

# UN Agency Chief: Israel Provided No Evidence to Back UNRWA Accusations

GAZA (FNA) – UNRWA's Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini told the Financial Times that Israel has yet to provide evidence of its claims that around a dozen UNRWA staff were involved in the October 7 operation.

Lazzarini said, although he was taking the allegations leveled at the organization seriously he could not comment on the progress of the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services investigation.

The FT stated that they had seen the intelligence assessment which provided no evidence for the claims which include an accusation that a staff member kidnapped a woman.



UNRWA's Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini says Israel has yet to provide evidence of its claims that around a dozen UNRWA staff were involved in the October 7 operation.

The claims have led 15 donor countries to withdraw their funding to the UNRWA, a move that Lazzarini said could lead to the UNRWA being forced to end lifesaving assistance and operations in the Gaza Strip by the end of February.

On Monday, The World Health Organization (WHO) urged countries to continue funding UNRWA, calling Israeli allegations against the UNRWA a "distraction" from the war in Gaza.

The occupying regime unleashed a bombardment campaign against Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in response to decades of violence against Palestinians.

Since the start of the aggression, Israel has killed more than 27,360 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

minister Benjamin Netanyahu to further implement ethnic cleansing in Gaza by burning unoccupied Palestinian homes from which residents have been forced to flee.

Earlier this week, CAIR condemned the Biden administration's "morally depraved and glaringly inconsistent" decision to engage in collective punishment against Palestinians by cutting funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in response to unsubstantiated and suspiciously timed allegations made by the occupying regime.

for the security and stability of Iraq and the region".

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said its military forces struck more than 85 targets in the two countries "with numerous aircraft to include long-range bombers flown from the United States".

"The air strikes employed more than 125 precision munitions," it added in a statement.

On Friday, Iraq's Al-Nujaba resistance group said it will continue launching attacks on U.S. forces in the region until the Gaza war ends and U.S. forces exit Iraq, days after another group said it was suspending such attacks.

Kataib Hezbollah said on Tuesday it would pause attacks on U.S. forces out of respect for the Iraqi government.

Al-Nujaba's leader, Akram al-Kaabi, said in a statement he understood Kataib Hezbollah's decision, but Al-Nujaba and other factions in the Islamic Resistance in Iraq (IRI) would continue operations.

Part of "Axis of Resistance," the umbrella group has claimed more than 150 attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria since the Gaza war began.

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to contain proposals for strengthening security along the southern U.S. border with Mexico.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has taken steps to start debate on that multipronged bill next week, with a first procedural vote no later than Wednesday.

According to the House Appropriations Committee, the \$17.6 billion would include funds to help replenish the Zionist regime's missile systems, procure additional advanced weapons systems, and produce artillery and other munitions.

Some of the funding would also be used to replenish U.S. arms provided to Israel.

"The need to support our closest ally and our own forces in the region has never been more pressing," Johnson said in his letter to colleagues.

It was unclear whether far-right House members might balk at the funding for Israel without an equal amount of savings elsewhere in the budget.

House Republicans have insisted that any new aid to Ukraine be accompanied by strong new U.S. border controls at a time when record numbers of immigrants are trying to enter the United States. While the Senate plans to do just that, Johnson already has said the border security package to be unveiled in the Senate is insufficient.

Before new military aid to Israel or Ukraine can be delivered, the House and Senate must pass the same bill before sending it to President Joe Biden, a Democrat, for signing into law.

The Senate also wants to include aid to Taiwan as part of its legislation.

## Ansarullah ...

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shipping in November, saying they were hitting Israel-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

U.S. and UK forces responded with strikes against Yemen which has since declared American and British interests to be legitimate targets as well.

Anger over the Zionist regime's devastating war on Gaza has grown across the Middle East, stoking retaliatory operations by resistance groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

On January 28, a drone slammed into a base in Jordan, killing three U.S. soldiers and wounding more than 40.

U.S. and allied troops in the region have been attacked more than 165 times since mid-October, mostly in Iraq and Syria, but the Jordan deaths were the first from hostile fire during that period.

The United States attacked dozens of sites at seven facilities in Iraq and Syria. Diplomatic sources have said the UN Security Council would convene Monday, after Russia called for a meeting "over the threat to peace and safety created by U.S. strikes on Syria and Iraq".

