

Borrell: There Is Evidence Israel Preventing Gaza Aid Entry



Palestinians displaced by the Israeli bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip set up a tent camp in Rafah on December 6, 2023.

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell confirmed that there is evidence that the Zionist regime prevents the entry of aid into the Gaza Strip. This was included in his remarks to U.S. channel PBS, in response

to a question about his statements at the United Nations (UN) Security Council in which he asserted: “Israel is using starvation as a weapon of war.” Borrell pointed out: “It is a starvation in Gaza. Hundreds of thousands of people are starving literally, among them many chil-

dren who have been dying by this nutrition.” “If there is starvation, why there is starvation? Because there is not enough humanitarian support entering to support these people? And why is it? Because Israel is controlling the region, and not letting humanitarian support to

come in. So, it is the logical consequences, no? You prevent humanitarian support from coming and people are starving, isn't it logical cause and effect there?” he continued.

Borrell stressed that the insufficient flow of aid to Gaza is not due to a lack of UN capabilities, as Israel claims, but rather due to the restrictions imposed by the latter on border crossings: “There's a lot of evidence that the controls in the border prevent the support to come in.” adding, “I don't think Israel can say that it's doing everything in order to support coming into Gaza.”

Borrell noted that he has perceived “A change on the mood of the public opinion in the U.S. with respect to what's happening in Gaza. More and more people are feeling concerned with what I certainly can call a massacre.”

Borrell also stated that the European Union has priorities and “one of the priorities would be give the Palestinians the right to have its own land, its own government.”

Resistance ... (Continued From Page One)

struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7. Last week, fighters with Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, announced an attack on an Israeli command center in the northern part of the Gaza Strip, and the killing of as many as seven Israeli forces elsewhere across the Palestinian territory.

Other resistance groups in the region, including in Iraq and Lebanon, have also conducted pro-Gaza operations against the occupied territories over the past five months.

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Lebanon in response to the regime's ongoing genocidal war in Gaza, and in support of Palestinian fighters facing off a relentless offensive.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television news network, citing a brief Hezbollah statement, reported that the group launched a rocket attack against the Israeli Al-Baghdati military outpost, and the designated target was precisely struck.

Hezbollah earlier targeted the Israeli outposts of Al-Malkia and Al-Marj and a group of soldiers near Al-Raheh site.

Hezbollah released footage showcasing an attack on the Israeli Keila barracks in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The attack on the Keila base signifies a notable intensification in the conflict. This strategic move by Hezbollah is not just a direct challenge to Israeli existence but also a clear message regarding the movement's capabilities.

The Zionist regime has been attacking southern Lebanon off and on since October 7, when it launched the devastating campaign of death and destruction in Gaza.

In retaliation, Hezbollah has launched near-daily rocket attacks on Israeli positions.

At least 322 people have been martyred on the Lebanese border. Israel says at least ten of its troops and seven settlers have been killed in the area.

The fighting has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands from the northern part of the occupied territories, which have been pummeled by rocket fire and shelling carried out by Hezbollah and allied Palestinian groups.

Hezbollah has already fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. The resistance forced the regime to retreat in both conflicts.

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on Friday he had approved plans for a military operation there.

Yet even before any such operation begins, airstrikes continue, including one early Saturday that witnesses said killed Issa Duhair, the muezzin of a mosque, along with his two sons.

Mahmoud Duhair, a 41-year-old relative who lives nearby, described the muezzin as “a good man” who, as usual, dutifully performed the call to prayer before dawn on Saturday, then went to eat with his family “when his house was struck”.

Back in Nuseirat, in central Gaza, Yussef Tabatibi said the true toll of the strike that killed 36 members of his family could rise.

“Some of the martyrs we are unable to retrieve. We lack equipment, bulldozers, machinery, or anything else,” he told AFP, his hands and sweatshirt covered with dust from trying to clear rubble.

“We retrieve them only with our hands. We brought shovels and hammers, but to no avail. Look at the extent of the destruction.”

Musk's... (Continued From Page One)

and military projects and illustrate a deeper Pentagon investment into vast, low-Earth orbiting satellite systems aimed at supporting ground forces.

If successful, the sources said the program would significantly advance the ability of the U.S. government and military to quickly spot potential targets almost anywhere on the globe.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

historical resilience but also projects a strong message of unity and defiance against those who wish to see Iran fragmented.

