

Shireen Abu Akleh Family Rejects Zionist Regime’s ‘Sorry’

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The family of Shireen Abu Akleh has rebuked the Zionist regime for saying it is “sorry” for the Palestinian reporter’s death without providing accountability or even acknowledging that its forces killed her.

Speaking outside the United States Capitol in Washington, DC, Abu Akleh’s niece, Lina Abu Akleh, said the Zionist regime’s statement does not amount to an apology.

“To be very clear: The Israeli army did not admit to or apologize for murdering Shireen. To us, we don’t consider that an apology,” Lina said. “It’s honestly a slap in the face to Shireen’s legacy and to our family. An apology — which that was not — is not accountability.”

On May 11, the first anniversary of Abu Akleh’s shooting death, an Israeli army spokesperson was asked by CNN whether the military was “ready” to apologize.



‘From the moment that Shireen was killed, the Israeli regime and the military have lied and distorted the truth,’ Lina Abu Akleh says.

“I think it’s an opportunity for me to say here that we are very sorry of the death of the late Shireen Abu Akleh,” the spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, responded.

On Thursday, Lina and other family members said the slain journalist’s relatives are seeking accountability, which “requires action”.

“From the moment that Shireen was killed, the Israeli regime

and the military have lied and distorted the truth,” she told reporters. “So it is deeply upsetting that, on the one-year anniversary of Shireen’s killing, the Israeli military — once again — they re-victimized the family.”

The slain journalist’s nephew, Victor Abu Akleh, and her cousin, Jennifer Zacharia, also spoke at a news conference calling for accountability on Thursday.

The late Abu Akleh, a U.S.

citizen, was killed on May 11, 2022, while covering a raid by Zionist troops on the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. At first, Zionist regime officials falsely accused Palestinian gunmen of fatally shooting the veteran reporter, who was renowned across the Arab World.

Months after the killing, the occupying regime acknowledged that one of its soldiers likely killed Abu Akleh but dismissed the incident as unintentional. The occupying regime did not open a criminal probe into the killing.

Numerous media outlets, rights groups and eyewitnesses have documented that there was no fighting in the immediate vicinity where Abu Akleh was shot.

Still, the U.S. — which provides the occupying regime with at least \$3.8bn in aid annually — has accepted the Zionist regime’s version of the events despite initial calls for accountability and for an independent investigation.

Pakistan... (Continued From Page One)

“The message of this project is one of security. ... Today, both countries see the border as an opportunity and not a threat,” the Iranian president stressed, speaking through an official interpreter.

Sharif said that he had held a formal meeting with Raisi on the sidelines of the inauguration and the two discussed ways to strengthen border security cooperation.

“We have exchanged proposals to make our joint border security mechanism more coherent and robust,” the Pakistani prime minister said.

“I will convene an urgent meeting as soon as I return to Pakistan and we will take appropriate, effective steps in the light of your proposals,” Sharif told Raisi without elaborating.

Both Raisi and Sharif said they were happy with the state of “brotherly and friendly” relations between Iran and Pakistan although they insisted cooperation between the two should expand.

“Today, the determination of Iran and Pakistan is that the level of their relations should be elevated from what they have now,” said Raisi in a joint press conference with Sharif.

Iran and Pakistan signed an agreement in 1990 to construct a nearly 2,700-kilometer gas pipeline to export Iranian gas to the energy-deficient South Asian neighboring country. But U.S. sanctions on Tehran blocked any progress of the project.

Iranian officials maintain they have finished construction of the pipeline on their side of the border and are waiting for Pakistan to complete its part, saying a lack of progress by next year would entitle Tehran to demand financial penalties.

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zahra Baloch reiterated Thursday her country remains committed to the pipeline project.

“Pakistan considers the Iran-Pakistan pipeline as an important project that symbolizes the friendship between Pakistan and our neighbor, Iran,” Baloch told a news conference in Islamabad when asked to comment on the reported multibillion-dollar penalty facing her country.

She said talks with Iranian officials on “some issues” about the pipeline’s completion continued, adding that “it is premature for me to comment on anything that could happen several months from now.”

