

# Rights Group Calls for Prosecuting Perpetrators of Egypt's Rabaa Massacre

CAIRO (Middle East Eye) – The international community must hold those responsible for the deaths of hundreds of protesters responsible, a decade after the worst mass killing in Egypt's modern history, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement marking the 10th anniversary of the massacre.

At least 900 people died when Egyptian soldiers and police officers forcibly dispersed a protest camp in Cairo's Rabaa al-Adawiya Square on 14 August 2013.

Tens of thousands had gathered there to demand the return of former President Mohamed Morsi, who had been deposed by his defence minister and current Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in a coup a month and a half earlier.

HRW described the killings as "a likely crime against hu-



There is extensive video evidence of police officers and soldiers firing on protesters at Rabaa Square.

manity" and considered it the start of a continuing campaign of repression against critics of Sisi's rule.

Despite heavy visual documentation of the killings by Egyptian activists, journalists and rights groups, to date no one responsible for the deaths has been prosecuted by the

Egyptian authorities.

"Addressing what happened in Rabaa does not only concern Rabaa victims and their families but is also crucial for the prospect of human rights and democracy in Egypt," said Adam Coogler, the rights group's deputy Middle East and North Africa director.

"The Rabaa massacre precipitated a devastating campaign of arrests, sham trials, torture and exile that has all but removed any space for critical dialogue and pushed many reformists out of the country," he continued.

Hundreds of protesters who participated in the sit-in have been detained since the massacre including many who were convicted in mass trials that have been criticised for lacking transparency and fairness.

HRW has previously said that the killings were premeditated and the planning involved high-profile members of the Egyptian government in office at that time, including then defence minister Sisi, Prime Minister Hazem El Beblawi, and interim President Adly Mansour.

## Iran...

(Continued From Page One)

"Compromising national security and disrupting peace and the people's daily lives is what enemies of Iran usually do, which has been intensified in recent weeks but thwarted through the vigilance of security forces," he said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the terrorists are trying to take revenge on Iranian citizens for the "heavy blows" they were dealt by the Islamic Republic over the past years.

"Attacking innocent pilgrims in the holy shrine is a criminal act to avenge the heavy blows that they (terrorists) suffered at the hands of brave and dedicated Iranian forces in the battlefields," he noted.

### Wave of Condemnations

Russia's embassy in Tehran strongly denounced the terror attack, reaffirming its readiness to further increase cooperation with Iran in the fight against terrorism.

The embassy further extended its condolences to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation, and the families of the victims over the terrorist attack.

"Russia strongly condemns the incident and extends its words of heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the victims and the injured. We hope that those responsible for the terrorist attack will be found and duly punished," the statement said.

Iraqi Shia cleric and head of National Wisdom Movement, Ammar Hakim, also condemned the criminal act by the Daesh-linked terrorist.

"We sincerely offer our condolences to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the government and the Muslim nation of Iran for this tragic incident," he said in a statement.

"We ask the God Almighty to bestow forbearance and patience to the bereaved families of martyrs on this irreparable loss and wish speedy recovery for the injured," Hakim added.

The prominent Shia figure further called on the international community, particularly the countries affected by the scourge of terrorism, to unite in order to uproot all the sources of terrorism and reduce its destructive effects on the security and stability of nations.

Pakistan's parliament speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf also condemned the terrorist attack, extending his condolences to the government and the people of Iran.

"Terrorists are trying to destroy the peace and stability of the region for their sinister purposes," Pervaiz said in a statement.

He said attacking innocent people and shedding their blood has nothing to do with religion, pointing out that terrorist acts can never be justified in Islam.

## Officials...

(Continued From Page One)

water and was saved from drowning.

"If Peter can walk on water, yes we can. We will get to the shore," she said, her voice quivering.

Meanwhile, Hawaii officials urged tourists to avoid traveling to Maui as many hotels prepared to house evacuees and first responders.

## South...

(Continued From Page One)

open to foreign cultural influences, which has probably helped their acceptance of newcomers.

Latin American countries have helped the Arabs, especially the Syrians, Lebanese and, more recently, Palestinians, to integrate into their local communities in an exemplary way. Today, millions of Latin Americans of Arab descent are proud of their ancestry.

While playing an important role in society, though, the Palestinian community in Brazil is facing many challenges, not least the disappearance of their language and sense of identity among the second and third generations.

## Official ...

(Continued From Page One)

Nonetheless, the official said Iranian technical experts have visited a hydrometric station in Deh Rawood, upstream of the Kajaki Dam.

"Although this consent is a positive step, a visit at any time cannot be considered as fulfilling our requirements. The visit should take place at a time when maximum water is discharged," Javanbakht said.

According to the Helmand River Treaty of 1973, the official said, 850 million cubic meters of water must be released annually from Helmand River to Iran.

"Effective water release has not occurred in recent years, and the Afghan side attributes this to drought," he said.

Iran's share of the water, however, has steadily dwindled in recent years due to excessive irrigation and dam construction in Afghanistan.

## Ministry...

(Continued From Page 2)

reports on the visit are being examined.

