

LONDON (Dispatches) – British Labour Party has suspended lawmaker Kate Osamor after she said the Zionist regime's war on Gaza should be remembered as an example of genocide in the world. Osamor sent a message to her party members on Sunday – the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day – listing Gaza among recent examples of genocide. "Tomorrow is Holocaust Memorial Day, an international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, the millions of other people murdered under Nazi persecution of other groups and more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and now Gaza."

Thought for Today
Whenever a tradition of the Holy Prophet is related to you, scrutinize it, do not be satisfied with mere verbatim repetition of the same because there are many people who repeat the words containing knowledge but only few ponder over them and try to fully grasp the meaning they convey.
Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UNRWA: Famine 'Inevitable' in Gaza After Funding Cuts

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The besieged Gaza Strip is to face "inevitable famine" due to a Western pause in funding the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, says an agency official.

"Famine was imminent," and now "inevitable," said Michael Fakhri, UN special rapporteur on the right to food, on Sunday.

"This collectively punishes over 2.2 million Palestinians."

Several Western countries, not least the United States and Britain, have suspended funding the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) following unproven allegations by the Israeli regime that some of the agency's staff were involved in Operation Al-Aqsa Storm of October 7, 2023.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories, has denounced the countries that have paused the funding. She says the decision defies the order by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to allow humanitarian assistance to reach Gaza.

The official also said the governments cutting funds to UNRWA are most likely violating their obligations under the Genocide Convention.

UN Secretary-General Antonio



Palestinians carry belongings as they flee Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip through the city's western exit on January 26, 2024.

Guterres is appealing to the governments that suspended the funding to "guarantee the continuity of operations."

Pharmacies Forced to Shut

Pharmacies have been forced to shut in the cities of Rafah and Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip because of a severe shortage of medicines, as the Zionist regime continues its onslaught on the enclave for the fourth month.

The population of Rafah has almost quadrupled since the beginning of the war on 7 October, with an esti-

mated 1.2 million people now living in the city, most of them displaced.

Muhammad Salem, a 25-year-old Palestinian in Khan Younis, can no longer find medicines for his mother who suffers from osteoporosis and requires a weekly supply of drugs.

At the beginning of the war, he could still visit a downtown Khan Younis pharmacy to obtain a month's supply, hoping the conflict would soon cease. But the area is no longer accessible because of the siege imposed by the Zionist regime's army and the presence of tanks there.

He then went to Rafah looking for pharmacies, but the last time

he managed to find medicines was three weeks ago.

"My mother's need for consistent treatment is critical due to her slow gait and osteoporosis," he told Middle East Eye.

The war subjected her to numerous shocks from constant bombings, adversely affecting her nervous system and triggering convulsions, he added. But hospitals are not capable of receiving cases like hers because of the surge in casualties following the Israeli army's incursion into Khan Younis city, and she now has to rely solely on painkillers.

Likewise, Fayza Hajo, a 62-year-old resident of Khan Younis, recounted her struggle as a diabetic patient unable to access treatment in Unrwa clinics.

Since 9 October, the Zionist regime announced a "total siege" on Gaza, barring entry of fuel, food, medicine and other essential commodities for the besieged Gaza population.

A very limited amount of aid has been allowed to enter Gaza since the beginning of hostilities in October, with the World Health Organisation describing the supplies as "a drop in the ocean" compared to the average 500 daily humanitarian aid trucks that used to enter the Strip before the war.

Report: U.S. Enables Daesh Attacks on Gov't-Controlled Areas of Syria



U.S. soldiers make their way to an oil production facility to meet with its management team, in Syria.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – U.S. troops controlling the 55-kilometer-long al-Tanf zone at the junction of the Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian borders are facilitating the infiltration of militants from the Daesh terrorist group into territories controlled by Syrian government forces, the Syrian newspaper Al-Watan reported.

According to the paper, Daesh terrorists, aided by the U.S., are moving from al-Tanf to various parts of the Syrian desert, where they are carrying out sabotage attacks against the Syrian army and allied formations.

According to Al-Watan's sources, there has been a "clear increase in the activity" of the Daesh in the Syrian Desert recently, especially after Zionist troops Forces launched their operation in the Gaza Strip. Thus, Daesh supporters carried out about 212 attacks on the Syrian military in 2023. In the first three weeks of this year alone, there have already been about 40 such attacks.

The sources claim that Washington is trying to strengthen the position of the Daesh in Syria as U.S. President Joe Biden is considering the possibility of a full pullout of U.S. troops from the country. To this end, the US is supporting the militants by training them and providing them with logistical assistance, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, according to the newspaper, Syria's government forces jointly with the Russian Armed Forces continue to carry out intensive strikes on Daesh hideouts in the Syrian Desert, as a result of which the militants suffer significant losses

in manpower.

Russian Special Presidential Envoy for Syria Alexander Lavrentyev told TASS in an interview about "a surge in terrorist activity supported by the United States" in Syria.

According to him, its main source "is currently located in the 55-kilometer-long al-Tanf zone controlled by the U.S.", where active training of the militants in Syria, Daesh terrorists continues, "who are then sent to Syrian territory with certain tasks".

Israel Missile Attack Kills Civilians

In another development, the Zionist regime has launched a deadly missile attack on the outskirts of the Syrian capital of Damascus as the occupying entity continues its brutal ground and air aggression against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Syrian media said the strikes targeted an area near the Sayeda Zeinab shrine in a southern suburb of Damascus on Monday, with initial reports putting the number of civilians killed at two in addition to material damage.

The Syrian Defense Ministry confirmed in a short statement the reports of the regime's strikes and said, "In the Zionist regime's aggression, some places in the south of Damascus were targeted, which led to the martyrdom and wounding of several civilians."

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that the airstrike was launched from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and targeted several locations in southern Damascus.

