

Palestine: All Settlements, Including Homesh, Illegal

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said on Monday that all Zionist settlements in Palestine, including Homesh, are illegal.

“All Israeli occupation settlements built on the land of the State of Palestine, including the formerly evacuated Homesh settlement in the north of the West Bank, are illegal,” Abbas’ official spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, said in a statement.

He stressed that “the continuation of the Israeli occupation aggression will not achieve security or peace for anyone.”

Abu Rudeineh added: “The decision to allow the return of settlers to the Homesh settlement outpost, which was evacuated in 2005, is condemned and rejected.”

The spokesman pointed out that “all UN resolutions, most notably 2334, stated clearly that all settlements in the Palestinian territories, including East Al-Quds, violate international law and must be re-



Settlers erect a tent at the former outpost of Homesh in the occupied West Bank on 29 May 2023.

moved.”

He stated that “Israel is acting in defiance of the will of the international community, particularly the U.S. administration’s recent statements regarding the unacceptable return of settlers to Homesh.”

The remarks came as Zionist settlers on Monday relocated a religious school originally established

on private Palestinian land in the illegal outpost of Homesh to nearby land.

Earlier this year, Zionist lawmakers approved a controversial piece of legislation that would allow four abandoned Jewish settlements in the West Bank - Homesh, Sa-Nur, Ganim and Kadim - to be re-established after they were dismantled

in 2005.

Monday’s steps to tentatively re-establish the settlement was made with the approval of minister of war Yoav Gallant, and was given the green light by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Zionist regime’s military is allowing settlers to enter and exit Homesh freely, but journalists have been blocked from reporting on the construction efforts, according to Haaretz.

The regime is working on rolling back elements of then-prime minister Ariel Sharon’s plan for disengagement from Gaza, which saw the four settlements in the West Bank also evacuated.

The attorney general’s West Bank office has opposed the relocation of the school and reiterated that the move to re-establish the Homesh settlement was illegal.

The regime ordered the military to no longer prevent settlers from entering Homesh and to provide security.

Increasing... (Continued From Page One)

They also voiced their keenness to boost relations in the future, stressing the formation of joint committees and the exchange of working groups, the statement read.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the continuous increase in trade exchanges and joint investments, emphasizing the constructive role played by the private sector in bolstering economic cooperation.

The statement further said that the Iranian president and the Omani Sultan had “welcomed the signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding in economic, commercial, transit, investment, energy, and cultural fields, and underscored the need for the activation of existing deals ... as well as cooperation to reach new agreements that serve mutual interests.”

The two sides, it added, welcomed the culture of dialog in the region with the aim of solving problems and improving relations between neighboring countries to establish peace, stability and bring prosperity.

Erdogan... (Continued From Page One)

the West,” said Galip Dalay, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think tank.

“Turkey and the West will engage in transactional cooperation wherever its interests dictate it,” not joining Western sanctions on Moscow for the war in Ukraine and seeking economically profitable relationships, Dalay added.

U.S. President Joe Biden and Erdogan were due to talk on Monday, presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told television channel A Haber.

NATO issues and the delivery of U.S. F-16 fighter jets to Turkey were likely to be high on the agenda.

Biden needs Congress to approve their transfer and Kalin said U.S. senators were using the jets “as political leverage”.

If the program stalls, “it’s not the end of the world... we don’t allow them to take us as prisoners,” Kalin added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was one of the first leaders to congratulate Erdogan, and the Kremlin said it looked forward to achieving “very ambitious” goals with Turkey.

Erdogan’s inauguration ceremony, the nomination of a new cabinet and the sitting of the new parliament will follow the confirmation of the final election results this week.

Study... (Continued From Page One)

Manhattan. “We do have an excessive amount of skyscrapers, apartment buildings, corporate offices and retail spaces.”

New York City isn’t the only place sinking. San Francisco also is putting considerable pressure on the ground and the region’s active earthquake faults. In Indonesia, the government is preparing for a possible retreat from Jakarta, which is sinking into the Java Sea, for a new capital being constructed on the higher ground of an entirely different island.

Minister... (Continued From Page 2)

a homegrown hypersonic ballistic missile capable of penetrating advanced aerial defense shields and striking designated targets.

Last Tuesday, Iran successfully test-launched its most advanced Khorramshahr-class ballistic missile, called Kheibar, a medium-range precision-guided missile that can carry a 1,500 kg warhead.

Kheibar is a liquid-fueled missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers and a warhead weighing 1,500 kilograms, designed by the Ministry of Defense’s Aerospace Industries Organization.

Despite being under sanctions for decades, Iran has become self-sufficient in designing and manufacturing different types of military equipment, including missiles.

IRGC... (Continued From Page 2)

Over the past few weeks, high-ranking Iranian officials have urged the de-facto Taliban government in Kabul to adopt an effective measure to address the long-lasting issue by providing Iran its due share of water from the Helmand River Basin.

Water scarcity is taking a heavy toll on Iran’s southwestern Sistan region by harming its agriculture and water bodies.

Zionist Regime Brings in 10,000 Indian Laborers to Replace Palestinians

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has decided to import 10,000 workers from India to replace Palestinian workers.

The Indian government has signed an agreement with the occupying regime to send 10,000 Indian workers to the occupied territories.

Half of these workers are destined for the construction sector, with the remaining half designated for nursing roles. The arrival of these workers will be

staged, with 2,500 construction and an equal number of nursing workers due in the first year, according to reports on the Walla website.