Iran denounced the Saturday strikes on Yemen, saying they "contradict"

declared intentions by Washington and London to avoid a "wider conflict" in the Middle East.

On Sunday, Hamas condemned the new wave of U.S. and British strikes on Yemen, warning the attacks would bring "further turmoil" to the Middle East.

Hamas in a statement called the bombing "a blatant assault on the sovereignty of a sister Arab country, and an escalation that will drag the region into further turmoil".

## Minister ...

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Zarepour pointed to the construction operation of the largest space launch base in the country and in West Asia and noted that the first phase of the base will be completed by the end of the next Iranian calendar year.

Iran once put its satellites into orbit in cooperation with other countries but now, it has attained the most advanced technology in the space industry and can independently send its homegrown satellites into orbit successfully, the ICT minister emphasized.

He further said using the high capacities of the private sector companies and knowledge-based companies has been put on the top agenda of the ministry.

## Iran...

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UNRWA has been the principal agency overseeing the distribution of aid to Gazans amid the dire humanitarian crisis in the territory that has deteriorated through almost four months of Israel's genocidal war.

The UN says cutting the "lifeline" 2 million people in Gaza depend on is a "collective punishment."

## U.S....

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Clawson said Iran has made substantial progress on keynote programs such as missile and drone development as well as nuclear enrichment, all despite Western efforts to restrain the programs.

The analysis also said that the Islamic Republic has managed to upset U.S.-led attempts to isolate the country, and has successfully spread its influence across the West Asia region.

"The Gaza war has likewise gained more adherents for Iran's view that the United States and Israel are the real culprits behind the region's problems," Clawson writes.

## U.S., UK...

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raids across the Arab country, warning that their assault will not go unanswered.

In solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza, Yemeni forces have targeted ships going to and from ports in the occupied territories, or whose owners are linked to Israel, in the southern Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Gulf of Aden, and even in the Arabian Sea.

In response to the pro-Palestine maritime campaign, the U.S. and its allies have on several occasions bombed Yemen in violation of the country's sovereignty and international law.

## Launch...

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Regarding the launch time, Aghili said, "These two satellites were supposed to be launched in Azar (November-December) of the current year, but their launch time has been delayed by 6 months."

"We conducted a test phase in Russia with the hope that these satellites would be launched in Azar of the current year, but the launch was delayed. If it is supposed to take place in Khordad (May-June) of next year, once again, in Ordibehesht (April) of next year, we will assemble the satellite in Russia and perform the necessary tests."

# CAIR: Biden Should Stop Genocide in Gaza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The main Muslim civil rights group in the United States has called on the Biden administration to end the Zionist regime's genocide in the Gaza Strip instead of waging war across West Asia, citing the latest strikes in Iraq and Syria as proof of "the total failure" of U.S. foreign policy in the region.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, urged U.S. President Joe Biden to end the regime's genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza instead of waging war

across West Asia.

The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that American forces had struck multiple targets in Iraq and Syria.

Following CENTCOM's announcement, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said, "President Biden should change course to protect both American soldiers and people of the region from more violence."

"Justice and freedom for the Palestinian people – not more bombs – is what can build a more peaceful future for the region," he added.

CAIR welcomes a recent declaration by a federal court in California that the occupying regime forces months-long attacks against defenseless Palestinians trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip "plausibly" amount to genocide, Awad added.

Awad said the U.S.-based civil rights group had called on Biden to personally condemn the Zionist forces' massacre of Palestinian civilians in Gaza who were waiting for humanitarian aid in Gaza City.

He further added that CAIR had condemned a newly-revealed policy of the far-right Israeli regime led by prime

minister Benjamin Netanyahu to further implement ethnic cleansing in Gaza by burning unoccupied Palestinian homes from which residents have been forced to flee.

Earlier this week, CAIR condemned the Biden administration's "morally depraved and glaringly inconsistent" decision to engage in collective punishment against Palestinians by cutting funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in response to unsubstantiated and suspiciously timed allegations made by the occupying regime.

