gaza Strip to 42 percent. Support for Fatah dropped considerably to 17 percent only (16 in the West Bank and 18 in the Gaza Strip)," according to the findings.

It also added the war has also led to a significant decline in support for the Palestinian Authority.

The poll also found that the war

has also led to a significant rise in support for armed struggle in the occupied West Bank.

In mid-December, a wartime opinion poll among Palestinians showed a rise in support for Hamas, which appears to have ticked up even in the Israeli-bombarded Gaza Strip.

The survey also shows an overwhelming rejection of Western-

backed President Mahmoud Abbas, with nearly 90% saying he must resign.

Meanwhile, according to Israeli media on Tuesday, Israel is growing worried about attempts by Hamas to regain control in the northern Gaza Strip.

"There is a worrying trend in the Israeli security establishment regarding Hamas' attempts to restore its civilian capabilities in northern Gaza," Israeli Army Radio said.

Israeli security services cite attempts by the Palestinian group to reinstall its local police to take control of the area, the broadcaster said.

"The main concern in the Israel security establishment is Hamas' success in restoring its military capabilities in the region as well," the Army Radio said.

The occupying regime's war cabinet minister Gideon Sa'ar said early Tuesday that Hamas is far from being defeated.

"If anyone thinks that there will be an alternative to its rule in the Gaza Strip, it simply won't happen," Sa'ar told Army Radio.

UN: Hundreds of Thousands Starving in Gaza as Famine Arrives at 'Incredible Speed'



The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs say the Israeli regime has denied access to aid missions bringing food and medicine to northern Gaza.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's war in Gaza has brought famine with "such incredible speed", the United Nations' relief chief told CNN on Monday, as he warned that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are starving in the besieged enclave.

The "great majority" of 400,000 Gazans characterized by UN agencies as at risk of starving "are actually in famine, not just at risk of famine", UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths told CNN.

"It's been an extraordinary and holy unwelcome aspect of the Gazan war," he said, adding, "It has brought famine with such incredible speed to the front of the lines."

Aid has been trickling into Gaza slowly from two border crossings in the south.

Last week, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Israel had denied critical supplies from entering Northern Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Gaza-based Health Ministry said Tuesday that at least 350,000 chronically ill patients are not receiving their medications due to the ongoing Israeli war since October 7.

The spokesperson for the ministry, Ashraf al-Qudra, warned of serious health complications that may worsen the patients' conditions, calling on the international organizations to urgently provide medications, Anadolu news agency reported.

Al-Qudra had previously an-

nounced the depletion of the anesthesia nitrous oxide gas in operating rooms along with severe shortage of other medical gases.

Palestinian and international health and human rights organizations had warned of the collapse of the faltering healthcare system in Gaza due to the ongoing war.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) says the Zionist regime has forcibly displaced a considerably large number of Palestinians during its ongoing genocidal campaign in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The UN agency on Monday provided some updates about the Israeli bombardment in 100 days and the ensuing displacement of masses.

In a statement posted on X, UNRWA said, "An entire generation of children is traumatized, thousands have been killed, maimed, and orphaned. People live through the unliveable."

The UN agencies and aid groups say almost two million people, nearly 90 percent of the population, have been displaced since October 7, 2023, when Israel launched its aggression against the besieged territory.

UNRWA also posted a video that went through 100 days of hostilities in Gaza in 100 seconds.

Philippe Lazzarini, the UNRWA chief, recently labeled the regime's onslaught on the besieged Palestinian territory a stain for humanity.

"The massive death, destruction, displacement, hunger, loss, and grief of the last 100 days are staining our shared humanity."

New Yorkers March for Palestine on Martin Luther King Day

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – Nearly a thousand people attended a pro-Palestine march in New York City on Martin Luther King Jr Day, demanding an end to the Zionist regime's war in Gaza and rallying for healthcare.

"This march is a call to demand an end to the genocide, to end all U.S. aid to Israel, to lift the siege and blockade on Gaza in order to prevent the healthcare system's total collapse and hundreds of thousands of more deaths from illnesses if the bombs do not

kill them first," the organizers of Within Our Lifetime (WOL) wrote on social media.

Israel's latest attacks in the Gaza Strip have brought the Palestinian death toll to more than 24,000 since the war began. Over 8,000 people are still missing in the enclave.

