

'Normalization Made Zionists More Aggressive'

Zionist Troops Shoot, Kill Palestinian, Injure More

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have shot and killed a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry says, the latest death in a spiral of violence that has rocked the region.

The Health Ministry said 22-year-old Saleh Sabra was killed after being shot in the chest in the flashpoint West Bank city of Nablus, a frequent site of raids by Zionist troops.

The occupying regime said that troops preparing to demolish the home of a Palestinian came under fire and shot back. The regime demolishes the homes of Palestinians in an attempt to terrorize others, a tactic critics say amounts to collective punishment.

Meanwhile, at least three Palestinians sustained injuries after Zionist troops raided the northern West Bank city of Jenin on Tuesday and fired live rounds at local residents.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health said one of the Palestinian victims was shot in the abdomen while the other two were struck in the extremities, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

They were transported to a hospital in the city, located



Zionist troops walk as they clash with Palestinians during a raid in the city of Ariha in the occupied West Bank on March 1, 2023.

42 kilometers (26 miles) north of Nablus, to receive medical treatment.

Earlier in the day, a Palestinian youth was shot and injured in the thigh during an army raid on Aqbat Jabr refugee camp in Ariha. He was taken to the hospital.

The death comes after more than a year of relentless violence in the West Bank, where the Zionist troops have been conducting near-nightly raids. It also follows a deadly five-day burst of fighting between regime troops and Palestinian resistance fighters in the Gaza Strip.

More than 250 Palestinians have been killed since the regime launched the West Bank

raids in March of last year, with 112 of those killed just this year according to a tally by The Associated Press. During the Gaza fighting last week, 33 Palestinians were killed.

Tensions are expected to surge again later this week, when radical Zionists hold an annual march through the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Al-Quds's Old City. The march, which marks the regime's occupation of east Al-Quds in the 1967 Mideast war, often gets rowdy, with participants chanting slurs against Arabs. The Palestinians see the gathering as provocative.

A new survey shows that the majority of Palestinians are adamantly opposed to the

U.S.-sponsored normalization agreements between the Zionist regime and some Arab countries, saying the so-called Abraham Accords have made the occupying regime more aggressive.

According to the poll, conducted by Arab News-YouGov, 64 percent of the respondents opposed the normalization deals.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed the so-called Abraham Accords with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif Al Zayani during an official ceremony hosted by former U.S. president Donald Trump at the White House in September 2020.

The normalization deals, to which Sudan and Morocco later joined, have sparked widespread condemnations from the Palestinians as well as nations and human rights advocates across the globe, especially within the Muslim world.

Palestinians slammed the deals as a treacherous "stab in the back" and a betrayal of their cause against the decades-long Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Baghdad Gets Make-Over as Repairs Kindle Guarded Optimism

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Living in Baghdad's sprawling Sadr City suburb for the past 15 years, Khodr Abbas, 73, had to walk along a mud and dirt track to get to his home, where he would struggle to get fresh water to flow and waste-water to flush through rickety pipes.

That finally changed last month.

Diggers, bulldozers and other heavy equipment arrived and ripped up ground to lay sewage and water systems that were then topped with fresh tarmac roads and lined with neat pavements.

Similar scenes have played out across the city of more than nine million, part of a push by

Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's new government to improve basic services for citizens weary of years of conflict.

Buoyed by high oil prices, relative stability and the support of powerful political factions, Sudani has focused on quick wins to placate a largely young population who have staged repeated protests against his political backers, analysts say.

The push includes improving roads, bridges and sidewalks, removing security checkpoints that worsened traffic, cleaning up facades of buildings damaged by war and revamping parks and promenades that hug

the Tigris River that bisects the city.

Electricity supply has also improved, with daily cuts almost absent well into May, when they are usually the norm, though they are expected to return in summer as consumption peaks.

In more than two-dozen interviews, Iraqis said they felt guarded optimism about the future due to the improvement in infrastructure and recent stability that has opened up the country to a trickle of tourists, mostly from Arab states.

