

ANKARA (Dispatches) – President Tayyip Erdogan is set to discuss Turkey's efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during talks this week in Ankara, a Turkish diplomatic source said on Monday. Speaking at a diplomatic forum in Turkey at the weekend, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki said Abbas would pay a visit to Ankara on Tuesday and meet Erdogan. Turkey, which has harshly criticized the Zionist regime for its attacks on Gaza and backed measures to have it tried for genocide at the World Court, has repeatedly called for a ceasefire. But Ankara has no direct involvement in truce talks.

UN Rights Chief: 'Powder Keg' Gaza Could Ignite Wider War

GAZA (Dispatches) – United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk says the war in Gaza is a “powder keg” that could ignite a wider conflict with serious repercussions for West Asia and beyond.

In an address to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday, Turk said he was deeply concerned that the war – now in its 150th day – had already generated dangerous spillover in neighboring countries.

“Any spark could lead to a much broader conflagration,” Turk warned. “This would have implications for every country in the Middle East, and many beyond it.”

The UN high commissioner for human rights said it is “imperative to do everything possible to avoid” a wider escalation and specifically cited the military escalation between the Zionist regime and Hezbollah and other groups in



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Lebanon, calling them “extremely worrying”.

Since October 8, exchanges of fire between the Israeli army and Hezbollah as a direct result of the Gaza war have killed dozens of

people, displaced tens of thousands and destroyed vital infrastructure.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in Gaza in Israeli attacks since October 7.

Since November, Yemen's Ansa-

rullah movement has also been targeting ships on the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden that are affiliated with the Zionist regime and they are carrying out in protest against the war on Gaza.

The attacks have disrupted international trade on the shortest shipping route between Europe and Asia.

The United States, the Zionist regime's top ally, and the United Kingdom have led strikes on Yemen.

Turk said the attacks had not only disrupted global maritime trade but had also driven up the price of goods, which has had a significant impact on developing countries.

“There is a serious risk of the conflict extending to Yemen itself, with potentially severe harm to Yemen's people, already suffering from the humanitarian crisis generated by a decade of war,” he said.

Senior Israeli Army Officers Resign Amid Gaza Carnage



Israeli Channel 14 reports high-ranking resignations following the Gaza onslaught.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's Army spokesman Daniel Hagari and several high-ranking officials in the army's intelligence system have resigned amid the occupying regime's ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Senior members of the regime's military's Spokesperson's Unit have resigned, including Hagari, according to Israel's Channel 14.

Also among the resignations are Richard Hecht, the international spokesperson for the Israeli military. It has not been announced how many officials have left the unit, formerly led by Hagari, but Channel 14 described the large number of resignations at once during wartime as “unusual”.

The occupying regime launched a deadly onslaught on the Gaza Strip on October 7.

Earlier, a report in Al Jazeera said Hagari also submitted his resignation. However, the Doha-based news network later retracted the report.

Channel 14 has also since removed the entire story from its website.

Last week, Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant highlighted the heavy toll the war was inflicting on the regime's military.

“We are paying a very high price in our ranks... The costs we incur in terms of the numbers of deaths and injuries are very high.”

Despite causing a massive death toll and suffering fatalities, the occupying regime's military has stopped short of achieving the goals that it has been seeking to score through the war, such as “destroying” Hamas, finding the captives that the Gaza-based resistance movement is holding, and bringing about forced displacement of the Palestinian territory's population to neighboring Egypt.

The Israeli aggression has killed 30,400 people and injured 71,700 others with mass destruction and shortages of necessities.

Israeli Tanks Deliberately Ran Over Dozens of Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have been killing Palestinian civilians in Gaza by running them over with tanks and armored vehicles, a report by the Euro-Med Human Rights monitor states.

According to the report released on Monday, one of those killed was a Palestinian man in Gaza City's Zaytoun neighborhood on 29 February.

Eyewitnesses told the rights monitor that the man had his hands restrained, was stripped, and that he was alive while he was run over on asphalt.

Other similar incidents have also been carried out by the Israeli army, the rights monitor stated.

On 23 January, an Israeli tank ran over members of the Ghanam family while they were sleeping in a caravan in the Taiba Towers area of Khan Younis.

The attack resulted in the deaths of the father and his eldest daughter, while the remaining three children and wife were wounded.

The incident was confirmed by the 13-year-old daughter, Amina, who said that her father and older sister were killed when the tanks repeatedly drove over the caravan where the family had been sleeping.

As a result of the attack, Amina experienced extreme pressure in her eyes, almost losing her vision.

Running over Palestinians with heavy vehicles has been a technique employed by Zionist troops since the start of the carnage on Gaza on 7 October.

Euro-Med documented bulldozers and tanks crushing displaced Palestinians in their tents in the courtyard of the Kamal Adwan hospital on 16 Decem-

ber.

Images of crushed bodies at the scene clearly show marks consistent with being run over by a large armored vehicle.

One woman told Euro-Med that she was shocked when a tank suddenly ran over the tent where her family had sought shelter. The family survived the 20 February attack, close to the coast in Khan Younis.

