

Thousands March in Europe to Demand 'Immediate' Ceasefire in Gaza

BERLIN (Dispatches) – Thousands of pro-Palestine supporters joined a rally in Berlin to demand a ceasefire in Gaza as well as an “immediate” cessation of arms supplies to the Zionist regime amid the ongoing war.

Protesters marched with banners and placards reading “Free Palestine”, “Stop genocide in Gaza”, and “German state reason, stop funding the genocide”, among others. People also chanted “Boycott Israel”.

A rally was also held in the German city of Frankfurt where people gathered to express their support for the people of Gaza. Protesters held placards and banners reading “Ceasefire now,” “End the war genocide” and “End German support for occupation terror” as well as chanting slogans such as “Palestine will be free” and “Long live Palestine”.

Meanwhile, thousands of people in Rome took part in the national demonstration organized by the CGIL union against war in support of a ceasefire in Gaza and for a just peace in West Asia.

The demonstrators marched from Piazza della Repubblica to the Imperial Forums with people



Demonstrators hold a giant Palestinian flag with the inscription “Free Palestine” near the Colosseum during a national peace demonstration in Rome.

waving giant trade union and Palestinian flags.

Furthermore, a pro-Palestinian protester interrupted U.S. President Joe Biden’s campaign speech, demanding an immediate ceasefire and an end to the United States’ all-out support to Israel.

On Saturday, Biden was quickly interrupted shortly after he began his speech in Georgia’s capital city by a pro-Palestinian protester, shouting, “You are a dictator, Genocide Joe” The protester continued, “Tens of thousands of Palestinians are dead, children are dying”

After the crowd settled down,

Biden said he does not “resent [the protester’s] passion.”

“There’s a lot of Palestinians who are being unfairly victimized,” he said.

Since October 7, Israel has been pounding the Gaza Strip by air, land, and sea, killing over 31,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, trapped in the blockaded territory.

Biden has been facing mounting pressure to stop providing Israel with bombs, missiles, and ammunition since the regime launched its military aggression against Gaza.

Protesters angry at the Israeli

regime’s genocidal war against the Palestinians trapped in the besieged Gaza Strip, staged a rally as the Zionist regime’s president visits Amsterdam.

The protesters on Sunday called for an immediate ceasefire in the months-long Israeli attacks against Gazans.

Anti-Israel demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and banners, chanting “Never again is now,” a reference to immediately stopping the ongoing genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza.

The protesters from different walks of society, including Jews, booed and shouted slogans as the Israeli president Isaac Herzog and other figures arrived at the Holocaust Museum.

The protesters demanded that the Zionist president be arrested and tried at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide.

“There’s only one place for him here and that’s the ICC,” said Estelle Jilissen, a 25-year-old consultant.

Protesters had hung signs on lampposts reading, “Detour to International Criminal Court” along the route.

Revealed...

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U.S. President Joe Biden said in an MSNBC interview on Saturday that Israel’s threatened invasion of Rafah in southern Gaza would be his “red line” for prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu but then immediately backtracked, saying there was no red line and “I’m never going to leave Israel”.

In a somewhat contradictory exchange with his interviewer, Biden said “they cannot have 30,000 more Palestinians dead as a consequence of going after” Hamas.

More than half of Gaza’s 2.3 million people are sheltering in the Rafah area.

Biden said in his State of the Union speech on Thursday that he was directing the U.S. military to lead an emergency mission to set up a pier off Gaza’s Mediterranean coast to receive ships.

The plan has been criticized as an attempt to divert attention from hundreds of thousands of starving Palestinians and Israel’s consistent blocking of assistance to the enclave.

The U.S. continues to supply the Israeli military with weapons and remains a staunch ally of Israel’s extremist prime minister Netanyahu.

Biden gave few logistical details, but U.S. officials said the operation would “take a number of weeks to plan and execute” and the required U.S. forces are in the region or would soon begin moving there.

Washington would also coordinate with the Israeli military regarding the security situation on Gaza’s coast, they said.

While the U.S. claims the planned port would receive ships carrying food, water, medicine and temporary shelters, there are large quantities of aid waiting to get into the enclave at Gaza’s border with Egypt.

According to independent observers, Biden’s announcement is a distraction from Washington’s continued support for Israel.

Biden has framed the war by adopting the Israeli line that everything they are doing, including the genocide, is a response to October 7, sending a clear message that the U.S. still stand firmly with the Zionist regime.

Iraq...

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borders to improve public health outcomes.

As Iraq and Iran embark on this collaborative journey, the potential for significant advancements in healthcare is immense. The agreements signed and the commitments made herald a new era of cooperation that could extend to other sectors and even other nations, as hinted by discussions involving Syria and Lebanon.

The focus on health tourism, pharmaceutical production, and the exchange of medical expertise promises not only to elevate the healthcare landscape in Iraq but also to foster a region more interconnected through the avenues of health and wellness.

The collaborative healthcare initiative between Iraq and Iran marks a pivotal chapter in their bilateral relations. By pooling resources and expertise, both nations are setting a foundation for a healthier future, underscoring the critical role of international cooperation in addressing global health challenges.

As these efforts unfold, the impact on public and family health services in Iraq, and potentially across the region, could serve as a testament to the power of partnership in paving the way for prosperity and well-being.

