

# China: Displacement of Palestinians Longest-Running Injustice in World



An UNRWA aid worker distributes flour bags to Palestinians during in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on November 29, 2023.

BEIJING (Dispatches) – Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has called the displacement of generations of Palestinians and preventing them from returning to their homes “the longest-running injustices in contemporary times.”

“The recent escalation and the rising tension once again show that the Palestinian issue has always been the core of the West Asia issue,” he added. China, the minister explained, “calls for speeding up the realization of the independent statehood of Palestine and the

convening of a broader and more effective international peace conference to realize the peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel.” “Palestine never achieved its legitimate national rights and did not establish an indepen-

dent state,” he said, stressing that “this is the root of all problems and the essence of the West Asia problem,” and the United States must work seriously to strengthen the cease-fire.

Last week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced its opposition to any military operation in the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, warning of a humanitarian catastrophe if fighting continued to there.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement that Beijing is closely following the situation in the Rafah area, and “opposes and condemns actions that harm civilians and violate international law.”

Israel waged a genocidal war on besieged Gaza on October 7 after Hamas carried out its historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

So far, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 28,985 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 68,883 others.

## UN Chief: Taliban Set Unacceptable Conditions for Attending UN Meeting

DOHA, Qatar (AP) – The Taliban set unacceptable conditions for attending a UN-sponsored meeting about Afghanistan, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Monday.

Taliban demands included the exclusion of Afghan civil society members from the talks in Doha, Qatar, and treatment that amounted to official recognition of the Taliban as the country’s legitimate rulers, Guterres said at the conclusion of a two-day meeting in Qatar.

The Taliban seized power in 2021, as US and NATO forces withdrew following two decades of war. No country rec-

ognizes them as Afghanistan’s government, and the UN has said that recognition is almost impossible while bans on female education and employment remain in place.

The two-day meeting in Doha brought together member states and special envoys. But the Taliban didn’t attend because their demands had not been met.

“I received a letter (from the Taliban) with a set of conditions to be present in this meeting that were not acceptable,” Guterres told a news conference. “These conditions denied us the right to talk to other representatives of Afghan society and demanded a

treatment that would, to a large extent, be similar to recognition.”

While he denied the Taliban absence was damaging the process, he said it would have been useful to discuss the meeting’s conclusions with them. “It did not happen today. It will happen in the near future. I think we will find a solution to allow for the participation of the Taliban.”

Taliban officials were not immediately available for comment.

The biggest point of contention between the international community and the Taliban are the bans imposed on women

and girls. The Taliban insist the bans are a domestic matter and reject criticism as outside interference, but Guterres said meeting participants agreed it was essential to revoke the restrictions.

Another is the appointment of a UN special envoy, which the Taliban oppose.

Guterres said there needed to be “clear consultations” with the Taliban to have clarification of the envoy’s role and who it could be to “make it attractive” from their point of view.

He said it was in the Taliban’s interests to be part of the consultations.

## Afghan Ex-Commandos Blocked From Relocating to UK by British Colleagues

LONDON (Arab News) – Elite Afghan soldiers who served alongside coalition forces against the Taliban were rejected from relocating to the UK by British special forces personnel, the BBC reported on Monday.

Documents leaked to the national broadcaster reveal that despite compelling evidence of involvement in the anti-Taliban campaign — a prerequisite of the British relocation scheme — many Afghan commando applications were axed by UK special forces reviewers.

The former commandos were eligible to apply for relocation under

the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, but dozens have since been attacked or killed by the Taliban after being rejected.

The CF 333 and ATF 444 units, dubbed the “Triples,” fought alongside British special forces in some of the most dangerous campaigns of the war.

Their relocation applications appear to have been sent to their former colleagues in Britain for approval or rejection as part of a new standard operating procedure.

But the designated chain of command has been criticized over an apparent conflict of interest, with

special forces units in the UK, including the SAS, long facing controversy over war crimes allegations.

The Afghan soldiers applying for relocation may have been able to add crucial eyewitness accounts of war crimes, threatening the reopening of an official investigation that was shut down in 2019.

One British former special forces officer said: “It’s a clear conflict of interest. At a time when certain actions by UK special forces are under investigation by a public inquiry, their headquarters also had the power to prevent former Af-

ghan special forces colleagues and potential witnesses to these actions from getting safely to the UK.”

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey recently pledged to review about 2,000 Triples applications after discovering that the reasoning behind some rejections was “not robust.”

Internal emails from the UK’s Ministry of Defence demonstrate the power of special forces reviewers to make or break relocation applications.

In some cases, civil servants tried to challenge rejections made by the special forces but were rebuffed.

