

TEHRAN -- Iran on Sunday condemned the suspension of funding by some Western countries for the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), a lifeline for over two million people in besieged Gaza, saying such a move is an endorsement of war crimes and genocide by the Israeli regime. "Putting pressure and restrictions on the humanitarian activities of UNRWA or hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid to a nation facing the harsh conditions of war and the imminent threat of genocide is essentially nothing but an endorsement of the narrative of a criminal regime accused of committing genocide," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

TEHRAN -- The fifth and final court hearing in the trial process of Swedish National Johan Floderus over espionage charges against the Islamic Republic has been held here Sunday.

Floderus has been charged with "corruption on earth" through acting against Iranian security and territorial integrity in concert with the Zionist regime's spy agencies. Two lawyers of the defendant read out their defenses for their client, with one of them saying that they would offer a detailed letter of their defense to the court. The judge ruled that the lawyers should submit their defense within a week.

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Viewpoint

Is the ICJ Verdict A License to Continue the Gaza Genocide?

Iraqi Resistance Groups Strike Naval Facility in Haifa

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraq's anti-terror resistance groups on Sunday launched a drone attack on a strategic naval facility in the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the regime's months-long genocidal war on Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which is a coalition of anti-terror fighters, was cited by the resistance-affiliated Sabereen News as saying that the strike targeted Zevulun naval facility near the port city of Haifa.

There were no reports on the extent of damage and number of possible casualties.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television news network confirmed the drone strike on Zevulun and said the attack was in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Lebanon's Hezbollah also targeted a gathering of Israeli soldiers in Birkat Risha, Al-Manar TV reported.

The resistance movement used precision missile weaponry, scoring direct hits to support the Palestinian nation in Gaza, it added.

Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli military said that its warplanes had struck two military sites in the towns of Zibqin and Houla in southern Lebanon.

Last week, the Iraqi resistance groups said they had entered the second phase of their anti-Israel operations, which "ensures enforcing the blockade on Zionist maritime navigation in the Mediterranean and putting the entity's ports out of service."

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has expanded its targeting circle following the Israeli regime's adamant refusal to implement a ceasefire and put an end to 113 days of brutal aggression against Palestinians in Gaza.

Earlier in the day, the Iraqi resistance was reported to have targeted six U.S. occupation bases in Syria and Iraq in reprisal for Washington's unwavering support for the Israeli war on the besieged territory.

There are roughly 2,500 American troops in Iraq and some 900 in Syria as part of what Washington claims to be a fighting force against Daesh.

The U.S. has maintained its presence, although, the Arab countries and their allies defeated the takfiri terrorist group in late 2017.

According to U.S. officials, over 118 attacks against

American troops in Iraq and Syria have been reported since mid-October as anti-U.S. sentiments are running high across the region over Washington's firm support for the Israeli war on Gaza.

The Iraqi resistance forces have targeted major U.S.-occupied military bases in Iraq and Syria, warning the United States against funding and supporting Israeli war crimes against Palestinians in Gaza.

In Yemen, a senior member of the Ansarullah resistance movement said that all U.S. and British vessels have now become "legitimate targets", hours after the United States and Britain launched a fresh series of military strikes on the country.

Muhammad al-Bukhaiti, a member of Ansarullah's political bureau, told Al-Mayadeen that Yemeni armed forces will continue to strike Israeli-owned ships and vessels heading towards ports in the occupied territories as long as the Israeli onslaught on Gaza continues.

He underscored that "all American and British vessels have become legitimate targets for the Yemeni Armed Forces in response to their direct and declared aggression against the Republic of Yemen."

Yemeni forces, he said, are yearning for an outright confrontation with American troops, stating that further deployment of U.S. and British soldiers to Yemen will expand the scope of targets that Yemenis can go for.

"The presence of U.S. and UK special forces on the Yemeni soil will provoke the entire walks of the society, and will bring them together in order to stand up to aggression," Bukhaiti said.

He called on Washington, London and the Tel Aviv regime to immediately stop the devastating military campaign against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip if they want to spare their respective ships from Yemeni retaliatory attacks.

"A British warship was directly struck in the vicinity of a U.S. ship," Bukhaiti said.

Yemen's Al-Masirah television reported on Saturday evening that two airstrikes targeted the port of Ras Issa, Yemen's main oil export terminal, in the strategic western province of Hudaydah.

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's

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Navy Sets Up Command Centers in Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean



Moboin Azimi Wins Silver at Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin



UNRWA, UN Chief Slam Defunding as 'Collective Punishment' for 2mn Palestinians



Simorgh Carries Three Satellites Into Orbit



This photo released by the Iranian Defense Ministry on Jan. 28, 2024 shows a satellite carrier being launched at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province.