Many said these changes were the most significant they had seen since the 2003 U.S. invasion, but still fell short in a

state that made more than \$115 billion from oil sales in 2022 and suffers from rampant corruption that cripples services.

Sudani "wants to avoid the idea of a protest, which is why he went very hard at things that people can feel (now), not things that will benefit them in 10 years," said Sajad Jiyad, a Baghdad-based Fellow at The Century Foundation.

"He wants to be seen as the can-do man for all of Iraq."

A main project to break ground during Sudani's tenure is a nearly 2.5 km (1.5 miles) cornice along the River Tigris' east bank, along the Abu Nawas Park, one of Baghdad's biggest green spaces.

Nakba...

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Abbas noted that the UN decision to commemorate Nakba is a recognition of the historical injustices against Palestinians and a refutation of Zionism's myths regarding the establishment of Israel.

Meanwhile, human rights and civil society movements across the world took out marches and organized events to commemorate the day.

Solidarity activists across Latin America marked Nakba with talks, meetings, cultural activities, media interviews and social media campaigns.

Flag-waving Palestinians participated in a mass rally in Santiago, the capital of Chile, to mark the anniversary. Some of the participants held keys as a symbol of their hope to return to their homes in Palestine. Chants of "Free, free Palestine" reverberated around the streets.

In Brazil, president of the Freedom and Socialism Party Juliano Medeiros, said: "Today, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to support the right of return and the tireless struggle of the Palestinian people. We are united in the quest for justice and equality. We are on the side of Palestine!"

Thousands of people took part in a demonstration of solidarity on Avenida Paulista, the most prominent street in Sao Paulo. Solidarity activists called on the Brazilian government to take a clear position that defines Israel as an apartheid entity, and play a greater role in pressuring the international community to condemn the Israeli occupation and stop its ongoing massacres of the Palestinian people.

People also attended a solidarity festival in Lima, the capital of Peru. More than four thousand solidarity activists took part in the festival, riding bicycles decorated with Palestinian flags and wearing Palestinian t-shirts. The festival was accompanied by an exhibition of Palestinian heritage introducing Palestinian handicrafts and embroidery. More than 4,000 booklets detailing the history of the Palestinian cause, Palestinian heritage and tourism in Palestine were distributed.

Nakba Day was commemorated differently in Venezuela, where the Bolivarian University of Venezuela held a special session to express solidarity and mark the catastrophe that displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

'Shocking Restrictions' in West Bank

The occupying regime of Israel introduced a "confusing, complex and arbitrary" set of restrictions on foreign entry into the occupied West Bank, often based on racial and ethnic profiling, according to a new report.

In a press release published on Tuesday, the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) said an array of new procedures introduced by the Zionist regime in 2022 - collectively named COGAT 22 - have stood to entrenched the military occupation of the West Bank and deny access to millions of Palestinians in the diaspora.

Under the regulations, foreign passport holders - including Palestinians living abroad - will also no longer be able to obtain visas on arrival and instead have to apply for them at least 45 days in advance, the ICJP report said.

In most cases, foreigners visiting the West Bank will no longer be able to arrive via the Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv, and will instead be required to enter through the land crossing between Jordan and the West Bank.

The new rules do not apply to those visiting Jewish-only settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The London-based ICJP said the reforms included "shocking mass surveillance tactics" that allowed the Israeli authorities to record personal data on land claims and inheritance, as well as the names and national ID numbers of relatives of those entering the occupied territory.

In a statement, ICJP co-director Tayab Ali described the new restrictions as a "bureaucratic nightmare designed to tie people's ankles together

with red tape".

"COGAT 22 is a draconian development that is designed to disrupt people's lives, strip people of their rights and segregate people from one another. It is a classic tactic of divide and conquer, and an entrenchment of Israeli apartheid. However, these new regulations simply formalize a reality that Palestinian people have been forced to live with for years," he said.

"It cuts West Bank Palestinians off from the rest of the world, so it is imperative that the international community holds Israel accountable for these arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on the exercise of people's rights."