# Turkey Nabs Scores of Foreign Suspects Over Links to Daesh

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish police arrested 34 foreign nationals over their suspected links to the Daesh terrorist group in an operation across seven provinces, a cabinet minister said.

The suspects, including some wanted with an Interpol red notice, were arrested in "Cage-35" anti-terror operations carried out simultaneously in the provinces of Istanbul, Kocaeli, Yalova, Kayseri, Bursa, Duzce, and Yozgat, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya wrote in a post on social media platform X.

Yerlikaya said that unauthorized firearms, a significant amount of foreign currency,

and digital materials were also seized during the operations.

He said the suspects are accused of engaging in activities related to the Daesh terrorist organization.

The operations came after two masked gunmen, one from Tajikistan and the other from Russia, opened fire last Sunday on worshippers at the Santa Maria Church in Istanbul's Sariyer district, killing one person. The two foreign nationals arrested were believed to be Daesh members, Yerlikaya said a day later.

Turkey listed Daesh as a terrorist group

in 2013. The group has claimed responsibility for a number of deadly attacks in the country since then, prompting Turkish authorities to launch operations against its members.

Last December, Turkish intelligence and security forces captured a top Daesh terrorist in charge of the group's finances in an operation in Turkey's southeastern province of Mersin.

Turkey's border with Syria controlled by foreign-backed militants has been a significant crossing point for foreign fighters since the war broke out in Syria in 2011.

## Gaza ...

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named told Reuters. "The (Israeli) pullout was a ruse."

In Khan Younis, overnight Israeli shelling killed three Palestinians, medics said. Residents reported street fighting raging in western and southern areas of the city, where the Zionist regime said a soldier was killed in a Palestinian attack on Saturday.

Gaza health authorities said on Sunday more than 27,300 Palestinians have been confirmed killed since in the war. They said 127 Palestinians had been martyred in the past 24 hours. They say that 70% of those killed were women and children.

Thousands more are feared lost amid the ruins. Munir al-Bursh, director of the Gaza health ministry, said dozens of decomposing bodies were recovered from northern areas evacuated by Zionist forces.

More than 130 captives are still in Gaza, and their possible release by Hamas is among issues under discussion in Egyptian- and Qatari-mediated negotiations.

Hamas has demanded an end to the war. The occupying regime of Israel rules that out but says is open to a temporary truce.

Palestinians in Gaza's Deir al-Balah said the Zionist regime is using techniques of psychological warfare in an effort to turn civilians against Gaza officials.

"At around 8am, Israeli drones dropped leaflets with images of a child they killed and the infrastructure they damaged, employing psychological warfare against us," Asmaa Barakaat, a displaced Palestinian currently staying in Deir al-Balah, told Middle East Eye.

"They called the leaflet a 'newspaper' and titled it 'GazaNew24'. It seems that this will be one of many of this newspaper as they labeled it 'issue 1' at the top corner," the 30-year-old said.

"The extent of the killing and devastation seems insufficient for Israel. They are now adopting a new strategy to stir our emotions and instill fear within us," she said.

"In the 'newspaper', they included a phone number linked to WhatsApp, encouraging civilians to become spies for Israel," she added.

In the occupied West Bank, Zionist forces detained at least 14 Palestinians in overnight raids.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Club said that the arrests were made on Saturday evening, bringing the total number of Palestinians detained since October 7 to 6,512.

## Hashd...

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Iraq. And this can only be done with the departure of all coalition forces from Iraq," Fayyad said.

There are roughly 2,500 U.S. troops deployed in Iraq and about 900 in Syria

without the official permit of the Syrian government or a UN mandate.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iraqi governments have deepened in recent months after Washington carried out previous strikes.

Washington and Baghdad opened talks on the future of the U.S. troop presence late last month after repeated demands from Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Shia' al-Sudani for a timetable for their withdrawal.

On Saturday, Sudani condemned the strikes as a "new aggression against Iraq's sovereignty" and denied that they were coordinated by the Baghdad government beforehand with Washington, calling such assertions "lies".

The presence of the U.S. troops in the region "has become a reason for threatening security and stability in Iraq and a justification for involving Iraq in regional and international conflicts", his office said in a statement.

Iraqi military spokesman Yahya Rasool said the actions taken by Washington will have "disastrous consequences