TEHRAN -- Iran on Sunday successfully launched three satellites for the first time using its carrier developed by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

The satellites were sent to a minimum orbit of 450km (280 miles). One satellite weighing 32 kg (71 pounds) and two nano-satellites of less than 10 kg each were propelled using the Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier

rocket.

The nano-satellites, named Kayhan-2 and Hatef-1, will be used to test narrowband communication and geopositioning technology.

The larger satellite, named Mahda and built by the Iranian Space Agency, will aim to test the accuracy of the Simorgh rocket in delivering multiple cargoes to space.

Iran's Information and Communica-

tions Technology Minister Isa Zarepour said the Mahda had already sent signals back to Earth.

"I congratulate this important achievement to the beloved people and space experts, especially my colleagues at the Iranian Space Research Center and the Defense Ministry," he noted.

Footage released by national television showed the rocket launched

Sunday bore the slogan "We Can" in Farsi.

The Simorgh is a two-stage, liquid-fueled rocket the Iranians described as being designed to place satellites into a low Earth orbit.

Despite sanctions imposed by Western countries in recent years, Iran has managed to take giant strides in the civilian space program. It is among the world's top 10 countries capable of developing and launching satellites.

Earlier this month, Iran launched its Sorayya satellite with a rocket built by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iran on Saturday said its scientific and research progress in the field of aerospace is an inalienable and legitimate right of the nation.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani denounced the "interventionist" stance of France, Germany, and Britain laid out in a joint statement on January 26 about the launch of the Sorayya satellite into a low Earth orbit (LEO) with the Qaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV).

Tehran, he said, does not wait for permission from certain countries in order to use peaceful technologies for scientific advances.

Under former President Hassan Rouhani, Iran slowed its space program, but under President Ebrahim Raisi, the program has pushed forward.

West Avenges ICJ Ruling With Aid Cut to Palestinians

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- Heavy fighting raged in Gaza Sunday amid a fierce row over the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees that has called its future into question.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on donor states to guarantee the flow of vital aid to Gaza after several halted funding to the agency, UNRWA, over Israeli claims that some of its staff participated in the October 7 attacks.

The Zionist military on Sunday said special forces were continuing to engage in "intensive battles" in Gaza's main southern city of Khan Younis, in the face of fierce resistance by Palestinian fighters.

Strikes were also carried out in central and northern Gaza, it added.

As heavy fighting sent more people fleeing south towards the Egyptian border, the row over the UNRWA aid agency for Palestinian refugees deepened.

The occupying regime's unspecified accusations about the involvement of some of its staff in Hamas's October 7 attack have added a new dimen-

sion to the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Donors including Germany, Britain, Italy, Australia and Finland on Saturday followed the lead of the United States, which said it had suspended additional funding to the agency over the accusations.

"While I understand their concerns -- I was myself horrified by these accusations -- I strongly appeal to the governments that have suspended their contributions to, at least, guarantee the continuity of UNRWA's operations," Guterres said late Saturday.

He said the "abhorrent alleged acts" of some UNRWA staff should not mean that its thousands of other humanitarian workers should be penalized.

"The dire needs of the desperate populations they serve must be met," he said.

The occupying regime's invasion of Gaza has martyred at least 26,422 people, most of them women and children, according to the health ministry in the territory.

At least 65,087 others have been injured in that time. Over the past 24 hours, 165 Pales-

tinians were martyred and 290 injured in the besieged enclave, the ministry added.

Zionist forces killed journalist Iyad Ahmed al-Rawag in an attack on the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, a statement from the Government Media Office confirmed.

Rawag was a broadcaster and program presenter on Sawt Al-Aqsa Radio.

"The number of journalist martyrs has risen to (120 journalists) since the start of the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip," the office said in a statement.

Unverified reports of Rawag's death had circulated on social media since Friday.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said Israel's complete rejection of the International Court of Justice ruling on Friday is what has "led to the situation we're in right now".

The international community must make international humanitarian law "applicable to everyone", he said.

Long-strained relations between Israel and UNRWA deteriorated rapidly after the UN body condemned tank shelling

it said had hit a shelter for displaced people in Khan Younis on Wednesday.

It said the tank shelling killed 13 people at the shelter where tens of thousands of displaced people had been registered.

There were heavy clashes in Khan Younis overnight, including mortar rounds fired by Palestinian fighters at Israeli tanks, the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said.

Rockets were also fired into southern occupied territories, they said, and there was fighting in several neighborhoods of Gaza City and further north.

The Kerem Shalom crossing with Occupied Palestine, where aid is inspected and sent into Gaza, was blocked Sunday by protesters including the families of captives, said COGAT, the Israeli agency in charge of affairs in the Palestinian territory.

Extremist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is facing growing domestic pressure over his handling of the conflict, doubled down on his vow to continue the Gaza invasion.

The UNRWA row follows the

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