

Israel's War Cabinet Shaken by Dispute Between Netanyahu, Rival

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A top cabinet minister of the Zionist regime headed to Washington on Sunday for talks with U.S. officials, sparking a rebuke from prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to an Israeli official, in a sign of widening cracks in the occupying regime's wartime cabinet nearly five months into its onslaught on Gaza.

The trip by Benny Gantz, a centrist political rival who joined Netanyahu's hard-line cabinet early in the war on Oct. 7, comes amid deep disagreements between Netanyahu and President Joe Biden over the brutal aggression.

An official from Netanyahu's Likud party said Gantz's visit was without authorization from the Zionist regime's leader. The official said Netanyahu had a "tough talk" with Gantz about the trip and told him the regime has "just one



Zionist troops carry the casket of sergeant Dolev Malca during his funeral in Shlomi, northern parts of the Israeli-occupied territories, on March 3, 2024.

prime minister."

An Israeli official said Gantz had informed Netanyahu of his intention to travel to the U.S. and to coordinate messaging with him. The official said the visit is meant to strengthen ties with Washington,

bolster support for the regime's ground aggression and push for the release of captives held in Gaza.

Gantz is set to meet with U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and national security adviser Jake Sul-

livan, according to his National Unity party.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the dispute with the media.

Netanyahu has tanked in popularity since the war broke out, according to most opinion polls, with many Israelis holding him responsible for Hamas' operation.

The Zionist regime's genocide has killed at least 30,410 Palestinians, around two-thirds of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Around 80% of the population of 2.3 million have fled their homes, and UN agencies say hundreds of thousands are on the brink of famine.

Critics say Netanyahu's decision-making has been tainted by political considerations. The criticism is particularly focused on plans for postwar Gaza.

Paper: Hezbollah Arrests 'Dutch Armed Group'

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Hezbollah has arrested a Dutch armed group in a suburb of the Lebanese capital Beirut amid efforts by foreign intelligence agencies to gather information leading to assassination of the resistance movement's members, paper says.

Lebanon's Al Akhbar daily carried the report on Saturday, saying that the arrest had taken place last Wednesday.

It described the arrestees as a six-member military detail in possession of military-grade arms, ammunition, and equipment.

The paper cited sources as saying that the group had claimed to be members of the Dutch armed

forces.

They alleged to have been sent to Lebanon to purportedly simulate evacuation of Dutch nationals.

The Dutch government has claimed to be wary of exacerbation of current crossfire between Hezbollah and the Israeli regime, which started after the regime began taking the Gaza Strip under a genocidal war on October 7.

According to Lebanese journalist Hasan Illaik, however, the armed group did not coordinate the alleged simulation operation with the Dutch Embassy.

"It was also discovered that they launched their operation from Kaslik," a coastal town north of Beirut, "rather than from

the Embassy or a place affiliated with the Embassy," he added.

"Dutch ambassador to Lebanon quickly arrived at the [foreign] ministry to [mount] pressure [towards] their release, under the pretext that they had not committed any crime," Illaik noted.

This is while the armed group had seriously violated the law by posing a "significant security threat," he said.

The report came amid intensifying efforts by the Israeli regime's spying apparatus and many of its counterparts around the world to dig up intelligence that could potentially contribute to assassination of members of Hezbollah and its fellow regional resistance movements.

On January 8, a senior commander of the Lebanese resistance movement was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon.

Wissam Hassan al-Tawil was killed when the strike hit the vehicle transporting him in the village of Khirbet Selm.

Earlier that month, the regime assassinated Saleh al-Aroui, a senior leader of the Gaza-based resistance movement of Hamas, in a drone strike against Beirut's Dahieh neighborhood.

Hezbollah has warned the regime that such targeted killings would not go unanswered. It has also strongly cautioned Tel Aviv against waging an all-out war against Lebanon.

U.S. ...

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around the world, calling for a ceasefire. Many Palestinians are facing starvation after months of fighting.

Many cities around the world saw demonstrations over the weekend, and the French and German governments called for an immediate ceasefire after Israeli forces opened fire on Palestinians who were waiting to get food. More than 100 people died in that incident on Thursday.