This number includes more than 10,400 children. At least 60,317 people have also been wounded, as many go without proper healthcare treatment for their injuries.

The demonstrators rallied out-

side the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City on Monday, chanting "shame" over its complicity in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

Organizers said the cancer center is a "complicit institution" for collaborating with Israeli medical centers.

"Make sure they hear you, they're in the windows," she said, addressing the participants in the rally. In response, the demonstrators marching past the center shouted "Shame."

"This march is a call to demand an end to the genocide, to end all U.S. aid to Israel, to lift the siege and blockade on Gaza in order to prevent the healthcare system's total collapse and hundreds of thousands of more deaths from illnesses if the bombs do not kill them first," the organizers of the Palestinian-led community organization wrote on social media.

An organizer for the WOL explained in social media post that the hospital has accepted money from pro-Israel billionaires.

Report: Turkey's Erdogan Orders Officials to Skip Davos Over Gaza War

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ordered his government to boycott the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, over its stance on the Zionist regime's war on Gaza.

Turkey's treasury and finance minister, Mehmet Simsek, was planning to attend the event, which is a meeting place for the global business and political elite, but was instructed by Erdogan not to go, according to Bloomberg.

Erdogan has long been a supporter of the Palestinian cause and has strongly condemned the Zionist regime's offensive on Gaza.

Western allies in Jordan and the Persian Gulf states have also offered support for the Palestinians, but Erdogan has been more vocal in supporting Hamas, putting him at odds with Europe and the U.S.

Erdogan has called Hamas "a liberation group" and slammed the Zionist regime as a "war criminal". Hamas officials have also used Turkey, along with Qatar and Lebanon, as a base.

The World Economic Forum itself issued a relatively muted statement after October 7, saying it "deeply mourns the tragic loss of life of so many civilians in Israel and Gaza".

But according to Bloomberg, Turkish officials were upset when Klaus Schwab, the Davos forum's founder and executive chairman, called the Hamas operation, "terrorist attacks against Israel".

Iraq's parliament has passed a law that makes it a crime to normalize ties with Israel, but the Iraqi leader is travelling to Davos to drum up investments in his country's belea-

guered economy.

Israel will also have a strong presence at the conference. Zionist president Isaac Herzog is slated to speak on Thursday.

More than 24,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, have been killed by the Zionist regime's offensive and an estimated 70 percent of homes in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed by airstrikes.

This is not the first time Erdogan has used Davos to flex his support for Palestine. In 2009, he stormed out of a live debate with the Zionist regime's then-president Shimon Peres over the occupying regime's offensive on Gaza the previous year.

He told moderator David Ignatius, "I don't think I will come back to Davos after this."

FM: Saudi Arabia Could Recognize Israel If Palestinian Issue Resolved

DAVOS (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Tuesday the kingdom could recognize the Zionist regime if a comprehensive agreement were reached that included statehood for the Palestinians.

"We agree that regional peace includes peace for Israel, but that could only happen through peace for the Palestinians through a Palestinian state," Prince Faisal bin Farhan told a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Asked if Saudi Arabia would then recognize the occupying regime as part of a wider political agreement, he said: "Certainly."

Prince Faisal said securing regional peace through the creation of a Palestinian state was "something we have been indeed working on with the U.S. administration, and it is more relevant in the context of Gaza".

The Zionist regime has already established diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco.

After the eruption of war last October by the Zionist regime on Gaza, Saudi Arabia put on ice U.S.-backed plans for the kingdom to normalize ties with Israel, two sources familiar with Riyadh's thinking said, in a swift reordering of its diplomatic priorities.

The two sources told Reuters there would be some delay in

the U.S.-backed talks on normalization of Saudi-Israel ties, which is seen as a key step for the kingdom to secure what it considers the real prize of a U.S. military pact in exchange.

Before Oct. 7, both Zionist regime and Saudi leaders had signaled they were moving steadily towards establishing diplomatic relations that could have reshaped the Middle East.

The Palestinians want a state in territories captured by the regime in a 1967 war, with East Al-Quds as their capital. Negotiations with the regime on achieving that stalled more than a decade ago.

Among the hurdles have been Israeli settlement on occupied land.