The Population and Immigration Authority of the occupying regime states that the incoming workers from India are experienced and fluent in English. They are expected to fill the gap in the occupied territories for labour, specifically in the nursing and construction fields.

As part of the efforts to reach

this agreement, a multi-ministerial mission visited India last March to work on a blueprint for employing workers.

At this stage, following the drafting of agreements by specialists from both sides, matters stand at the final phase of ratifying the agreements. The spokesman for the Ministry of Population and Immigration stated, “We expect the agreements to be approved shortly, and we will soon be able to start setting up the necessary mechanisms to

employ skilled labor in a proper and supervised manner.”

Based on the Worker’s Voice website (Kav LaOved), the number of Palestinian workers in the occupied territories has steadily increased in recent years, particularly in the construction industry, the largest employer of Palestinian workers in the territories. As of mid-2020, more than 80,000 permanent workers were employed the occupied territories and about 60,000 in the construction industry.

Memories of Nakba Inspire Palestinian Artist’s Work

WADI NISNAS, Haifa (Al Jazeera) – Visual artist Abed Abdi was expelled from Haifa – a major port city on the Mediterranean Sea – along with tens of thousands of fellow Palestinians by Zionist militias in 1948.

Memories of displacement and dispossession that started at age six inspire the art Abdi produces even today, at 81 years of age.

“Those scenes are very painful,” Abdi tells Al Jazeera from his art studio, located at the edge of the neighborhood of Wadi Nisnas on the northern outskirts of Haifa.

“My memory of those moments is like a treasure to me,” added Abdi – a soft-spoken, meticulous man. “I remember the masses of people at the Haifa port. I remember the suffering of the people.”

On April 22, 1948, Abdi was forced to flee from the neighborhood of Wadi Salib in Haifa with his mother and four siblings due to intense shelling by Zionist militias and attacks on residents.

More than 750,000 Palestinians were forcefully displaced from their homelands as Zionist militias went

on a rampage, killing Palestinians and destroying their society and homelands in 1948.

At least 110 Palestinian men, women and children were slaughtered in the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin on April 9, 1948, and Zionist militias killed 60 to 70 Palestinians in the Balad al-Shaykh village, 7km (4 miles) east of Haifa city months prior. Palestinians observed the 75th anniversary of the organized and violent ethnic cleansing of Palestine – which is marked as Nakba, or catastrophe – on May 15, 2023.

“Most of Haifa’s residents took to the port for shelter, thinking that it could save them. Even if they would be away for a week or two, they would be back,” says Abdi, who returned to his homeland three years later.

“Some people carried their mattresses with them. My mother took cooking tools such as her mortar, even though it was heavy. We took it and came back with it. She also asked someone to carve her name into one of her pots that she took with her,” Abdi continues.

His father managed to remain in

Haifa during the cataclysmic events. After three years in refugee camps across neighboring Lebanon and Syria, Abdi, his mother and three of his siblings became one of the few Palestinians allowed to return to their city for family unification in 1951.

Between December 1947 and April 1948, the Zionist forces expelled more than 95 percent of Haifa’s Palestinian residents. Originally a city of some 75,000 Palestinians, only 3,000 to 4,000 of them remained after the Nakba. The rest became refugees, mainly in neighboring Lebanon and Syria, and they are barred from returning to this day.

Those who remained were concentrated in the neighborhood of Wadi Nisnas and prevented from returning to their homes or retrieving their property.

“Our suffering continued – we returned to hardship and a hostile environment. The homes and properties of the Abdi family owned were all confiscated. My father moved into his aunt’s house, the ownership of which also went to the regime,” he says.

“I was in a situation where I realized

it was critical for me to activate my visual memory,” says Abdi. During his time in refugee camps, he recalled one attempt to displace his family again.

“I remember, and my sister Zahra remembers, there was an attempt to evict us or displace us once again, in a truck, to Baghdad. We escaped from the camp and we went to my sister Lutfiyeh’s house in Damascus.”

At 22, Abdi moved from Haifa to Germany, where he was accepted into a visual arts school. Upon his return in 1972, he found that “there were few Palestinian artists”, he says. “I was in an environment where people were struggling for bread, not for creativity and nonessentials.”

Abdi worked as the chief graphic designer and illustrator of Al-Itihad newspaper based in Haifa and Al Jadid literary journal – two key publications in Palestinian society at the time – for more than a decade, starting in 1972.

He drew illustrations and prints for notable names in the Palestinian literary scene at the time, including Emile Habibi, Toufiq Zayyad, Samih al-Qassim, Mahmoud Darwish and Salman Natour.

Iraq Says Electricity Link With Jordan to Start Production

BAGHDAD (Anadolu) – Iraq said that an electricity grid interconnection with Jordan will start production on July 1.

“Production will start with a capacity of 50 megawatts in the first phase,” Electricity Ministry spokesman Ahmed Moussa said in statements quoted by state news agency INA.

He said production had been scheduled to

start in June but “was delayed due to weather conditions and arrangements on the Jordanian side.”

There was no confirmation yet from the Jordanian authorities.

Iraq generates some 19,000-21,000 megawatts, but the country’s actual need tops 30,000 megawatts, according to ministry of-

officials.

For years, Baghdad has imported 1,200 megawatts of electricity from neighboring Iran to feed its local electric power plants.

Last year, Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia for electricity interconnection between the two neighbors.