

# NGO: Zionist Regime Killed 37 Palestinian Children Since Start of Year

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An international and independent child rights organization says Zionist regime troops have killed more than three dozen Palestinian children during separate incursions in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip since the beginning of 2023.

Ayed Abu Qutaish, Director of the Accountability Program at Defense for Children International, said on Saturday that the troops killed 31 children in the West Bank and six others in Gaza during the mentioned period.

He told the official Voice of Palestine radio station that the regime authorities are holding 160 children behind bars, including 21 kept in administrative detention without charge or trial and based on so-called secret evidence.

Abu Qutaish said the killing and arrest of Palestinian children have escalated in an unprecedented manner, adding that the international community does not provide protection for Palestinian children and does not hold the regime to account for its crimes.

A 15-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by Zionist troops in the occu-



The young siblings and other family members mourn over the body of Mahmoud Abu Sa'an, a Palestinian youth shot dead by Zionist troops in the occupied West Bank town of Tulkarm, on August 4, 2023.

piated West Bank on Tuesday evening.

The Palestinian Health Ministry named the victim as Mohammad Farid al-Za'areer, who was killed near the illegal settlement of Shim'a close to the southern West Bank city of al-Khalil.

According to local Palestinian sources, Za'areer was one of the top students in his class and had just finished the 9th grade.

The regime's military claimed that

Za'areer looked suspicious, as they passed a bus station and decided to approach him for interrogation. Za'areer then allegedly pulled out a knife and the Israeli soldiers shot and killed him.

Israeli forces launch raids on various cities of the West Bank almost on a daily basis under the pretext of detaining what it calls "wanted" Palestinians. The raids usually lead to

violent confrontations with residents.

Over the past months, Israel has ramped up attacks on Palestinian towns and cities throughout the occupied territories. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

More than 200 Palestinians have been killed this year in the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza. The majority of these fatalities have been recorded in the West Bank.

At least 26 people have been killed in Palestinian retaliatory attacks against Israeli settlers during that time.

Those figures indicate that 2023 is already the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the United Nations began keeping track of fatalities in 2005.

Previously, 2022 had been the deadliest year with 150 Palestinians killed, of whom 33 were minors, according to the United Nations.

The rising number of fatalities last year prompted UN experts to condemn the treatment of Palestinians, including attacks on their homes and destruction of their property.

## IRGC... (Continued From Page One)

Gen. Salami said any spot in international waters and high seas is now within the naval sphere of influence of the Islamic Republic.

Both the IRGC navy and the Iranian navy, he said, have established their presence beyond coastal waters, extending their sphere of influence to encompass every corner of the oceans.

The general further expounded on how the positioning of enemy forces in close proximity to Iran has served as an opportunity that helped the Iranian armed forces broaden their deterrent capabilities, and devise a comprehensive plan to enhance their military prowess and counter adversaries.

Iran's military might and sphere of influence are now recognized worldwide, Salami said, emphasizing that Iran has turned into a main actor in the geometry of power in West Asia and around the world.

The IRGC chief commander also praised Iranian naval forces for protecting the country's national interests and maritime borders.

Late last month, Iranian Navy chief Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said his forces were committed to achieving an effective and successful presence in the international arena and raising the Iranian flag.

## Backing... (Continued From Page One)

technology and both are seen as bulwarks against Arab nationalism. Critics, however, have questioned this, arguing that one only needs to look to U.S. military involvement in the region over the decades to notice that, instead of being an ally, Israel has been a strategic liability. The Persian Gulf States, for example, have played a far greater role in supporting the U.S. militarily in the region than the Zionist regime.

The Iran nuclear deal negotiated by Obama is another case in point. Though the historic deal was applauded in Washington, including by major U.S. allies, Israel is accused of sabotaging the agreement. It continues to throw obstacles in front of President Joe Biden, who has been trying to revive the deal negotiated by his predecessor.

Also on Israel and Palestine, it is argued that the U.S. has used nearly every ounce of political currency and good-will in defending the occupation entity for decades such that America's moral standing on the global stage is at its lowest point ever.