Last week, Ramy Abdu, chairman of the rights group, told MEE he believed hundreds of Palestinians have been run over by Israeli tanks.

Most, he said, were in northern Gaza, in places such as Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Zeitoun, as well as along the coastal al-Rasheed road that Palestinians have used to flee.

“The Israeli leaders themselves have adopted a strategy of demonizing and dehumaniz-

ing Palestinians, which means that even burning them alive is allowed and you see even the Israeli soldiers are competing with each other to publish stories on social media about the level of brutality they are willing to inflict on Palestinians,” he said.

In a statement, Euro-Med expressed “deep concern about the ICC Prosecutor's performance regarding the genocide taking place there”.

“The ICC's last update on the situation in Palestine was posted on 17 November on its official website.

“This raises serious questions and concerns about its independence and integrity, as well as the extent to which it can perform its duties without becoming politicized or impacted by standards of duality and selective justice,” it added.

Hamas Says Presses on With Gaza Truce Talks Without Israelis

CAIRO/RAFAH (Dispatches) – Hamas said on Monday it was pressing on with talks on securing a ceasefire in Gaza despite the Zionist regime's decision not to attend, while Washington appeared to take a tougher line in demanding its ally Israel ease the carnage on Palestinians.

The ceasefire talks, which began on Sunday in Cairo, are billed as a final hurdle to establish the first extended ceasefire of the five-month-old war, in time for the Ramadan Muslim fasting month which is expected to begin on Sunday.

The occupying regime has declined public comment on the Cairo talks or its decision not to attend. A source had earlier told Reuters Israel would stay away because Hamas had refused its request for a list of names of all captives it is holding that are still alive, information the resistance movement says it will provide only once terms are agreed.

“Talks in Cairo continue for the second day regardless of whether the occupation's delega-

tion is present in Egypt,” a Hamas official told Reuters on Monday.

Washington, which is the Zionist regime's closest ally, says a deal remains close, with an agreement already effectively agreed by Israel and only awaiting approval from Hamas.

Vice President Kamala Harris said on Sunday, “Let's get a ceasefire. Let's reunite the hostages with their families. And let's provide immediate relief to the people of Gaza.”

In a speech signaling an apparent change of tone from the administration of President Joe Biden toward its ally, Harris also used unusually forceful language to call for Israel to do more to alleviate the humanitarian plight of the Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian official close to the talks disputed the U.S. contention that Israel had agreed to the ceasefire deal and Hamas was holding it up, saying the position appeared aimed at deflecting blame away from Israel should the talks collapse.

“The Palestinian resistance, led by Hamas, has shown the flexibility needed, but at the same time they are determined to defend their people and achieve a deal that is acceptable to the Palestinian people,” the official said.

The proposal being discussed is for a ceasefire of around 40 days, during which resistance movement would release around 40 of the more than 100 captive they are still holding in return for around 400 detainees held in the Zionist regime's jails.

Israeli troops would pull back from some areas, more humanitarian aid would be allowed into Gaza, and residents would be permitted to return to abandoned homes.

But the deal does not appear to address directly a Hamas demand for a clear path to permanently ending the war. Nor does it resolve the fate of more than half of the remaining hostages — Israeli men excluded from both this and earlier agreements covering women, children, the elderly and the wounded.

Audio Reveals Israeli Captives 'Pleaded for Help' Before Being Killed by Regime Forces

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A newly-released audio recording shows how three Israeli captives pleaded for help before being killed by the Zionist regime's military in an offensive launched by the regime's forces against the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli Broadcasting Authority (KAN) aired the recording, saying it belonged to two of the three captives who were killed on December 18. They have been identified as 28-year-old Yotam Haim, 26-year-old Alon Shamriz, and 22-year-old Samer Talalka.

According to KAN's report, Shamriz is heard shouting in the audio clip, “Help!...Help! We are by the stairs, under the stairs! Under the stairs! Please help!”

KAN said the clip had been obtained from a GoPro camera that had been mounted on a dog belonging to the Zionist regime's Oketz canine unit.

The army has alleged that the captives were killed “accidentally” after being “mistakenly identified” as a “threat.”

Also in December, an unnamed Israeli military official cited results of an initial inquiry as showing that the trio were within “tens of meters” of Israeli positions during the incident. “They're all

without shirts and they have a stick with a white cloth on it,” the official said at the time.

Shortly after the operation, Shamriz's father also asserted that his son's murder was deliberate and that it was not a “mistake” but an “execution.”

The father said Alon, along with the other two, did “everything right” to avoid being killed. “They... took their shirts off, hung a white flag and marched in broad daylight in the middle of the street and shouted for help, but in our army, they don't know how to follow the rules of engagement.”

According to al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, as many as 70 Israeli captives have been killed by the occupying regime's military so far.

More than 240 Zionist troops and settlers were taken captive by Hamas on October 7, during a surprise operation staged against the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's decades-long campaign of occupation and aggression against Palestinians.

Upwards of 30,534 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the still-ongoing Israeli war.