"I am really ashamed of my government supporting genocide," said another L.A. demonstrator who only went by Randy. "And I'm not one to support a government that does support genocide."

More than two million Palestinians have been forced to flee their homes due to the continued airstrikes by the Zionist regime, which began following the Oct. 7, 2023 operation by Hamas that killed roughly 1,200 illegal Zionist settlers and soldiers.

Many around the globe have been asking for the Zionist regime to remove its ban on allowing water, food and medical supplies into Gaza. The only place where Palestinians are able to receive aid is coming from Egypt at the Rafah Crossing.

"We are calling upon our government to cease giving financial military and diplomatic support to the genocide of our families," said Hasan.

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has led to no political or military outcomes for the Zionist regime.

Evidence suggests that the war will continue but there is no indication that the Israeli regime will win, al-Sayed was quoted by Al-Ahad news network as saying.

The fighters in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen are not just fighting the Zionists, this is one of the rare battles in history in terms of time, cruelty, conspiracy and sacrifices, he added.

The world is the supporter of occupied Palestine, he said, adding that if the Zionist regime fails, all its supporters will fail.

The volume of devastation and damage from the ongoing war is huge but no political or military outcomes have been achieved, he said.

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shooting at the legs of Palestinians who continued to move toward the troops.

Israel has launched a brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7. The ensuing Israeli bombardment has martyred 30,410 people and injured 71,700 others with mass destruction and shortages of necessities.

The Israeli war has pushed 85% of Gaza's population into internal displacement amid acute shortages of food, clean water, and medicine, while 60% of the enclave's infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, according to the UN.

The Zionist regime stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. An interim ruling in January ordered Tel Aviv to stop genocidal acts and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza.

Palestinians...

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The U.S. Central Command said in a statement on Saturday that together with Jordan's air force it had "con-

ducted a combined humanitarian assistance airdrop into Gaza ... to provide essential relief to civilians affected by the ongoing conflict".

The C-130 planes "dropped over 38,000 meals along the coastline of Gaza allowing for civilian access to the critical aid", it further claimed.

President Joe Biden had announced a day earlier that the U.S. would airdrop aid there after more than 100 Palestinians were killed on Thursday in an Israeli attack on a crowd waiting for food in Gaza City.

Additionally, a senior Lebanese cleric lambasted the controversial airdrop of, stating that Washington is seeking to cover up its complicity in Israeli war crimes and to divert the world's public opinion from its all-out support for the Tel Aviv regime.

"The United States' decision to airdrop humanitarian aid into Gaza is clearly an attempt to cover up its actions and unqualified military support for the Zionist enemy. It comes as the occupying regime is carrying out massacres against Gaza residents," Sheikh Hussam al-Eilani, the imam of al-Ghaffar Mosque in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, said on Sunday.

He went on to note that Arab and Muslim nations are uninfluenced by U.S. measure as they view Washington as the chief supporter of Israel's terrorism.

Eilani called upon the U.S. administration to refrain from providing unqualified support to the Zionist regime.

Independent Senator Bernie Sanders said that the United States cannot continue funding Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war machine as it presses ahead with its horrific genocide of the Palestinians trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"Children are starving in Gaza. Instead of opening up the borders and allowing humanitarian aid to come in, Israeli soldiers are shooting people who are desperately trying to get food off of trucks," he said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

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in the Gaza Strip who are subjected to the genocidal Israeli war.

Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with Muhammad Mamoun el-Kacimi el-Hassani, the Imam of the Grand Mosque of Algiers, in the Algerian capital.

"Today, raising awareness about the oppressed Palestinian Muslims in Gaza is not the main issue of the Muslim world but rather the mankind and it should be at the center of activities made by the mosques in Islamic territories," he said.

Mosques, he added, can also create "unity and cohesion among the Islamic Ummah."

Raisi further said that the Islamic Republic and Algeria share a common position on the Palestinian issue.

"If the same common position in supporting the oppressed Palestinian nation and confronting the Zionist regime existed in the entire Muslim world, would the Zionists dare commit such crimes against the oppressed Palestinians?" he asked.

Raisi also expressed Tehran's readiness to develop cultural ties with Algeria.

Hassani, for his part, lauded Iran's courageous and historic stance on the issue of Palestine and voiced hopes that other Muslim countries would follow suit.