Regional...

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Bagheri Kani and Kostanyan discussed key issues in Tehran-Yerevan relations as well as regional and international developments.

The Iranian diplomat said that the bilateral relations are expanding, and continuous negotiations between officials of the two countries play a key role in the further promotion of the mutual cooperation.

He referred to the importance of sustainable peace and stability in the region, and emphasized the need for a speedy implementation of a peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Bagheri Kani also stressed the importance of resolving regional issues by the countries inside the region, saying that the interference by extra-regional countries is harmful and complicates conditions.

The Iranian diplomat meanwhile referred to the Gaza war as well, and said that all governments should make efforts to bring an end to the ongoing humanitarian disaster and genocide in the Palestinian territory as soon as possible.

The Armenian diplomat, on his part, said that Yerevan intends to develop its ties with Tehran within Armenia’s policy of diversifying its foreign relations.

He also thanked Iran for its stance that voices support for protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries and preserving the status of internationally recognized borders.

Kostanyan also welcomed the presence of Iranian companies in projects to develop Armenia’s infrastructures, and emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation on transport projects.

Algeria Warns Israel May Use Chemical Weapons in Gaza

ALGIERS (Dispatches) – Algeria has alerted the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that the Zionist regime may resort to using chemical weapons against Gaza given its insistence on violating international law.

Salima Abdelhak, Algeria’s permanent representative to the OPCW, issued the warning on Saturday at the 105th session of the Executive Council held in The Hague.

This came after Algeria was chosen as the African region’s ambassador to assume the position of vice president of the organization’s executive council for a

one-year term starting on May 12, 2024.

Abdelhak said Algeria is concerned about the Palestinian tragedy and condemns Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people in blatant violation of international law.

She also warned of the potential resurgence of chemical weapons and the risk of their deployment by non-state entities, particularly amidst ongoing armed conflicts across the globe.

There is a risk that the occupying power “may resort to the use of chemical weapons in its war against the Palestinians, given

that the Zionist occupation is not a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and is not bound by its provisions,” the ambassador added.

Abdelhak went on to say that the “tragic and catastrophic” situation in Gaza underscores the importance of the OPCW persisting in its mission to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention and ensure all countries adhere to its regulations.

She said Algeria supports the request for assistance submitted by the State of Palestine to the Technical Secretariat related to opening an investigation into the

use of this type of weapon in Palestine, calling on the secretariat to provide member states with regular updates about the outcomes of these investigations.

She further noted that the increasing threat of chemical terrorism is becoming more concerning as tensions escalate in various regions, providing opportunities for terrorist organizations to engage.

This danger is further exacerbated by advancements in technology, particularly artificial intelligence, which could potentially grant access to the production and enhancement methods of chemical weapons, Abdelhak added.

Palestinian Tribes: No Alternative to Gaza Ruling Establishment

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) – A coalition of Palestinian tribes said Sunday they will not be an alternative to any Palestinian political establishment in the Gaza Strip.

“National unity is the only way to preserve the existence of the Palestinian people and the homeland,” the coalition said in

a statement.

It reiterated support for the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation.

“The tribes are part of Palestinian national components against the Israeli occupation,” the coalition said, rejecting any plans to create tribal groups to cooper-

ate with the Israeli occupation.

The occupying regime has been seeking to create an administration to replace the ruling Hamas movement in the Gaza Strip.

Ismail al-Thawabta, director of Gaza’s government media office, said international parties

had held 12 meetings with Palestinian tribal chieftains as part of their efforts to create a new administration to run the Gaza Strip.

“All tribes rejected all Israeli occupation plots to undermine the Palestinian home front,” he added in a statement.

Scotland First Minister Condemns Media Smears Over Gaza Aid

EDINBURGH (Dispatches) – Scotland’s first minister Humza Yousaf has condemned accusations that he had a conflict of interest when authorizing funding for humanitarian relief in the Gaza Strip, calling it an “outrageous smear” and “far right conspiracy”.

In November last year, the Scottish government donated £250,000 (\$321,000) to the United Nations’ Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza, in what Edinburgh said was its response to a flash appeal for emergency aid into the besieged strip.

There has since been a flurry of articles

published by media against Yousaf.

Following what he called the media “smears” against him and his family, Humza Yousaf condemned the accusations in posts on X, stating that “the Scottish government gave money to Gaza, like virtually every government in the West, because of the unarguable humanitarian catastrophe that has unfolded there.” He reasoned that “Funding to UNRWA was deemed the most flexible way of ensuring money got to where it was needed. Hence why so many governments, including the UK, gave millions to them.”

The Scottish first minister insisted that the UN agency “had nothing to do with my in-

laws being able to leave Gaza. They were able to leave Gaza due to the hard work of the crisis team at the FCDO, like every other British national...To suggest otherwise is a flat-out lie & smear.”

He accused the reports of being “Islamophobic attacks” that are “desperate to link me to terrorism despite campaigning my whole life against it”. Yousaf lamented that “there will always be those, particularly on the far-right, who will desperately try to “prove” my loyalties lie elsewhere. That I am a fifth columnist in the only country I call home, the country I love and the country I have the privilege of leading.”