

UNRWA: Food Insecurity in Gaza Reaches ‘Extremely Critical State’

GAZA (Dispatches) – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) warned on Wednesday that food insecurity in the northern Gaza Strip had reached an “extremely critical state” because of the restrictions imposed on the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The agency said in a press statement that 51 percent of missions planned by the UNRWA and other humanitarian institutions to deliver aid to and undertake assessments in northern Gaza this year have been denied access by Zionist regime authorities.

The number of trucks entering Gaza is significantly fewer than the target number of 500 trucks per day, with great difficulties in sending supplies through the Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings, it



A massive famine is unfolding in the besieged Gaza Strip amid a deadly Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian enclave, the Palestinian media office has warned.

said.

UNRWA added that the lives of about 400,000 people were threatened by starvation in the northern Gaza Strip, calling on international

institutions to increase their assistance, especially to the areas in the northern part of the enclave.

In addition, the media office of the government in Gaza on Tues-

day urged the World Food Program (WFP) to reverse its decision to suspend the delivery of food aid in the northern Gaza Strip.

The office said in a press statement that it considered the decision tantamount to “sentencing death to 75 percent of a million people and further deteriorates the humanitarian situation exponentially.”

The WFP said in a statement on social media platform X on Tuesday that it’s “pausing the deliveries of life-saving food assistance to northern Gaza until safe conditions are in place for our staff and the people we are trying to reach.”

The organization said the decision “has not been taken lightly,” adding “the safety and security to deliver critical food aid -- and for the people receiving it -- must be ensured.”

Sanders: U.S. Must End Complicity in Israel’s Horrific War in Gaza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders says Washington cannot continue to be complicit in the Zionist regime’s horrific war in the Gaza Strip, while the whole world is watching.

“The whole world is watching. Netanyahu is starving the children of Gaza. We cannot be complicit in this atrocity,” Sanders said in a video message on X.

“I cannot find words to describe how horrific the situation is and could become.”

He said that “hundreds of thousands of children are starving and lack clean drinking water.”

“The United Nations says the entire population of Gaza is at imminent risk of famine and some 378,000 people are starving right now.”

Earlier this month, the senator called on Congress to hold back more than \$10 billion in military funding for Israel, warning it would be used to fund the regime’s “grossly disproportionate” and “immoral” war in Gaza.

The senator also said that people in the United States “must understand that Israel’s war against the Palestinian people has been significantly waged with U.S. bombs, artillery shells, and other forms of weaponry.”

“And the results have been catastrophic.”

Sanders’s latest remarks on X came hours after the United States vetoed the latest attempt at the UN Security Council to demand an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza.

It was the third time that the Joe Biden administration used a US veto at the council to block such a resolution since Israel started its war in Gaza in early October.

The move sparked widespread criticism from Washington’s rivals and allies alike.

The Biden administration has poured more than 10,000 tons of military hardware into Israel’s war machine, which has so far killed more than 29,000 people in the coastal enclave.

Israeli Airstrikes on Syria Kill Two People

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – At least two people have been killed in Israeli airstrikes in the Syrian capital, Damascus, state media reported.

The attack on Wednesday took place in Kafr Sousa, an area that is home to a number of security and military headquarters, the news agency SANA reported.

Videos on social media verified by Al Jazeera showed an apartment on fire in a multistory building. Windows were shattered in nearby buildings and dozens of parked cars were damaged in the area.

An empty bus for the nearby al-Bawader Private School was damaged and people were seen rushing to fetch their children.

The neighborhood also has residential buildings and cultural centers. Witnesses heard several back-to-back explosions and ambulances

rushed to the area, the Reuters news agency reported.

Syrian state TV did not say who was killed. Rami Abdulrahman, who heads the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a Britain-based opposition war monitor, said the two killed were inside an apartment but did not give any clues about their identities.

SOHR said the blasts in Damascus were “a result of a new Israeli targeting of Syrian territory”.

Since the start of the year, the group said it has documented 13 Israeli attacks on Syrian territory – eight airstrikes and five rocket attacks by ground forces, which destroyed nearly 31 targets and left 31 fighters dead and 13 others injured.

