

# Hamas: Israel's Ceasefire Proposal Not Serious



A man sits next to the bodies of loved ones killed during Israeli bombardment at al-Najar hospital in Rafah, on the southern Gaza Strip, on February 12, 2024.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas official in Lebanon, said that the Zionist regime's proposal in the context of the talks to release prisoners of war held in Gaza is a "withdrawal from the proposal that was formulated in Paris" and proves that the Zionist regime "is not serious about moving forward with the release of the captives."

According to Hamdan, the Hamas delegation in Cairo discussed the regime's responses to the propos-

al put forward in Paris. Hamdan added that the Zionist regime "is placing obstacles that make it impossible to reach an agreement." Israel's proposal, he explained, "does not guarantee freedom of movement, the return of refugees, or the withdrawal of its forces from the Gaza Strip and does not address the issue of opening the crossings to provide medical treatment to the wounded."

"[Zionist prime minister] Netanyahu's behavior and positions

confirm that he is continuing the policy of evasion and procrastination, is not interested in reaching an agreement, and is trying to prolong the war and buy time for personal considerations related to his political future."

He stressed that "the Hamas movement is committing to its position and was and is still keen to reach an agreement that achieves the cessation of the aggression against our people, the withdrawal of the occupation army from the

Gaza Strip, relief for our people, the return of the people to their areas, reconstruction, lifting the siege on the Gaza Strip, and completing the prisoner exchange."

"Netanyahu is continuing his policy of escaping reality and lying to his audience," Hamdan said. "The truth that the whole world can see is that he is still stuck in the streets of Khan Yunis, hemorrhaging dead and wounded on a daily basis, and withdrawing destroyed vehicles."

He said the people of Rafah have been subjected to brutal bombardment for days, which has left many of them dead, "despite claims by the Zionist entity and the American administration that Rafah is a safe area."

He asserted that in addition to Israel, the United States administration and its President Joe Biden bear full responsibility for this massacre because of the unbridled support they provide for Netanyahu by supplying his regime with money, weapons, and political backing to continue his war of genocide and massacres.

Hamdan also called on the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the United Nations Security Council to take urgent and serious action to prevent Israel from committing genocide in Rafah and stop its ongoing aggression against Gaza.

## Nasrallah... (Continued From Page One)

economy and security until it halts its aggression against Gaza," Nasrallah noted that even if Israel "wages war," it will not be able to bring calm to its northern frontier.

"When the aggression against Gaza stops, there will be a ceasefire in the south, but if the Zionist enemy carries out any action, we will return to the same equations and rules and our responses will be proportionate," he added, responding to recent remarks by Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant.

Nasrallah said Hezbollah's decision to launch attacks on Israel "stabilized the balance of deterrence and proved that Lebanon has a real deterrent power."

Nasrallah stated that Hezbollah began attacking the Zionist regime after October 7 "primarily to prevent an Israeli victory," stressing that this "constitutes a national interest" for Lebanon.

"The origin of the establishment of Israel in the region is a disaster for all the countries and peoples of the region," said Nasrallah. "A strong Israel is a danger to the region, and a weak, deterred, and fearful Israel constitutes a less harmful and catastrophic situation for the countries and peoples of the region. In Lebanon, a strong Israel is a danger to Lebanon, and a deterred Israel is the one whose danger to Lebanon can be reduced."

Nasrallah complained about the Arab and Western delegations that came to Lebanon in recent weeks in an attempt to calm the situation, saying that they were only concerned with protecting Israel and refused to address Hezbollah's demands.

"All the delegations that came to Lebanon over the past months had one objective, which is the security and protection of Israel, a halt of fire against the Zionist posts and the return of the 100,000 settlers to the settlements," he said.

"The Western delegations are fully endorsing the Israeli paper and submitting it to Lebanon," he added, in an apparent reference to a paper submitted by France to Lebanon.

"The delegations that come to Lebanon are trying to intimidate us and this has been of no use. Also the political gains that they are waving cannot affect our stance and will not lead to calming this front."

Nasrallah addressed the Lebanese government as well, calling on them to make new demands to add to UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

"Resolution 1701 has not been able to protect us, but rather the resistance," Nasrallah emphasized.

Speaking against the backdrop of ongoing turmoil in the Gaza Strip, Nasrallah condemned the acts of terror and airstrikes targeting civilian infrastructure, urging global consciousness and responsibility.

"Gaza has been resilient for the past 130 days," he said.

to discussing any initiative that achieves an end to aggression and war".

Over half of Gaza's 2.4 million people have sought refuge in Rafah, pressed up against the Egyptian border in makeshift camps where they face outbreaks of hepatitis and diarrhea, and a scarcity of food and water.

AFP saw some families, already displaced several times, dismantling their tents and leaving in cars, vans or using horse and carts.

"We escaped the north with empty hands, then we escaped Khan Younis with almost empty hands," said one, Ismail Joundiyah.

"We want to be ready this time."

"There is no place that is currently safe in Gaza," said United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

A report in the Wall Street Journal Tuesday said the occupying regime of Israel was proposing to create 15 campsites of around 25,000 tents each in southwestern Gaza as part of an evacuation plan.

The newspaper cited Egyptian officials saying the camps and field hospitals would be installed and administered by Egypt, although there has been no confirmation.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk warned an "extremely high number of civilians" could be killed or injured in an Israeli invasion of Rafah, which would also further hit aid.

As smoke was seen rising over Rafah, Al Jazeera said two of its journalists were severely wounded in an Israeli strike on the city.