Iran has called on Muslim countries to sever their political and economic relations with Israel, and cut off the regime's vital arteries.

Academic Boycott Against Israeli Universities Grows Every Day

ISTANBUL (Anadolu) – An academic and cultural boycott launched by a Palestinian advocacy group against the Zionist regime's universities is growing by the day, according to an official.

The Palestine and Arab World Coordinator of the Palestine Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), Nada Hussein, evaluated the reasons and impacts of the academic boycott against Israeli universities.

Hussein stated that PACBI, which is part of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions for Palestinians (BDS) movement, started its activities in 2004.

"The academic and cultural boycott campaign aims to prevent Israel from covering up its ongoing violations and crimes against Palestinians by exploiting art, culture, academia and sports," she stressed.

"The campaign specifically targets complicit Israeli institutions," she said.

Pointing out that the effective solidarity in Palestine's freedom and justice struggle is on the radical rise globally since the Israeli attacks on

Gaza, the official stated that thousands of scientists and corporations have demonstrated unique academic solidarity since Oct. 7, 2023.

She recalled the "Genocide Case," which was opened by South Africa against Tel Aviv at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for committing genocide against 2.3 million Palestinians.

"The boycott has become not only a moral obligation but also an obligation for all signatories to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide to impose a military embargo against Israel, as well as international isolation in academia, culture, arts and sports," she added.

Mentioning that academic groups worldwide give their support to the boycott by sending open letters, petitions and calls, Hussein said that they also press for a cease-fire, the opening of border crossings, the delivery of aid to the people of Gaza, and action to lift the blockade.

"The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) in Australia has announced the end of its contract with Israeli arms manu-

facturer Elbit Systems," she said.

The official further noted: "This decision comes after more than a year of a pressure campaign against the institute based on a call by the Palestinian Federation of University Professors and Employees Trade Unions (PFUUE)."

"PFUUE represents 6,000 Palestinian university faculty and staff working in more than 12 higher education institutions," she indicated.

Hussein stated that four Norwegian universities have recently terminated their relations with Israeli universities. OsloMet University in Oslo has frozen its exchange agreements with the University of Haifa in Israel and has also decided not to sign a cooperation agreement with any Israeli university in the future.

She said that the University of Bergen and the Bergen School of Architecture in Norway terminated two cooperation agreements with Israel's Bezael Academy of Arts due to its ties with the Israeli occupation army and its role in the design of military uniforms and equipment.

She emphasized that the University of Southeast Norway (USN) in

Norway also terminated its cooperation agreements with the University of Haifa and Hadassah Academic College in Israel.

Calling on the academic community to boycott Israeli universities as an integral part of the settler colonialism and apartheid system, Hussein said: "Tel Aviv University developed the Dahiya Doctrine, named about the southern region of Lebanon, which is associated with the excessive use of force by the Israeli army against the civilian population and infrastructure."

"Technion University, in cooperation with Elbit, one of Israel's largest arms companies, implemented the apartheid wall and surveillance technology," she pointed out, adding: "Ben-Gurion University houses the Institute for Internal Security, which develops Israeli military technology and cooperates with the army."

Hussein underlined that Israeli universities are complicit in the crimes committed against the Palestinian people, as they play a fundamental role in developing Israel's military knowledge.

Russia, Syria Pound Terrorists' Hideouts in Joint Operation

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – In a joint operation carried out by Syrian and Russian forces, terrorists' hideouts in Syria's Idlib and Latakia were destroyed on Sunday.

A local source reported that four bases of the terrorists in Idlib and northeast of Latakia were pounded during the operation. More than 9 people were killed during the

airstrikes, the source added.

According to the 2017 agreement among Iran, Russia, and Turkey as the guarantor countries of the Astana Peace Talks, four safe zones were established in Syria.

Three regions came under the control of the Syrian army in 2018, but the fourth region, which includes Idlib province in northwestern

Syria and small parts of Latakia, Hama, and Aleppo provinces, is still under the control of terrorist groups and adversary groups.

At the end of the summer of 2018, the leaders of Russia and Turkey reached an agreement in Sochi, Russia, during which Turkey promised to remove or disarm the terrorists based in that region without bloodshed.