Eight civilians, including a woman, were also killed in the Is-

raeli strikes this year, according to SOHR.

The United States and Israel have for years carried out attacks against targets in Syria.

The attacks renewed in intensity since October 7 when Hamas fighters stormed Zionist regime communities in southern parts of the occupied territories.

The unprecedented assault triggered a ferocious response by Israel which has killed more than 29,000 people in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, at least two people have been killed in an Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon, amid exchanges of near-daily fire between the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah and the occupying regime since early October.

Lebanon’s Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network

reported that a woman and her daughter were killed in the air raid that hit the village of Majdal Zoun on Wednesday.

The official National News Agency identified the mother as Khadija Salman. It said the six-year-old daughter, Amal al-Durr, was in critical condition and later died of her injuries. Local media reported at least two other injuries.

The Zionist regime’s warplanes also targeted the outskirts of the towns of Marwahin and Emm el-Tout. There were no immediate reports about possible casualties and the extent of damage caused.

Earlier in the day, Israeli warplanes had bombed al-Khiam town in southern Lebanon as artillery shells hit several border villages, including Alma el-Chaab, Dhayra and Jibbain.

Palestinian population,” Bermudez said in a social media post.

“They are accomplices of this genocide of Israel against Palestine.”

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) CAIR director Nihad Awad said Muslim Americans were “running out of words” to condemn the U.S. support for the “genocide” in Gaza.

“The latest U.S. veto of a UN ceasefire resolution is shameful. President Biden should stop acting like Benjamin Netanyahu’s defense lawyer and start acting like the President of the United States,” Awad said in a state-

ment.

Aid... (Continued From Page One)

“graveyard” and the United States has said the vast numbers of displaced civilians must first be moved out of harm’s way.

Palestinians in Rafah were digging new graves in the sand on Wednesday near a makeshift camp, with shrouded bodies carried on donkey-led carts.

Extremist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted the Zionist military will keep attacks.

The occupying regime of Israel has heavily bombed Gaza since and launched a ground invasion that has seen troops and tanks push through from the north towards the south, leaving vast swathes entirely destroyed and many people struggling to find basic supplies.

One sewing workshop in Rafah said it has started to use medical cotton, gauze and lab coats to sew makeshift diapers, each made by hand -- but warned their capacity is far from enough to meet the demand.

“I don’t have money to provide food, so how can I provide diapers for her?” said mother Hanan al-Bahtiti, adding that her baby daughter gets painful skin rashes. “She screams in pain and I cry when I see her like this,” she told AFP.

Concern also remained high around Nasser Hospital in the heavily-bombarded southern city of Khan Younis, where the World Health Organization has called the devastation “incred-

ible”.

The UN agency managed to evacuate some 32 patients from the besieged hospital, which was raided by Israeli troops last week.

It called the situation in Gaza “inhumane”, saying the territory had become “a death zone”.

McGurk, the White House coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, was in Egypt as part of efforts to advance a hostage deal, before heading to Occupied Palestine Thursday.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh was already in Cairo for talks, the resistance group said.

Qatar and Egypt have proposed a plan to free captives in return

for a pause in fighting and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

As the bloodiest ever Gaza war has continued into a fifth month, the Zionist regime has faced a growing international chorus of criticism.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro said Israel is involved in “genocide” after Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva had compared the Gaza campaign to the Holocaust.

The war has set off clashes elsewhere in the Middle East, drawing in resistance groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

In Syria, state television said an Israeli missile strike martyred at least two people in Damascus.

In the occupied West Bank, the Zionist military said its troops killed three Palestinians during an overnight raid in the northern city of Jenin.

Shehbaz... (Continued From Page One)

The National Assembly must convene by February 29, when the coalition can be formally approved.

The PML-N and the PPP combined in 2022 to oust former leader Khan in a no-confidence vote before sharing power in a shaky coalition that also saw Sharif at the helm, until the National Assembly was dissolved in August ahead of elections.

Sharif’s brother, three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, returned to Pakistan from self-imposed exile to lead the election campaign but failed to secure the expected majority despite analysts saying they had the backing of the military, the country’s kingmakers.

Former cricketing legend Khan has been languishing in jail since August, slapped with lengthy sentences for corruption, treason and an illegal marriage -- charges he says are politically motivated and designed to keep him from power.