Simon argues that the U.S. should focus on its domestic concerns while redefining its stance in the Middle East. The book sparks a fresh debate about the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship, challenging long-held assumptions and advocating for a more pragmatic approach to the complex dynamics in the region.

Regarding future relations, Simon believes that the occupying regime of Israel will lose the bipartisan support it has enjoyed. He predicts a growing divide between Israel and the Democratic Party in the U.S.

## FM... (Continued From Page 2)

Late Founder of Pakistan," said Amirabdollahian. "During the day, I also witnessed the signing of the economic and trade cooperation agreements between the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Karachi's Chamber of Commerce."

The top Iranian diplomat said, "During our stay in Karachi, at the initiative of the chief minister of Sindh Province and in the presence of the mayor, ministers and senior officials of the Pakistani province, we unveiled the commemorative plaque of a newly built boulevard named after Imam Khomeini."

## Youme ... (Continued From Page 5)

actions since August 5, 2019, and demanded that India cancel the issuance of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris as well as other unilateral and illegal actions, including 'Jammu & Kashmir Re-organization Order 2020', 'Jammu & Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate Rules 2020', 'Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill 2020' and amendments to the landownership laws.

Modi Sarkar (Modi Government of India) has also trampled its famous Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru's widely publicized statement that "Kashmir neither belonged to India nor to Pakistan but to Kashmiris i.e. the people of Kashmir". It was rather Nehru who took the lead in pledging to the United Nations Security Council that a plebiscite would be held in Kashmir to ascertain the will of the people of Kashmir.

The conferment of special status on Kashmir under Article 370 was, in fact, in line with this solemn pledge as well as in line with the Security Council resolutions accepting the right of self-determination of the people inhabiting the Valley.

Now that four years have gone by since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A of the Indian constitution, Kashmiri Muslims continue to face abject misery at the hands of Indian tyrants and their merciless forces which have unleashed a reign of terror against them on one pretext or the other.

Pakistan has never left any stone unturned in highlighting the just Kashmir cause. At every international forum and in every global interaction, Pakistani leaders and diplomats try their utmost to make the world aware of the deceptive façade of India which is not ceasing its brutal policies in Kashmir. Pakistani Prime Ministers have also been submitting dossiers to the UN Secretary General in this regard. In 2016, the media delegation accompanying the then Prime Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, witnessed the handing over of a dossier on this subject. Pakistan has, in fact, been releasing comprehensive and well-researched dossiers. One such latest dossier covered 3432 cases of war crimes perpetrated by senior officers of the Indian occupying forces since 1989.

Pakistan continues to press upon the international community to take practical steps and hold India accountable for its gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK.

Pakistan has also urged the United Nations to persuade India for:  
(a) Complete cessation of military and paramilitary action by Indian forces against the people of Jammu and Kashmir; (b) Unconditional release of political prisoners; (c) Repeal of all draconian laws; (d) Revocation of Domicile Law and (e) Restoration of the Kashmiris' right of peaceful association, assembly, and demonstration.

-Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tehran

## Russia: Idlib Militants Intensifying Weapons, Drones Production

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia has claimed that the militant factions in Idlib recently intensified the production of weapons and drones.

Deputy head of the Russian Reconciliation Center Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet stated that Russia: "Will not allow any acts of incitement against the Russian military."

Kolet claimed that the leadership of the Russian armed forces group in Syria is ready to take the most decisive measures to protect the lives of Syrians from Russian and Syrian civilians and military.

He pointed out that the militants are conducting active recruitment

operations, calling on their leaders to: "Reject any acts of incitement and follow the path for a peaceful settlement of the conflict."

On Thursday, Kolet expressed: "Russia is deeply concerned about information indicating the preparation of terrorist attacks against the Russian armed forces' targets and patrols in Syria. Data indicates that the al-Nusra Front group (Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham) is actively preparing suicide bombers whose mission is to carry out attacks against targets and patrols belonging to the Russian army and regime forces."

