

Arab League: Displacement of Palestinians to Lead to Confrontation 'for Next 1,000 Years'

DUBAI (Dispatches) – The secretary general of the Arab League has warned any seizure of the Gaza Strip or the occupied West Bank by the Zionist regime would mean “a confrontation for the next thousand years.”

Speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Ahmed Aboul Gheit stressed that the displacement of the Palestinian population from the occupied territories by Zionist troops would lead to “a confrontation for the next thousand years.”

The top Arab official reiterated his warning of the “dangerous consequences” of the occupying regime’s planned ground offensive into the crowded southern city of Rafah.

About Gheit called on Israel to “empty the settlements” on Palestinian land as well.

Discussing the possibility of a two-state solution with an independent Palestinian state, he noted that the scenario would only be possible when Israel “dismantled its illegal settlements built on Palesti-



Palestinians leave the site of an Israeli strike in the city of Rafah, in southern Gaza Strip, on February 12, 2024.

nian land.”

He decried an “Israeli mentality” to try and seize land the Palestinians want for their future state.

He said that Israel’s actions in Gaza and its treatment of Palestinians had become a threat to the continuity of the peace agreements it signed with its neighbors, especially with countries such as Egypt and Jordan.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the

Arab League chief further pointed out that it was imperative that the US and the Western bloc asked Israel to stop its attacks and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

“The United States must order Israel to stop these policies or otherwise the Middle East will explode in an unprecedented way,” he said.

“The (Israeli) occupation’s intentions to impose the reality of displacement on hundreds of thou-

sands of Palestinians, who have taken refuge in Rafah as a last resort from indiscriminate attacks on civilians, is an open and completely rejected plan; it entails serious threats to regional stability,” he added.

Netanyahu ordered the Israeli military on Friday to prepare to evacuate civilians from Rafah ahead of a planned ground operation against the city.

Aid organizations, however, say such a move will be nearly impossible, given the scale of devastation elsewhere in Gaza and the huge number of people trapped in the besieged area.

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has condemned the deadly Israeli attack on the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, saying the offensive was a “deepening of genocide” against the people of Palestine.

The movement held the US administration of President Joe Biden along with the Tel Aviv regime fully responsible for the massacre in Rafah.

Gaza...

(Continued From Page One)

medics said patients were unable to safely leave or be relocated, and thousands of people displaced by fighting elsewhere remained there. Palestinians say nowhere is safe in the besieged territory, as Israel continues to carry out strikes in all parts of it.

The Gaza Health Ministry said last week that Israeli snipers on surrounding buildings were preventing people from entering or leaving the hospital. It said 10 people have been martyred inside the complex over the past week, including three shot and killed on Tuesday.

The ministry says around 300 medical staff were treating some 450 patients, including people wounded in strikes. It says 10,000 displaced people were sheltering in the facility.

At least 28,576 Palestinians have been martyred, mostly women and children, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

That includes over 100 bodies brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours. Over 68,000 people have been wounded in the war, including around 11,000 in need of evacuation for urgent treatment, according to the ministry.

Around 80% of Gaza’s 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes, large areas in northern Gaza have been completely destroyed and a humanitarian crisis has left a quarter of the population starving.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society said on Wednesday that Zionist forces are currently shelling the vicinity of the Al-Amal hospital in Khan Younis.

The organization added that the shelling has damaged the hospital building.

The prime ministers of Spain and Ireland asked the European Commission to urgently review whether Israel is complying with its human rights obligations in Gaza.

The two leaders said attacking Rafah posed “a grave and imminent threat that the international community must urgently confront”.

A Spanish government source said it was confident that European countries are unifying around a firmer position and for the European Commission to take more concrete action over the Zionist regime’s invasion of Gaza.

Indian...

(Continued From Page One)

They blocked major highways with barriers made of giant metal containers, barbed wire, spikes and cement blocks. Mobile internet was suspended for a second day in some areas of Haryana to prevent communication among the protesters.

The march comes just months before a national election in which Modi is widely expected to win a third term. The protests could pose a significant challenge for him and his governing Bharatiya Janata Party because farmers form a key voting bloc.

The farmers have received support from opposition parties, which have condemned the government’s attempt to block them from reaching the capital.

On Tuesday, the main opposition Congress party said it would pass legislation providing minimum support prices if it is voted into power in the upcoming national election.

Iran ...

(Continued From Page One)

The Swiss ambassador said she would convey the message to her government and provide Iran with a response.