Eyewitnesses: Palestinians Detained, Abused in Israel's 'Safe Corridor' From Khan Younis

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Palestinians fleeing the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis through a supposedly "safe corridor" are being detained, humiliated and sometimes taken away to unknown locations by the Israeli military, according to eyewitnesses who spoke to Middle East Eye.

Early on Saturday morning, the Israeli army ordered civilians remaining in Khan Younis to travel further south to the border town of Rafah and al-Mawasi, an area close by. The military said Palestinians could travel through what it called a "safe corridor", but scores of civilians have since been detained there.

Zionist troops have set up a checkpoint 200 meters from al-Khair hospital in Khan Younis, in an area known

as al-Moaskar al-Garbi. Cameras and microphones have been installed at the checkpoint, with a military zone established behind it housing investigators and an iris-scanning device.

Footage posted online shows armed Israelis standing over a group of Palestinian men dressed in white jumpsuits, sitting cross-legged on the ground in an open area in which an Israeli flag, a military vehicle and a coach can also be seen. The men are blindfolded and have their hands tied behind their back. They are unable to move.

Belal, a 24-year-old from Block 107 in Khan Younis, told MEE that Zionist troops had ordered civilians travelling through the safe corridor to raise their arms, carry their IDs and proceed along a pre-determined route.

Civilians, grouped in batches of ten, were searched and questioned by Israeli investigators, and had their iris data recorded at the checkpoint. Some were detained for between two and five hours before being released, while others were put into trucks and taken to detention camps, where they are being held in unknown conditions.

According to the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor in Gaza, Israel is using its "safe corridor" as a "trap to murder and detain Palestinians fleeing Israeli violence".

Other civilians who had fled south through the corridor told MEE that they had witnessed children and disabled people being detained, as well as deliberate acts of humiliation.

Abd al-Fatah, a resident of block 106 in Khan Younis who is now in

Rafah, on Gaza's border with Egypt, said he and his family had been forced to go through the "safe corridor" to escape Israel's ongoing bombing.

"They detained my 16-year-old cousin, Ahmed. He passed through the camera with 19 members of our family. Although they released the rest of his family, they singled him out and asked him to stay. He is just a child, and his detention appears to be arbitrary. Currently, we do not know his whereabouts or why he was detained," he said.

Abd al-Fatah told MEE that the Israeli army did not allow anyone leaving Khan Younis to drive, meaning they had to take the journey by foot. Video footage showed one man pushing his disabled mother in a wheelbarrow.

Australia's Pro-Palestinian Activists to Continue Targeting Israeli Ships

MELBOURNE, Australia (Dispatches) – Ports have emerged as the center of pro-Palestine rallies in Australia as protesters target Israeli ships, and vessels alleged to have links with the regime.

Last week, dozens of people attempted to stop the ZIM Ganges container ship from reaching the Port of Melbourne, with police eventually deploying pepper spray to break up the blockade against a backdrop of shipping containers and cranes, the familiar symbols of a global industrialized world.

Dozens were arrested after the picket blocked access to the wharf and forced the Victorian International Container Terminal (VICT) to close. Voluntary legal observers (MALS) who were accompanying the protesters say they were met by about 200 police, some of whom were on

horseback. Tasnim Mahmoud Sammak of the community organization Free Palestine Melbourne was at the blockade, which lasted for four days.

"I have family in Gaza and they have nowhere to go in the bombarded prison it has become," she said.

Sofia Sabbagh, a prolific Melbourne-based Palestinian artist, was also there for the final showdown.

"They circled us forming lines, intimidating us," she told Al Jazeera, saying the group complied with a request to move on to avoid arrest.

The legal observers say the crowd was not threatening and people were just chanting.

"Once we were on public property, police pushed us away from our medical supplies and gear, pulling one person out of a wheelchair

and pushing over a lot of other people, pepper spraying over 20 people," Sabbagh added. "I was traumatized seeing a person being dragged out of their wheelchair."

Victoria Police said the use of pepper spray was in response to the "dynamic nature" of the blockade and the threat of "aggressive" protesters.

After the dozen or so arrests, the exhausted enclave of activists descended onto Sandridge Beach. There, Declan Furber Gillick, a representative from the revolutionary group the Black People's Union gave an impassioned final speech calling for the continued disruption of the military-industrial complex through the use of "peaceful, people-powered, revolutionary tactics" before the group disbanded and went home.

Turkey Captures Daesh Gunmen in Istanbul Church Attack

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Turkish authorities have captured two gunmen who shot one person dead on Sunday during a service at a church in Istanbul, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said, in an attack claimed by Daesh.

Yerlikaya said the attack, which Ankara condemned, took place around 0840 GMT at the Italian Santa Maria Catholic Church in Istanbul's Sariyer district, and that one Turkish citizen — who was targeted by the gunmen — was killed while attending the service.

"The two murder suspects who caused the death of our citizen Tuncer Cihan during the Sunday service at the Santa Maria Church in Sariyer this morning have been captured," Yerlikaya later said on social media platform X, without saying what the motive for the attack was or who had carried it out.

Shortly before, Daesh had claimed responsibility for the at-

tack in a statement on Telegram.

CCTV footage from inside of the church, verified by Reuters, showed the masked gunmen entering the building and shooting the man who was walking in front of them. The CCTV footage shows the men leaving almost immediately afterwards.

President Tayyip Erdogan called the church's priest to offer his condolences and support, his office said, publishing a video of the call.

Pope Francis conveyed his condolences over the attack after his weekly Angelus prayer.

"I express my closeness to the community of Saint Mary Draperis Church in Istanbul that suffered an armed attack during mass that caused one death," Pope Francis said.

Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni said on X that Italy's foreign ministry was following updates on the "despicable act" and condemned it.