

U.S. Says Framework Reached for Gaza Captives Deal, Hamas Denies It

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Negotiators seeking to broker a deal for the release of additional captives held by Palestinian resistance movement Hamas have developed a “framework” that could lead to an eventual deal, the White House said Monday.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby described the ongoing talks as “constructive,” but maintained that while progress has been made there is not a “deal that’s on the table and imminently ready to be announced.”

“We think there’s a framework here for another hostage deal that could really make a difference in terms of getting more hostages out, getting more aid in, and actually getting the violence to come down, and that would reduce, of course, civilian casualties,” he said during an interview with the MSNBC television network.

“A lot of promise here, but again, I want to be very, very clear there’s



Palestinians react as an Israeli military vehicle burns after it was hit by Palestinian resistance fighters who entered areas in the occupied territories, at the Israeli side of the fence separating Gaza from the occupied territories, on October 7, 2023.

still diplomacy ahead of us, still a lot of discussions to occur before we can get there,” he added.

The Washington Post newspaper reported Thursday that U.S. President Joe Biden is sending CIA Director William Burns abroad on a mission to help broker the major deal.

Burns is being sent to Europe to partake in talks with a trio of re-

gional officials, including his Israeli and Egyptian counterparts David Barnea and Abbas Kamel, and Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, it said.

However, Hamas said on Monday that releasing captives it is holding would require a guaranteed end to the Zionist offensive in Gaza and withdrawal of all invasion forces, reiterating its position after the oc-

cupying regime held a meeting with Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

“The success of the Paris meeting is dependent on the Occupation (Israel) agreeing to end the comprehensive aggression on Gaza Strip,” senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters.

It was not immediately clear if, with this condition met, Hamas would free all or some of the 132 captives Israel says remain in Gaza. Hamas had previously said a full release would require that Israel free all of the thousands of Palestinians held on security grounds in its prisons.

A Palestinian official, close to mediation talks, who requested anonymity, said that for Hamas to sign a follow-up deal to the November truce in which it released dozens of captives, it wants the Zionist regime to agree to end the carnage and withdraw from Gaza — though implementation would not necessarily be immediate.

Resistance... (Continued From Page One)

injury of 100,000 Palestinians in Gaza at the hands of Zionists with US-built munitions,” Abu Ala al-Walal wrote in a social media post.

He said Washington’s contradictory behavior dispelled the myth about its self-proclaimed advocacy for human rights and exposed its criminal nature and ugly face to the entire world.

The hypocrisy has got to the point that the U.S. has even lost international sympathy and solidarity, and it is now in isolation, he said.

Three American forces were killed and at least 25 others wounded in a drone attack in northeast Jordan near the Syrian border, the United States military said.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, claimed attacks targeting three bases, including one on the Jordan-Syria border.

Zionist... (Continued From Page One)

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories, warned that suspending funding “overtly defies” an International Court of Justice order to allow more aid into Gaza.

Correspondents in Gaza reported a mass exodus of people from the western areas of Gaza City, including Al-Shati Camp, Al-Shifa Medical Complex, Al-Nasr Street neighborhoods, the Ansar areas, the universities, and the shelters in the Al Rimal area towards northern and eastern areas.

Renewed Israeli airstrikes on residential areas in western Gaza City left residents trapped in their homes and in shock at the devastation.

Israeli forces withdrew from the area for a short period of time before coming back and targeting people.

“Last night felt like day one in the war,” Aseel Zein al-Din told Middle East Eye.

“At around 6 p.m., the bombardment started throughout the city, it shook our house. We did not have internet connectivity, so we did not know where to flee,” the 23-year-old added.

Residents in west Gaza City told Middle East Eye on Monday that Zionist forces have been bombing the area without allowing residents to flee, or providing safe zones or passages.

“The occupation forces sent quadcopters with microphones demanding us to leave western Gaza City without providing us with a safe passage to flee,” Yara Badr al-Din said.

The areas which have been bombed include tal al-Hawa, eastern and western Remal and the al-Sabra neighborhood.

“The Israeli tanks are now very back to the Al-Senaa area, Al-Shefa St. and Ansar. The majority of people around us decided to flee to eastern Gaza City, but the east still has occupation forces and vehicles, making it unsafe. We are trapped in our house and have decided to stay at home,” she continued.

The 32-year-old called the renewed bombing, after the Israeli withdrawal, a “betrayal.”

“The Israeli forces withdrew from western Gaza already, and families started moving back to our houses, only to be shocked when the tanks returned yesterday. My sister was about to return to her apartment in the Cairo-Mushaha residential tower, but it was bombed yesterday. I am grateful she was not there yet,” she said.

Protesting... (Continued From Page One)

“Our goal is to put pressure on the government to rapidly find solutions out of the crisis.”

The movement in France is another manifestation of a global food crisis worsened by Russia’s nearly two-year full-scale war in Ukraine, a major food producer.

French farmers assert that higher prices for fertilizer, energy and other inputs for growing crops and feeding livestock have eaten into their incomes.

Protesters also argue that France’s massively subsidized farming sector is over-regulated and hurt by food imports from countries where agricultural producers face lower costs and fewer constraints. Rousseau used Ukrainian sugar producers as an example, saying their soaring exports to Europe since Russia invaded in February 2022 are “untenable” for European counterparts.

Taxi drivers with other grievances also organized drive-slow protests Monday. Authorities elsewhere in the country also reported disruptions and recommended that road users switch to public transport if possible.