This recent exchange of words sheds light on the ongoing tensions between Iran and certain adversaries on the international stage.

While the provocative suggestion by the former Zionist official has sparked outrage in Iran, it also serves as an opportunity for the country to reaffirm its commitment to sovereignty, unity, and resistance against external pressures.

As Iran continues to navigate through complex geopolitical landscapes, the solidarity among its people remains a powerful testament to the nation's enduring strength and resilience.

Envoys... (Continued From Page 2)

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representa-

tive to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani also urged the international community to reject any measures that can reinforce the “daunting challenge” of Islamophobia.

“Allow me to reiterate our full support to the initiative proposed by the members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to undertake follow up measures to address the growing trend of intolerance and prejudice against Islam and Muslims worldwide, which is a daunting challenge to the international community,” he said.

“Harmful stereotypes and prejudices regarding Muslims and Islam have been constantly reinforced by certain media outlets, politicians, and influencers of popular culture” over the past decades, he said, adding that “discriminatory practices” against Muslims in various parts of the world have prevented them “living under their belief system.”

“In such critical moment, it is important to ensure that the United Nations remains united against attempts to embrace Islamophobia,” he said, naming Muslim travel bans, Qur'an desecration, and bans on the Hijab and Muslim symbols as such attempts.

Iravani said Iran strongly believes that proposed arrangements in draft resolution, including decision to appoint a United Nations Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia, will assist the OIC in mobilizing efforts to combat such overgrowing challenges.

He stressed the need for the General Assembly to strongly condemn violent acts against religious symbols and the holy book of Muslims.

The General Assembly has already recognized the “deeply offensive and disrespectful” desecration of the holy books as a violation of international law, he noted.

“It is unfortunate that such acts take place in countries that claim the establishment and enforcement of the rule of law; and it is reprehensible that such actions are justified under the guise of freedom of expression,” the Iranian ambassador pointed out.

He said Iran regrets that despite best OIC efforts to garner consensus, the member states of the European Union have tabled amendments, which directly affect the core objectives of the draft resolution aimed at combating Islamophobia worldwide.

“Iran aligns its position with the OIC members and strongly objects these amendments and urges entire members to vote against them,” he added.

He called on all member states to shoulder their responsibilities and live up to their legal obligations in order to advance the shared values of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and mutual understanding.

In a post on X on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian urged a united endeavor on the part of the entire Muslim world towards confronting Islamophobia.

He defined “confronting Islamophobia” as “the Muslim nation's collective endeavor aimed at [creating] effective deterrence in the face of seditious movements that are against sustainable peace and security.”

Western... (Continued From Page 2)

to produce gas and chemical bombs with the help of some European countries,” he said, noting that the regime repeatedly used them during the 1980-1988 imposed war on Iran despite the prohibition of using such inhumane weapons.

He slammed the “hypocritical and unfair” behavior of some Western countries and Saddam's supporters towards the use of chemical weapons.

“According to reports published by the United Nations, Saddam's regime has used chemical weapons more than 350 times during the war with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Kanaani emphasized.

However, he said, international bodies and the so-called claimants of human rights only issued “worthless” statements vis-a-vis such inhumane behavior and ultimately they “asked Iran to adhere to international laws and regulations!”

Those countries that encouraged Saddam to carry out a military attack on Iran and provided him with international and political support as well as intelligence information, are now claiming to defend human rights with an “astonishing lack of moral restraint,” the spokesman added.

He lashed out at these countries for remaining silent vis-a-vis Israel's genocide and massacre of more than 31,400 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, over the past five months.

Kanaani emphasized that the Iranian nation would never forget the “absurd and baseless” words and duplicitous behavior of the false claimants of human rights in some Western countries towards the country.

The U.S., the UK, Germany, Italy, and Holland were among the countries providing Saddam Hussein's Baathist Iraq with the equipment and material to build chemical weapons.

Iraq made the most of its acquisitions by launching over 350 large-scale gas attacks along the Iran-Iraq border between 1980 and 1988 on soldiers and civilians alike.

The northwestern Iranian town of Sardasht was just one of the civilian areas to experience the devastating effects of mustard gas and nerve agents.

Other Iraqi dirty strikes on Iran after Sardasht were carried out in March 1988 in villages around the city of Marivan, and in May-June 1988 in villages around the cities of Sarpol-e Zahab, Gilan-e-Gharb, and Oshnavieh.