Kolet pointed out that the Russian side is concerned, adding that

the Russian forces will take the most decisive measures against the planners of the attacks.

Russian Air Force on Saturday launched an airstrike on the positions of terrorists near Syria's Idlib.

A day earlier, Vadim Kulit, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria said that the U.S.-led coalition's fighter jets and drones violated Syria's airspace 28 times during the past day, TASS reported.

"Aircraft of the so-called U.S.-led international anti-terrorist coalition continue to create dangerous situation in the sky over

Syria, infringing upon Syria's airspace and violating deconfliction protocols. Eleven violations of the deconfliction protocols of December 9, 2019, linked with the flights by the coalition drones were reported in Syria in the past 24 hours," he said.

According to Kulit, the number of violations of Syria's airspace in the al-Tanf area, across which international air routes run, is growing. "Thus, during the day, 17 such violations by one pair of the coalition's F-16, five pairs of F-35, and two pairs of Rafale fighter jets, as well as by two MQ-1C multi-role unmanned aerial vehicles were reported," he said.

## Clashes Erupt in Yemen, 3 UAE-Backed Forces Killed

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The Southern Transitional Council has said in a statement that it lost 3 of its members in a conflict with the Sana'a government forces.

The council group said that the clashes took place in Lahij governorate in southwestern Yemen and in clashes with the Yemeni army and Popular Committees on Saturday.

On its website 'Deraalanoob', the separatist group said the three members of the group were killed during the conflict in "Yafe'a" district in the northeast of Lahj governorate.

This group is known as the proxy

group backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which usually engages in infighting with Riyadh-backed proxy groups in the south of Yemen. In the past years, the southern areas of Yemen have witnessed clashes between three different groups, the proxy forces of the UAE, the proxy elements of Saudi Arabia and the Sana'a government forces which consist of the Yemeni Army and Popular Committees, Ansarullah.

On Friday, the Southern Transitional Council announced its forces were engaged in a conflict with the Yemeni army and Ansarullah forces in Lahj province.

The conflict between the Yemeni army forces and Ansarullah's Popular Committees and the separatists in the south intensified after Sana'a forces were able to take control of Zahir town in the west of al-Bayda province and on the border with Lahij province in July.

Saudi Arabia initiated a brutal war of aggression against Yemen in March 2015, enlisting the assistance of some of its regional allies, including the United Arab Emirates, as well as massive shipments of advanced weaponry from the U.S. and Western Europe.

The Western governments further extended their political and

logistical support to Riyadh in their failed bid to restore power in Yemen to the country's former Saudi-installed government.

The former Yemeni government's president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with Ansarullah. The movement has been running Yemen's affairs in the absence of a functioning administration.

The war further led to the killing of tens of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entire nation into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

## Kuwait Warns Bilateral Ties Could Sour Over Lebanese Minister's Comments

KUWAIT (Dispatches) – A new row has emerged between Kuwait and Lebanon following Lebanon caretaker Economy Minister Amin Salam's comments about rebuilding a portion of Beirut's port.

On Saturday, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah al-Jaber al-Sabah criticised Salam's comments made on Wednesday, when the minister urged Kuwait to rebuild Lebanon's main wheat silos, a decision he said could be made with "the stroke of a pen".

The silos were built in 1969 with a grant

from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development but were destroyed during the Beirut port blast of 2020.

Al-Sabah said Salam's comments were "incompatible" with political norms on how decisions were made and called on him to retract them in order to protect bilateral ties.

Salam, in turn, said he meant no offence by his comments and rather was referring to how quickly the decision could be taken, Lebanese media quoted him saying.

Lebanon's relations with Persian Gulf

Arab states soured in 2021 when Lebanon's then-information minister criticized the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen. Kuwait was among the Persian Gulf countries to withdraw their envoys to Lebanon, only having them return in 2022.

Kuwait's response occurred just a day after Lebanon marked three years since the catastrophic blast on August 4, 2020 that destroyed many parts of the Lebanese capital, killing more than 220 people and injuring at least 6,500 others.