Official...

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unilateral sanctions against Iranians."

The ill-famed anti-Iran terrorist group of the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization is currently based in Europe, where it enjoys untrammelled support and freedom of activity after being delisted by the European Union and the United States in 2009 and 2012.

The MKO, which has been promoted by the U.S. and allies as "legitimate opposition group" against the Islamic Republic, has the blood of over 12,000 Iranians on its hands.

According to Albanian media reports, MKO members have been involved in various criminal activities in Europe, including human trafficking in France and drug trafficking in Italy.

The Assyrian patriarch, for his part, said human rights and freedom are not correctly comprehended in international circles, explaining that Western states have defined freedom incorrectly as avoiding God.

He added that both Islam and Christianity emphasize human dignity and human rights.

In a Monday meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Mar Awa III, commended Iran's battle against the Daesh terrorist group to protect humanity and faith in Iraq and Syria.

He hailed Iran's commitment to interfaith dialogue and respect for monotheistic religions.

Pakistani...

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with its triangular mixture of money, militancy and madrassas, however, the recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia ended destabilization in the region.

In an article published in the Express Tribune on Sunday, Hussain said Saudi Arabia's ideological foreign policy has led to "an unending and debilitating proxy war with its traditional rival, Iran, the result was destabilizing for the entire region, ranging from Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Lebanon and Yemen, even extending to non-Arab regions like Afghanistan and Pakistan."

"Thankfully, that phase has now come to an end, which is very positive for peace, stability and harmony in the Muslim world, he added.

He emphasized that Riyadh is no longer an extension of Washington's foreign policy strategy in the Middle East, as was the case in the past.

"Saudi Arabia was sometimes viewed as the American ATM with a 'have cash, will dispense' approach at the behest of Washington power brokers. That is no more the case, much to the shock and chagrin of the American Establishment," the Pakistani senator added.

Spokesman...

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It then outrageously accuses Iran," he added.

Kan'ani said Iran considers itself responsible for maintaining security of the Persian Gulf region and the Strait of Hormuz, adding, "The presence and destabilizing measures of American forces in the Persian Gulf double Iran's responsibility to guarantee security of the region and the Strait of Hormuz and to deal with all law-breakers."

World Bank: Jordan Could Face 'Shocks' Due to High Poverty Rates

AMMAN (Middle East Eye) – The World Bank warned of shocks affecting Jordan's economy resulting from rising poverty at rates higher than the period that preceded the coronavirus pandemic.

In its report on global poverty for the year 2023, the bank said the real income rates of Jordanians have remained suppressed

and predicted that poverty rates will reduce rapidly during the current year due to the continued weak economic growth rates and the ongoing challenges facing the economy including limited job opportunities, labor market division, low labor productivity and weak household income growth rates.

The report pointed to the dominance of regional and global pressures on the Jordanian social and economic scene over the past decade, which led to a slowdown in growth rates.

According to the report, the labor market conditions remain the biggest threat to the well-being of Jordanian families, as employ-

ment recovered modestly, while the labor force participation rate remained low at 33.7 per cent.

The unemployment rate reached 22.9 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to 19.0 percent during the same period in the fourth quarter of 2019, prior to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Report: 52% of Qatar Jobs Susceptible to Automation

DOHA (MEMO) – 52 percent of work in Qatar is susceptible to automation, the international non-governmental organization, the World Economic Forum, reports.

According to the Forum's 2023 Future of Jobs report, the increasing push towards automation will see data entry clerks, cashiers,

ticket clerks and bank tellers among the fastest declining jobs, worldwide.

"Most of the fastest-growing roles worldwide are technology-related roles, with technology projected to transform 1 billion jobs by 2030," the report says.

46 percent of work activities in Bahrain and

Saudi Arabia are also projected to become automated in the coming years, the report also added.

The "Future of Jobs" report surveyed 803 companies employing over 11.3 million workers across 27 industry clusters and 45 economies from all world regions.