Pakistan... (Continued From Page 2)

“an important source of stability for the whole region.” He said both sides had agreed to speed up the development of border markets along the frontier to further encourage trade and cultural exchanges.

They would also establish a new “consultative mechanism” at the ministerial level and plan regular meetings to be held in each other’s capitals. “Our discussions were marked by convergences of all issues of mutual interest,” he said.

Islamabad said it hit bases of the separatist Baloch Liberation Front and Baloch Liberation Army, while Tehran said it struck militants from the Jaish al-Adl (JAA) terrorist group.

The militant groups operate in an area that includes Pakistan’s southwestern province of Balochistan and Iran’s southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

On Saturday, gunmen in southeastern Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province killed nine people, with Islamabad’s ambassador identifying them as Pakistanis.

The pair agreed to confront the “menace of terrorism” together, especially in the mountainous region on their shared border. They also pledged to lift the regions economically.

Amir-Abdollahian said that “terrorists” in the border areas are supported by third countries.

Iran’s foreign minister also met Pakistan’s caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and the country’s Chief of Army Staff Gen. Syed Asim Munir, discussing developments pertaining to mutual relations, particularly the promotion of security and border cooperation.

In a meeting in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, the two sides also exchanged views about regional issues and the continuation of the occupying regime of Israel’s war crimes against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Hamas Denounces Israeli ‘Return to Gaza’ Conference Amid Calls for Palestinian Expulsion

GAZA (Dispatches) – Hamas has strongly condemned the Zionist regime’s “Return to Gaza” conference, at which the regime’s minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for the expulsion of Palestinians.

Israel’s far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for the “voluntary migration” of Palestinians at a “Return to Gaza” conference, where 21 new illegal Israeli settlements were also outlined. Hamas strongly opposed

the conference, asserting that it contradicts interim rulings from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concerning the war on Gaza.

The Palestinian resistance movement accused the occupying regime of disregarding international law and United Nations resolutions by openly advocating for the “voluntary migration” of Palestinians.

In a statement, Hamas urged the international community

and the UN to take a firm stance against the conference, condemning it unequivocally as a “fascist conference based on the idea of ethnic cleansing.”

The call for “voluntary migration” has garnered charges of ethnic cleansing and forced displacement, and a rare rebuke from US officials. But there are no signs of the calls losing steam within the regime.

Last month, Zionist prime

minister Benjamin Netanyahu told one lawmaker who’d called for “voluntary immigration” from Gaza that he was working to facilitate that movement.

“Our problem is (finding) countries that are willing to absorb Gazans, and we are working on it,” Netanyahu said.

The Zionist regime’s military action has already forcibly displaced the vast majority of the population within Gaza.

After Mounting Pressure

Report: U.S. Discussing Withholding or Delaying Arms Deliveries to Israel

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The White House is discussing withholding or delaying the shipments of weapons to the Zionist regime in order amid increasing international pressure on Washington to stop its support for the genocidal regime, NBC News has reported.

According to the report, Israel

has asked the U.S. to send additional aid, including powerful aerial bombs. NBC News cited three current and one former U.S. official as saying that the U.S. is “considering slowing or pausing the deliveries in the hope that doing so will prod the Israelis to take action.”

The deliveries of 155 mm ar-

tillery rounds and equipment that converts ‘dumb bombs’ into precision-guided munitions is reportedly under review by the Pentagon. At the same time, officials were quoted as saying that “no decisions have been made” on the matter, and that the U.S. “is likely to continue to provide other conversion kits that make Israeli mu-

nitions more precise”.

The officials added that the White House is “not likely to slow the delivery of air defenses,” but “could possibly withhold or delay” the weapons used in the aggression on Gaza.

More than 26,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the fighting broke out in October.

Taliban Urge Countries to Respect Governance of Afghanistan

KABUL (Arab News) – Countries should respect the governance and development choices of Afghanistan’s Taliban government, its interim Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi told foreign representatives at a meeting in Kabul on Monday.

Officials from Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan were present at the meeting, which sought to improve relations between Afghanistan and its regional neighbors.

In his opening speech, Muttaqi said “imposed imported models” were not effective for Afghanistan and that “alien prescriptions,” including plans proposed by the UN, had “led to nothing but war, instability and occupation.”

“The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan respects others’ interests, choices, government structures and development models and in return expects others to respect Afghanistan’s interests and governance and development choices and mod-

els,” he said in a statement issued by the ministry of foreign affairs.

“Afghanistan does not seek confrontation and controversy with any side, rather always stresses positive engagement. Therefore, our choices shall be respected. Instead of proposing governance models and pointing fingers at the system, it is better to engage on mutual interests.”

The Taliban returned to power in August 2021 after two decades of war that killed tens of thousands of Afghans. Their takeover was followed by the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the collapse of the Washington-backed government led by Ashraf Ghani.

The new rulers are not officially recognized by any country, and most nations closed their embassies in Kabul soon after the group’s return to power.

In September, China became the first country to send an ambassador to Afghanistan since

the takeover, though Beijing later reiterated its long-standing demands for the group to pursue “moderate and prudent” policies in order to gain formal recognition, among other things.

An independent assessment commissioned by the UN last year showed that recognition of the Taliban government was linked to compliance with Afghanistan’s international treaty obligations and commitments, which require it to immediately remove sweeping curbs on women’s rights to education and employment opportunities that were introduced by the new rulers.

Muttaqi said on Monday that regional cooperation should include “respecting one another’s choices of indigenous and traditional development models.”

He also called for the removal of sanctions on Afghanistan, which were imposed after the Taliban’s return and led to a worsening economic and humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country.