The meeting concerned the police killing of a 32-year-old Iranian asylum seeker in the town of Essert-sous-Champvent near the French border on February 8.

Swiss authorities alleged the man was armed with an axe and a knife and had held 15 hostages on a train for almost four hours before police stormed the train and fatally wounded him.

“The hostages were all released unharmed,” Reuters quoted the local police as saying in a statement on Friday. “The hostage-taker was fatally wounded during the intervention.”

Police did not provide any details regarding the possible motives of the man, but said there was no indication the hostage-taking was a terrorist incident.

Iranian ...

(Continued From Page One)

United States to push Israel into ending the massacre of the Palestinians.

“The whole Muslim world must stand up against the Zionist war machine. It is imperative to activate all mechanisms in order to stop the indiscriminate and blind

carnage in Gaza.”

Mohseni-Ejei also pointed to the numerous commonalities between Iran and Iraq and the high volume of relations in various fields. “The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the stability, security and progress in Iraq. It is ready to assist Iraq in various fields and help it overcome sticking issues.”

Iran’s Judiciary chief also demanded the full implementation of security agreements between Tehran and Baghdad and an all-out campaign against terror.

For his part, Sudani highlighted Iran’s principled support for the Palestinian issue. He also said Baghdad appreciates the continuous support by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi for the Iraqi government and nation.

The Iraqi prime minister underscored the need for enhanced coordination between Iraq, Iran and all other countries that support Palestine in regional and international arenas.

Defense...

(Continued From Page 2)

role in promotion of regional security and stability.

He also emphasized that the Islamic Republic seeks development of relations and constructive interaction with regional states.

Regional countries have shared interests and challenges, and thus they should co-exist peacefully and have a common understanding about the issue of security, he added.

Ashtiani further expressed Tehran’s full readiness to hold defense and security talks with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region.

Meanwhile, the Iranian defense chief highlighted that Iranian and Saudi armed forces can cooperate with each other in the military, security, intelligence and technical fields.

The Iranian Defense Ministry is prepared to expand defense, military and technical ties with Saudi Arabia, he said, adding that such cooperation will serve the interests of both countries and improve security and stability in the region.

Anzi, for his part, described Iran and Saudi Arabia as two friendly and brotherly countries and underlined the need for boosting bilateral cooperation in different fields, including the defense and technical ones.

Last March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed under a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations severed in 2016.

In a joint statement after signing the pact, Tehran and Riyadh highlighted the need to respect each others’ national sovereignty and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of one another.

They agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost economic, commercial, investment, technical, scientific, cultural, sports, and youth affairs cooperation.

Network...

(Continued From Page 2)

“If there is an escalation in this conflict, if hostages start getting killed, if Hezbollah in the north attacks Israel in strength, we should tell Iran we will destroy your oil refineries and your oil infrastructure,” Graham said in an interview on NewsNation’s “The Hill.”

“We will put you out of business. Without money coming from Iran and weapons coming from the Iranians, Hamas will be nothing. Hezbollah will be nothing,” Graham asserted.

Meanwhile, Saeed Aqli, the head of dispatching operations at the NIGC, said that the act of terror struck the transmission lines in Borujen County in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province.

He added that a crisis management session was convened shortly afterwards, with the Iranian oil minister, deputy oil ministers as well as senior security officials in attendance.

Aqli further noted that firefighting brigades could extinguish the blaze within hours and the work on repair of the transmission lines has just started, hoping that gas pumping would resume as soon as possible.

The head of dispatching operations at the NIGC also stated that no casualties were reported as a result of the attack.

He stressed that NIGC engineers have managed to keep the national gas grid stable, and continue gas transmission to all towns and villages in the two provinces.

Efforts are underway to distribute liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders among households, who have suffered gas outage as a result of the incident, Aqli said.

Advocacy Groups: Number of Palestinian Detainees in West Bank Exceeds 7,000

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have arrested over 7,000 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since October 7, according to the Palestinian Commission of Detainees’ Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners Society.

The figures, which include released individuals, comprise 220 women, 440 children, and 53 journalists. Eight Palestin-

ians have died in the Zionist regime’s prisons.

“The ongoing arrest campaigns since October 7 have been accompanied by escalating crimes and violations, including: acts of abuse, severe beatings, and threats against detainees and their families, in addition to widespread sabotage and destruction of citizens’ homes, confiscation

of vehicles, money, and gold jewelry, in addition to widespread destruction operations,” the report said, according to Al Jazeera.

As of the end of December, there were over 9,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, excluding those taken in Gaza.