Hundreds... (Continued From Page One)

talk” and “Withdraw U.S. military bases in Japan.”

The protesters, including university students and family members of atomic bomb victims, gathered along one of Hiroshima’s main streets, which was crowded with police more than 10 times the number of protesters.

“I am absolutely against war. I am against using nuclear weapons, that is why I am here. This summit is being held to prepare for a nuclear war,” Nishima said.

Ryo Miyahara, head of a group of Hiroshima citizens and one of the organizers of the demonstration, said the talks between the U.S. and Japanese leaders, would ultimately lead to the promotion of a military alliance between the two countries in East Asia.

“Today’s talks will definitely ignore the ideas of ordinary people,” said Akamine Chiaki, a college student from Okinawa at Thursday’s rally.

Japan and the United States are trying to conduct a war of aggression on China. I am protesting because I absolutely cannot accept the fact that they are in Hiroshima, a place where an atomic bomb was dropped, trying to hold a meeting to start a nuclear war,” another protester, surnamed Kawano, told Reuters.

Apart from the G7 members, Japan

has invited India, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Cook Islands and the Comoros Islands, as well as the heads of several international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Health Organization to the summit.

Barack Obama was the first American president to visit the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima in 2016. He did not apologize for the only combat use of nuclear weapons in history, nor did he renounce U.S. president Harry Truman’s decision to carry out the monumental massacres.

The U.S. continues to boastfully justify the bombings and the ensuing carnage, contending that they were necessary to end the war and “save lives,” although many historians question that view and insist they were unjustified.

The G7 is an intergovernmental political forum. The European Union is a “non-enumerated member” and has participated in the summit since the 1980s. The group changed to the G8 with Russia joining in 1998. In 2014, however, Russia was excluded over the Ukrainian crisis.

UK... (Continued From Page One)

new technology will allow fewer personnel to deliver greater effect.

Speaking to the FT earlier this week in Berlin following a meeting with his counterpart Boris Pistorius, Wallace applauded Germany’s plans to set up a €100 billion fund to modernize its armed forces. It was “an important message for [people] across Britain that we’re going back to the days where you need to invest in defense,” he said.

Wallace said Britain and other allies were “on guard” for Russian forces resorting to deploying non-conventional weapons in Ukraine if the counter-offensive went well. He said any use of chemical weapons would be “unacceptable and there would be a response”.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

“Although over the last year and a half, the Afghan rulers have repeatedly emphasized adhering to their obligations according to the treaty, in practice, they have not implemented the obligations and have not provided the necessary cooperation in the release and supplying Iran’s rights,” the statement read.

Various justifications for not respecting Iran’s legal rights, including the issue of drought and water shortage in Helmand, require expert reviews and verification by Iranian experts, it added.

“The Islamic Republic has always underlined technical and research cooperation through water commissions of the two sides and has demanded a detailed investigation of the water situation in Helmand and supply of Iran’s water right based on the treaty.”

Iranian authorities’ positions regarding the Helmand water right are completely legal and based on the treaty, the ministry said.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to take necessary measures and emphasizes the full responsibility of Afghanistan in this regard,” it said.

Three... (Continued From Page 2)

Rioters went on a rampage, brutally attacking security officers and causing massive damage to public property.

On February 5, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei pardoned or commuted the sentences of a large number of Iranian prisoners who had been arrested during the riots. The Leader’s amnesty covered all but murderers and terrorists.

Depleted Gaza Hospitals Count Losses After Zionist Offensive

GAZA (Middle East Eye) When the Zionist regime launched its five-day assault on Gaza earlier this month, Palestinian hospitals were immediately pushed into crisis mode.

Already under-equipped following 16 years of a Zionist-led blockade, medical workers scrambled to evacuate patients receiving urgent care to make way for those wounded from the new air strikes.

Medical supplies and medicine that were already rationed to meet the needs of Gaza’s two million people began to run out quickly.