Reporter Ismail Abu Omar's life was at risk after having his right leg amputated, while cameraman Ahmad Matar had suffered multiple wounds and severe bleeding, the Qatar-based broadcaster said Tuesday, citing a physician.

Two other journalists with the broadcaster have been killed during the war, while its Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh was wounded.

The Zionist military said Tuesday that three more soldiers had been killed in fighting in Gaza, taking its losses to 232 since ground invasions began on October 27.

## Pentagon: 186 U.S. Casualties in Iraq, Syria, Jordan Since Oct. 18

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Pentagon has announced that the number of U.S. casualties in Iraq, Syria and Jordan since Oct. 18 totals around 186.

"Of those 186 casualties, over 130 are currently assessed as having traumatic brain injury," Department of Defense Spokesman Pete Nguyen said in a statement.

Since the Israeli army launched intensified attacks

on the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7 last year, U.S. military bases in Syria and Iraq have been targeted with drones and rockets, particularly al-Tanf Garrison in Syria as well as bases in the city of al-Malikiyah near the Iraqi border, the city of al-Shaddadi in al-Hasakah Governorate and Dayr al-Zawr province.

The Zionist regime has since pounded the Gaza Strip, killing at least 28,340 people and

injuring 67,984 others.

The Israeli onslaught has left 85% of Gaza's population internally displaced amid acute shortages of food, clean water and medicine, while 60% of the enclave's infrastructure was damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

The United States, Israel's biggest ally, has provided the regime with arms and ammunition since the initiation of

the Gaza war.

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed billions of dollars of military assistance package for Israel.

Washington has also vetoed United Nations Security Council resolutions that called on the occupying regime to cease its aggression.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has claimed responsibility for strikes against U.S.-run military installations.

## EU's Borrell Calls on States to 'Provide Less Arms' to Israel

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, has urged states to stop arming the Zionist regime if they want to stop Palestinian civilians being killed in Gaza.

Borrell was responding to U.S. President Joe Biden's statement that the occupying regime's conduct in its military campaign in the besieged enclave was "over the top".

"Well, if you believe that too many people are being killed, maybe you should provide less arms in order to prevent so many people having been killed," the EU chief diplomat said. "Is [it] not logical?"

Borrell was speaking in Brussels alongside Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

"How many times have you heard the most prominent leaders and foreign ministers around the world saying too many people are being killed?" Borrell asked.

"If the international community believes that this is a slaughter, that too many people are being killed, maybe we have to think about the provision of arms."

The comments came just hours after Israeli air strikes on Rafah in southern Gaza killed at least 67 people.

The attacks targeted 14 homes

and three mosques in Rafah, Palestinian officials said. Several people told Middle East Eye they were shot by quadcopters inside their tents.

A displaced Palestinian from Khan Younis, Wesam Abu Jamee, said he lost two of his sons, one of them disabled, in a quadcopter attack that targeted their tent at 1:45 am.

"The bombardment was so intense. My two sons, Wahib (19) and Ilyas (17) got killed inside the tent," he said. "Ilyas had a mental and physical disability," he added.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that

Israel plans to press ahead with a ground invasion of the southern city - where 1.5 million Palestinians are currently sheltering - despite international opposition.

The premier said that the densely packed city needed to be "evacuated" ahead of the land operation.

"They are going to evacuate - where? To the moon? Where are they going to evacuate these people?" Borrell asked.

More than 28,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since war broke out on 7 October, a majority of them women and children, according to Palestinian health officials.

## FM... (Continued From Page 2)

as constructive at the bilateral, regional and international levels and also in terms of helping boost peace and stability in the region.

He underlined his country's resolve to expand relations with Iran and thanked Tehran for its active diplomacy in supporting Palestine and the stability and security of the region.

The Qatari minister also briefed Amirabdollahian on the results of his country's efforts to help form a political agreement and establish a ceasefire in Gaza.

He further said Qatar is on the same page with Iran regarding the need to strengthen efforts to swiftly stop the war and that Qatar will continue its diplomatic endeavors to achieve that goal.

Separately on Tuesday, Amir-Abdollahian met with Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, to discuss the latest developments in Gaza.

Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Doha on Monday as part of his regional tour that began on Friday and earlier took him to Syria and Lebanon.

During his stay in Qatar, the foreign minister also held talks with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

After rejecting Hamas's terms for a truce last week, the occupying regime conducted a Monday pre-dawn raid in Rafah that martyred around 100 people.

The United States has angered some Middle East allies by repeatedly refusing to back a full ceasefire.

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## Gazans... (Continued From Page One)

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## At Least Nine Trapped in Turkish Gold Mine Landslide

ISTANBUL (AFP) – A landslide on Tuesday trapped at least nine workers at a gold mine in eastern Turkey, officials said, adding that search and rescue efforts were underway.

"At least nine people are trapped," Erzincan province mayor Bekir Aksun was quoted as saying by the private NTV broadcaster.

Images from the scene showed the landslide sweeping across a valley where the

workers were believed to have been based at the time.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya confirmed that there was no initial news from nine workers.

The landslide occurred around 2:00 pm local time (1100 GMT) near the Ilıc district of Erzincan province.

Anagold, a private company that runs the mine, said it was working to minimize the

effects of this "painful" incident.

"We will mobilize all our means in order to urgently shed light on this incident," Anagold said in a statement.

Turkiye is prone to deadly landslides and has suffered a string of mining accidents in recent decades.

A methane blast at a coal mine in northwestern Turkey killed 42 people in October 2022.