Tensions in West Asia flared up again on October 7, 2023, Palestinian resistance factions

led by Hamas launched a surprise operation into Israeli-occupied territory from the Gaza Strip. Israel announced a total blockade of Gaza, started carrying out strikes on targets in the Strip, as well as on certain areas in Lebanon and Syria, and launched a ground operation in the Palestinian enclave. Clashes are also taking place in the West Bank.

MEP Urges Suspension of Israel From Global Sports Competitions

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – As calls for banning the Zionist regime from all global sports competitions gain momentum around the world, a member of the European Parliament, Clare Daly has urged sports federations worldwide to suspend the apartheid regime “until it complies with international law.”

Daly called on the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Association Football, the Union of European Football Associations, and the International Basketball Federation to “suspend” Israel from taking part in any competition.

In an announcement on a social media post, Daly shared a petition regarding the request and urged her followers to sign it and take part in the protest, which is in line with the campaign to ban Israel from all global sports competitions.

“I’ve signed a petition calling on the IOC, FIFA, UEFA, FIBA, and other

sports organizations to suspend Israel from international competitions until it complies with international law,” she wrote.

The trend of calling on sports federations has gained much ground ever since the Israeli regime launched its war and complete siege over Gaza, which led to the killing of tens of thousands of Palestinians.

A movement that mainly started off in West Asian countries has now spread around the world as countries and individuals have been urging sports federations to take action against the ongoing genocide.

The campaign is not new, as the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement has long advocated for Israel’s football association to be expelled or suspended for hosting FIFA-sanctioned matches in Israeli illegal settlements in the West Bank.

On Saturday, the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran called on world football’s governing body, FIFA, to “completely suspend” Israel from football-related activities due to the regime’s war on Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Last month, Turkey arrested Israeli footballer Sagiv Jehezkel, 28, for “inciting hatred” by displaying “an ugly gesture in support of the Israeli massacre in Gaza” during a match in Turkey.

While mixing sports with hatred, the footballer was accused of displaying an indecent message which read “100 days. 07/10”, on his bandage, pointing out after he scored a goal for his team.

On New Year’s Eve, Jordan’s Football Association (JFA) called on the global sports community to take “decisive action to stop the aggression against Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied territories” and place stringent sanctions on

the regime.

The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) had also announced that it had sent letters to the International Olympic Committee and FIFA demanding an “urgent international probe into occupation crimes against sports and athletes in Palestine”.

The movement also aims to expose the double standards of the Western sports federations, as in October the IOC suspended the Russian Olympic Committee and barred athletes from Russia and Belarus who have military contracts following Moscow’s decision to absorb sports organizations in four territories in Ukraine.

However, it supported the inclusion of Israeli athletes in the upcoming Paris Olympics, despite the fact that some participating athletes also serve as active members of the Israeli occupation forces.

Turkey Under Pressure to Shut Down Gold Mine After Landslide

ISTANBUL (AFP) – Calls grew in Turkey on Wednesday to shut down a controversial gold mine as hopes dimmed of rescuing nine workers trapped by a massive landslide that rolled over their open pit.

Officials on Wednesday also reported the arrest of four people, including the open pit’s field manager, in the opening stages of their investigation into the accident.

Hundreds of rescuers have been searching through a cyanide-laced field in eastern Turkey since Tuesday, when 10 million cubic meters of sludge suddenly crashed down from a gully.

Turkey’s Union of Chambers of Engineers and Architects urged the government to shut down the mine “immediately”, saying its past

warning about a looming disaster had gone unheeded.

“All those responsible for the disaster should be held accountable before the judiciary,” it said in a statement.

“All environmental impact reports should be cancelled and the plant should be closed immediately.”

Environmentalists fear that cyanide and sulphuric acid used in the gold extraction process could spread into the Euphrates River, which runs from Turkey to neighboring Syria and Iraq.

Turkey’s environmental ministry said it had sealed off a stream running from the pit to the Euphrates as a precaution, adding that no pol-

luting leaks had been detected so far.

But the Ilic Nature and Environment Platform, a local pressure group, said the stream had already mixed with the Euphrates.

“Don’t seal off (the stream), seal off the mine,” the group said.

Environmental advocates and local officials sought to shut down the open pit mine after a 2022 cyanide leak caused by a burst pipe.

The plant closed for a few months but then re-opened after its operator paid a fine, prompting an outcry from Turkey’s opposition parties.

A Turkish court then fined the company 16.5 million Turkish liras (\$540,000 at the current exchange rate), the maximum according to Turkish media.