Khan was brought to power in 2018 by a young electorate weary of the dynastic politics of PML-N and PPP, but also reportedly with the blessing of the generals.

He was booted from power after analysts say he fell out with the military and went on to wage a risky campaign of defiance against the establishment.

The Blessed... (Continued From Page One)

them, and knowing their failings You forgive them, and overlook their past errors and major offences. For with You do I seek refuge from my sins and with You do I take shelter for covering my defects! O Allah, be Generous to me out of Your Magnanimity and relieve me of my misdeeds with Your Forbearance and Pardon! Enfold me this night in Your Abounding Magnanimity and appoint me therein among Your protégés, whom You have chosen for Your obedience and elected for Your worship, making them Your dedicated servants and elect! O Allah, appoint me to be among those whose efforts prosper, whose share of good deeds is plentiful, and appoint me among the blameless and the blessed, the triumphant and the felicitous. Save me from the evil of my past conduct, and preserve me from advancing in deeds of disobedience to You! Endeavor me to Your obedience and what brings me near to You and enables me to draw close to You! My Master, those who flee take refuge in You and those who are seekers entreat You, and those who repent from their sins trust Your Magnanimity! You have educated Your servants by honouring them, and You are the Most Munificent of the munificent! You have commanded Your servants to pardon, and You are the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful! O Allah, do not deprive me of my hope in Your Magnanimity; do not disappoint my hope in Your Abounding Blessings; do not disappoint me from Your generous dispensations in this night meant for those who obey You, and shield me from the evil ones from amongst Your creatures! My Lord, if I am not worthy of that, You are surely Magnanimous and worthy to pardon and forgive! Be Generous to me by virtue of that which is worthy of You, not for reason of what I deserve! I certainly have a good opinion of You, a convinced hope in You, and my soul clings to Your Magnanimity, for indeed You are the Most Merciful of the merciful and the Most Munificent of the munificent! O Allah, assign to me a handsome share of Your Munificence! I seek protection in Your Pardon from Your Punishment. Forgive me the sins that make me wretched and tighten my provision, so that I may be able to earn the best of Your Approval, be blessed with the plenty of Your Gifts, and prosper with Your Abounding Blessings. For indeed I have taken refuge in Your Sanctuary, presented myself for Your Munificence, sought protection in Your Pardon from Your Punishment, and in Your Forbearance from Your Wrath! So grant me generously what I have asked You and give what I have requested You! I beseech You by You, and there is nothing greater than You!”

“Then bow down in prostration and say: “Ya Rabb” 20 times, “Ya Allah” 7 times, “la hawla wa la quwwata illah-billah” 7 times, “Masha’ Allah” 10 times, and “la quwwata illa-billah” 10 times. Then invoke “salawaat” or blessings on the Prophet and his Progeny. Then make your petition. By God, should you make petitions as numerous as the drops of rain, God, Almighty and Glorious, will answer them by virtue of this observance out of His boundless Grace and Munificence!”

Diplomatic... (Continued From Page One)

envoy, said the Security Council “failed once again” and warned the move could have profound consequences for the West Asia region as a whole.

“The international community should respond to the calls for ending the killing of Palestinians by calling for an immediate ceasefire. All those impeding such calls should review their policies and their calculations because wrong decisions today will have a cost on our region and our world tomorrow. And this cost will be violence and in-

stability,” Bendjama said.

“So ask yourselves, examine your conscience. What will your decisions today cause? How will history judge you?”

Qatar’s UN Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al Thani also said she regretted the UN council’s failure to adopt the Algeria-drafted resolution and pledged to continue facilitating efforts to secure a truce in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia’s foreign ministry expressed “regret” at the veto and stressed the “need now more than ever to reform the Security Council to carry out its responsibilities in maintaining peace and security with cred-

ibility and without double standards.”

Norway’s mission to the UN said it “regrets” that the council was not able to adopt a resolution on an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. “It is imperative to end the horror in Gaza,” it added.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez said the veto made Washington complicit in Israel’s crimes against Palestinians.

“The U.S. has just vetoed again the UN Security Council resolution that demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the forced displacement of the