Palestinian Factions Slam Abbas's Decree on New Government

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Four Palestinian resistance factions have criticized President Mahmoud Abbas for appointing his longtime economic adviser Mohammed Mustafa as the next prime minister, urging the Fatah movement to take serious and effective measures that best serve the Palestinian cause at the current critical juncture.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian National Initiative, in a joint statement released on Friday, underscored that “it is of utmost importance to highlight

that the primary focus of our nation should be on countering the Israeli aggression, and the unrelenting genocide and starvation which besieged Palestinians in Gaza are exposed to.”

The statement added, “We must, at the same time, address the crimes being committed by Israeli settlers in the West Bank and occupied al-Quds, and deter any Israeli scenario that seeks to forcibly displace Palestinians.”

The factions stated that taking solitary decisions, like the formation of a new government without national consensus, only strengthens the culture of

exclusivity and worsens internal divisions.

“This is while Palestinians urgently require unity and consensus, besides a unified national leadership that can pave the way for holding democratic elections, which are inclusive of all factions that represent the entire Palestinian nation,” they noted.

The four factions questioned the feasibility of replacing a prime minister and his administration with alternatives with identical political and partisan backgrounds.

They also voiced their disapproval of the Palestinian Au-

thority's persistent pursuit of exclusivity and its flagrant disregard for collective national efforts aimed at uniting Palestinians against the Israeli aggression.

Mustafa replaces former Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh, who stepped down in February in the light of the vicious Israeli onslaught on Gaza and soaring violence in the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority, which is dominated by the Fatah party, exercises limited powers in parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Iraq Bans PKK as 'Threat to Country'

BAGHDAD (MEMO) – The Iraqi National Security Council has banned the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) from operating in the country, following a top security meeting with a Turkish delegation in Baghdad, local news outlet reports.

According to the report, both sides discussed measures to be taken against the group which Baghdad claims poses a security threat to the country and neighboring Turkey.

The Turkish delegation, which included Ankara's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Defense Minister Yasar Guler and Ibrahim Kalin, the head of the intelligence agency (MIT), visited Baghdad on Friday and held the second round of a top security meeting with their Iraqi counterparts.

The first round of the security talks was held in Ankara in December.

“Both sides stressed that the PKK

organization represents a security threat to both Turkey and Iraq, and it is certain that the presence of the organization on Iraqi territory represents a violation of the Iraqi constitution,” read a joint statement from the foreign ministries of Ankara and Baghdad.

On Tuesday, the Turkish Defense Ministry published photos purportedly showing a top Turkish commander meeting with Kurdish and Iraqi military commanders in the

Kurdistan Region.

“The operations we conduct in northern Iraq are carried out in close coordination with Iraqi security units,” the ministry said in a post on X, adding that they discussed Iraq-Turkey border security.

The PKK is listed as a terror group in Turkey, the U.S. and the EU, and had led an insurgency against Ankara since the 1980s with the objective of establishing an independent Kurdish state.

Monitor: Syria Landmine Blast Kills 16 Truffle Hunters

BEIRUT (AFP) – At least 16 people searching for truffles in the north Syria desert were killed Saturday after their vehicle hit a landmine, a war monitor said.

Between February and April each year, hundreds of impoverished Syrians risk their lives searching for truffles in the vast Syrian desert, or Badia — a known hideout for militants that is also littered with mines.

“Sixteen civilians including at least nine women were killed and others seriously wounded” when their small truck hit a mine in an area where Daesh group extremists are

present in Raqqa province, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Britain-based Observatory said the truck was carrying more than 20 civilians who were searching for desert truffles, which fetch high prices in a country battered by 13 years of war and a crushing economic crisis.

Recent weeks have seen repeated deadly mine blasts as Syrians hunt for truffles.

Authorities have frequently warned against the high-risk practice.

Earlier this month, gunmen thought to be linked to Daesh killed 18 people, mostly ci-

vilians, in a desert attack on a group of truffle hunters, the Observatory had reported.

Last month, state media said a land mine left by Daesh killed 14 people foraging for truffles in the Raqqa desert.

In March 2019, Daesh lost its last scraps of territory in Syria following a military campaign, but militant remnants continue to hide in the desert and launch deadly attacks.

They have ambushed civilians as well as Kurdish-led forces, Syrian government troops and popular forces, while also mounting attacks in neighboring Iraq.