And with the occupying regime’s closing crossings with Gaza - preventing the entry of fuel, aid, and other supplies - doctors were bracing for the worst.

“This was especially challenging when many homes experienced a high number of injuries [from Zionist air strikes] at the same time,” said Bassam al-Hamadin, assistant undersecretary at the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza.

“In hospitals, we were compelled to halt all surgeries to prioritize the victims of the bombing who required immediate and

intensive care,” Hamadin told Middle East Eye.

In five days of bombing, which started on 9 May, the occupying regime killed 33 Palestinians and wounded 190 others. Six children were among those killed and 64 were wounded.

The assault came to a halt on the night of 13 May after Egypt brokered a ceasefire between the regime and Palestinian groups in Gaza.

A large-scale crisis for the enclave’s medical system was avoided, but the depleted hospitals are still struggling, with no hope for permanent recovery on

the horizon.

According to Hamadin, the assault severely affected the medical system, leading to a “rapid depletion of crucial resources”.

He said resources that in normal circumstances would last for a month were used up during a single day of the bombing campaign.

“The unprecedented demand, particularly for surgical materials, significantly strained their availability,” Hamadin added.

Before the assault, the Gaza Strip already suffered from a 50 percent shortage of medicines and supplies.

Egypt Businessmen Boycott U.S. Dollar

CAIRO (MEMO) – Multiple commercial sectors in Egypt have launched a campaign to boycott the purchase of the U.S. dollar from the black market after the exchange rate recently exceeded 41 Egyptian pounds as opposed to the official price of 30.90 Egyptian pounds in the Central Bank

of Egypt to the, the news website Arabi21 reported.

The campaign, which comes after an unprecedented surge in the dollar exchange rate, has gone viral on social media, and signals the central bank’s lack of control over the currency traders on the black market.

Arabi21 cited sources as saying that the campaign was initiated by car dealers who called on all merchants and businessmen to refrain from buying dollars from the black market, and to freeze the import of vehicles from 15 May to 15 June until the national currency stabilizes.

The sources pointed out that the dollar had stood at 42-43 Egyptian pounds on the black market for two consecutive days before it retreated to 38 pounds.

Egypt’s credit rating stands at B with a negative outlook, according to Standard & Poor (S&P).

Lebanon Launches Strategy to Control Forest Fires

BEIRUT (Arab News) – Lebanon’s Environment Ministry is seeking to reduce the risk of recurrent forest fires and their severity through an updated national strategy.

Nasser Yassin, caretaker minister of environment, said that work was being carried out “under financially, administratively, and politically unfavorable conditions” to reduce the risk of forests and woodlands catching on fire.

Yassin pointed out that the success of the strategy, however, is based on the cooperation of “local people who are proud of their areas, environment, and the health of their sons and daughters.”

The awareness-raising work, he said, has brought “people closer to their environment.”

He referred to “the launch of an emergency fund to support firefighting efforts,” and said:

“We are working on developing its law and management methods with the World Bank.”

Yassin added: “There is also a project worth \$4.5 million, a gift from the Global Environment Facility, to support the efforts of local communities and regional groups to enhance their readiness and preparedness to reduce the risks of fires and extinguish them.”

Melanie Hauenstein, resident representative of the UN Development Program in Lebanon, said: “Forest fires are not only an environmental concern, but their impact is also noticeable in many other sectors.”

Hauenstein added: “The UN program has equipped dedicated operations rooms in the Lebanese provinces with the necessary tools and supplies to ensure their proper functioning in the event of forest fires and other crises. We have supported the establishment of

specially trained first responder teams to deal with forest fires and equipped them with the necessary tools and equipment.”

Forest fires have not spared any Lebanese region from damage to pine and fruit trees, including the regions of North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, and South Lebanon.

The environment ministry proposed to the previous parliament the establishment of a strategy to manage the resources resulting from the quarry and crusher sector and a new legislative framework for it, but it was never implemented.

According to the National Council for Scientific Research in Lebanon, approximately 14,460 forest fires have been recorded in the past five years, resulting in the loss of thousands of hectares of forest cover in Lebanon.