Following more than a century of rifts, the two countries signed a treaty in 1973 to establish a means of regulating their use of the river.

Iran must receive an annual share of 820 million cubic meters from the Hirmand under the accord, which Afghanistan has grossly violated in letter and spirit, endangering the lives of many Iranians who rely on Hamoun wetlands for drinking water, agriculture, and fishing.

# Opposition Leader: Israel Must Not Agree to Saudi Uranium Enrichment

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's opposition leader Yair Lapid says the regime can under no circumstances agree to a uranium enrichment program by Saudi Arabia, as Riyadh's enrichment activities may spark "a nuclear arms race" in the region.

The former prime minister's remarks came amid reports of a potential U.S.-brokered normalization deal between the occupying regime and Saudi Arabia that enables the latter to develop a nuclear program.

"The problem with this normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia is that it will allow uranium enrichment on Saudi soil,

and Israel cannot agree to that under any circumstances," he said.

"The U.S. administration knows this matter; because it will lead to a nuclear arms race in [West Asia] ... it is a threat to lives and must not be approved."

On Wednesday, the Wall Street Journal reported an agreement on the general outline of an Israeli-Saudi normalization pact.

Under the deal, Riyadh would secure American backing for a civilian nuclear program, as well as access to advanced weapons. In exchange, the kingdom would take major steps to distance itself from China and Israel would allow an independent Palestinian

state.

On Thursday, Lapid told U.S. Democratic Party lawmakers visiting the occupied territories that he opposes any agreement that allows Riyadh to enrich uranium.

"The deal at the moment endangers Israel's security and the region. It is forbidden to give Saudi Arabia any level of uranium enrichment," he said.

Lapid made similar remarks publicly in an interview with Channel 12 news in the same day.

"I have no problem with a civilian nuclear program. There are Middle Eastern countries that have civilian nuclear programs. What they don't have is uranium

enrichment on their soil. This is what is on the table now and it cannot be allowed to be on the table. Israel can't agree to uranium enrichment in Saudi Arabia, because it endangers Israel's security," he explained.

In response, Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party advised Lapid "not to preach" to the premier about security.

However, Lapid is not the only Israeli official to reject this new plan for a normalization deal between Riyadh and Tel Aviv. Israel's Kan radio reported on Wednesday that "senior officials in Israel are divided on this issue."

# Afghan Women Take Protests Online as Taliban Crush Dissent

KABUL (Reuters) – Days after the Taliban administration in Afghanistan announced in July that all women's beauty salons must be closed within a month, videos on social media showed groups of women protesting on the streets in Kabul, as well as in their homes, with many holding signs that read: "Bread, justice, work."

Since taking over Kabul on Aug. 15, 2021, the Taliban administration has barred girls and women from high schools, colleges, universities and most jobs, including working for the United Nations and non-government organizations.

Afghan women have pushed back, taking to the streets to op-

pose the Taliban, and moving their protests indoors and online as arrests and violent crackdowns grew, according to research by the Center for Information Resilience, a non-profit.

Organizing through WhatsApp and Telegram groups, Afghan women have posted pictures and videos of the protests on Facebook, Instagram and X — formerly known as Twitter, drawing attention to the worsening crisis, and enabling international rights groups to document abuses and opposition to the Taliban.

"The images of women protesting on the streets have been the single most important factor in compel-

ling the international community not to look away," said Heather Barr, women's rights associate director at Human Rights Watch.

"The indoor protests feel like a valuable way of saying, in between the very risky street protests: 'We're still here. Just because you don't see us on the streets every day it does not mean that our resistance is over,'" she said.

Several of the indoor protests are organized by the Purple Saturdays Movement, a women's rights group that was formed two days after the fall of Kabul, and has hundreds of members.

It moved its demonstrations indoors after dozens of its members

were arrested and imprisoned, said founder Maryam Marof Arwin, a former television news anchor.

"Even broadcasting our protests on social media networks, we are insulted, warned, and threatened with prison and death by the Taliban and their supporters," she said.

"But we will not give up our fight to bring the crimes of the Taliban to the eyes and ears of the world," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Taliban banned the Internet when they first controlled Afghanistan in the late-1990s, but have since embraced social media to broadcast their messages and attack critics.

# Palestine Records Cases of New Coronavirus Variant EG.5

RAMALLAH (Xinhua) – The Palestinian Ministry of Health says that 50-100 cases of the new COVID-19 variant EG.5 have been reported in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Some of the registered cases were admitted to hospitals and left after receiving the necessary treatment," said Kamal al-Shakhra, primary healthcare director in the

health ministry, adding that the new virus rapidly spreads and causes symptoms such as fever, sore throat, runny nose and sore muscles.

Al-Shakhra also said that the people most at risk of infection with the new variant are the elderly and those with chronic diseases, and that the infections coincided with summer when holiday movements abound.

Osama al-Najjar, head of supportive medical professions and blood banks, said in a statement that the ministry is following up on what the World Health Organization (WHO) is publishing about the global spread of the new variant.

A few days ago, the WHO announced the spread of the new Omicron variant EG.5 and classified it as a "variant of interest."