## World...

(Continued From Page One)

The Palestinians argue that Israel, by annexing large swaths of occupied land, has violated the prohibition on territorial conquest and the Palestinians’ right to self-determination, and has imposed a system of racial discrimination and apartheid.

“This occupation is annexation and supremacist in nature,” Malki said and appealed to the court to uphold the Palestinian right to self-determination and declare “that the Israeli occupation is illegal and must end immediately, totally and unconditionally.”

After the hearing, Malki said that the court’s opinion could increase chances for peace. “This ruling could help both Palestinians and Israelis to finally live side by side in peace, mutual security and dignity,” he told reporters.

An unprecedented 51 countries and three international organizations will address the court in the coming days.

Palestinians and leading rights groups argue that the occupation goes far beyond defensive measures. They say it has morphed into an apartheid system, bolstered by settlement building on occupied lands, that gives Palestinians second-class status and is designed to maintain Jewish hegemony from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Zionist regime captured the West Bank, east Al-Quds and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state.

Israel has built 146 settlements across the West Bank, according to watchdog group Peace Now, many of which resemble fully developed suburbs and small towns. The settlements are home to more than 500,000 Zionist settlers, while around 3 million Palestinians live in the territory.

Israel annexed east Al-Quds and considers the entire city to be its capital. An additional 200,000 Zionists live in settlements built in east Al-Quds. Palestinian residents of the city face systematic discrimination, making it difficult for them to build new homes or expand existing ones.

Israel withdrew all of its soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but continued to control the territory’s airspace, coastline and population registry. Israel and Egypt imposed a blockade on Gaza when Hamas won elections there in 2007.

The international community overwhelmingly considers the settlements to be illegal. Israel’s annexation of east Al-Quds, home to the city’s most sensitive holy sites, is not internationally recognized.

It’s not the first time the court has been asked to give an advisory opinion on Israeli policies.

In 2004, it said a separation barrier Israel built through east Al-Quds and parts of the West Bank was “contrary to international law.” It also called on the Zionist regime to immediately halt construction. Israel has ignored the ruling.

Also, late last month, the court ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in its campaign in Gaza. The order came at a preliminary stage of a case filed by South Africa accusing the Zionist regime of genocide.

Palestinian UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour, at times overcome with emotion, concluded Monday’s hearing with an impassioned plea to the 15-judge panel to “guide the international community in upholding international law, ending injustice and achieving a just and lasting peace.”

He urged judges to “guide us towards a future in which Palestinian children are treated as children, not as (a) demographic threat, in which the identity of the group to which we belong does not diminish the human rights to which we are all entitled.”

## Palestinian...

(Continued From Page One)

access to Gaza’s north, with over half of the aid missions refused access in January. This is up from 15 percent in December.

The agency added that Israeli forces “at times required justifications” for fuel destined for health facilities and “imposed reductions on the volume of assistance, such as the quantity of food”.

According to the agency, the restrictions on aid leave 300,000 people facing a growing risk of famine. Many are resorting to grinding up animal fodder for sustenance.

## Lawyer...

(Continued From Page 2)

It was crystal clear that the witnesses had been ordered to pursue a specific agenda during the legal procedure of the imprisoned Iranian official, even though they tried to conceal it, Bodstrom emphasized.

Nouri was arrested upon arrival at Stockholm Airport in November 2019 and was immediately imprisoned. He has been illegally jailed for three and a half years in solitary confinement in Sweden.

He was put on trial on unfounded allegations staged against him by elements representing the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group that has openly boasted about carrying out terrorist operations against Iranian officials and civilians perceived to be supporters of the government.

Back in December, the Swedish Court of Appeals finally confirmed Nouri’s sentence of life imprisonment over his alleged role in the execution of some MKO members in Iran in the 1980s.

A Swedish court sentenced Nouri to life imprisonment in 2022. The court, which was described by Iran as illegitimate in the first place, convicted Nouri of “war crimes and crimes against humanity” entirely based on claims made by MKO terrorists living in exile across Europe.

## Spain to Impose Sanctions on Violent Zionist Settlers

MADRID (Dispatches) – Spain will impose sanctions on violent Israeli settlers in the West Bank unilaterally if its European Union partners fail to reach an agreement on the issue, Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said on Monday.

He said Spain, which has also been critical of the Zionist regime’s military onslaught in Gaza, will push for the approval of such

sanctions during a meeting of EU’s foreign ministers held in Brussels on Monday.

“If there’s no agreement, Spain will proceed individually with these sanctions against the violent settlers,” Albares told reporters before the meeting.

Irish Foreign Minister Michael Martin said earlier on Monday he hoped the EU countries would unanimously approve these sanctions.

Last week, French authorities banned 28 Israeli settlers from entering the country, accusing them of attacking Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

UN figures show that daily settler attacks have more than doubled since Oct. 7.

European officials have expressed concern about rising violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.