

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The State Department is working to repatriate a family of 10 American citizens stranded in Syria, according to officials, the New York Times reports. According to the report, the transfer would make them the largest group brought back to the United States from northeastern Syria, where they are being held by a Kurdish-led militia. The American government has repatriated 40 such citizens since 2016 – 25 children and 15 adults, according to the State Department. The detention centers in northeastern Syria typically hold the families of suspected Daesh militants. Much remains unclear about the family's interactions with the group before the collapse of the terrorist group, the report added.

A fool's mind is at the mercy of his tongue and a wise man's tongue is under the control of his mind.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## Thousands of Israeli Academics, Artists Urge Biden, UN to Shun Netanyahu

AL-QUDS (AP) – Thousands of Israeli academics and artists have urged U.S. President Joe Biden and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to shun Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his visit to the United States next week, underlining the divide between the occupying regime's far-right cabinet and segments of the population in the occupied territories.

In an open letter, over 3,500 signers, including well-known Israeli writer David Grossman and painter Tamar Getter, called on Biden and Guterres not to meet with Netanyahu or invite him to speak at the UN General Assembly's yearly meeting of world leaders.

The prime minister's office has said Netanyahu will travel to the U.S. next week to visit high-tech



People protest against plans by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet to overhaul the judicial system in Al-Quds, Monday, Sept. 11, 2023.

leaders in California before flying to New York to address the UN.

Netanyahu incites people against each other, threatens the regime's security and economy, and turns

his face away from the historical conflict that tears the regime apart – the forceful domination of the Palestinian people, the open letter read.

Netanyahu's public itinerary so far does not feature an appointment with Biden at the White House. Biden said earlier this year he had no intention to meet Netanyahu "in the near term," but the president softened his position in July, leaving open the possibility of informal talks between the two or a meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly.

The regime's rightward lurch under Netanyahu's extremist and conservative regime that took office late last year has strained the regime's critical ties with the U.S.

Netanyahu's push to overhaul the regime's judicial system — an effort to weaken the supreme court and give more power to the governing coalition — has drawn strong criticism from Washington, where officials have said the U.S.-Zionist alliance will weaken.

## UN Rights Chief: Taliban Wage Systematic Assault on Freedom in Afghanistan



A Taliban fighter stands guard as women wait to receive food rations distributed by a humanitarian aid group in Kabul on May 23, 2023.

ISLAMABAD (AP) – The Taliban have waged a systematic assault on the freedom of Afghanistan's people, including women and girls experiencing "immeasurably cruel" oppression, the UN's human rights chief said Tuesday.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said that human rights are in a state of collapse in Afghanistan more than two years after the Taliban returned to power and stripped back institutional protections at all levels. He urged UN member states to help fill the void.

"The shocking level of oppression of Afghan women and girls is immeasurably cruel," Turk said during a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. "Afghanistan has set a devastating precedent as the only country in the world where women and girls are denied access to secondary and higher education."

The Taliban regained control of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew from the country after more than two decades of war. They initially

promised a more moderate approach than during their previous rule from 1996 to 2001 but gradually reimposed their harsh Sharia.

Along with excluding girls and women from education beyond sixth grade, most forms of employment and many public spaces, the Taliban have harassed or beaten women at checkpoints for failing to wear a hijab, according to a report Turk presented to the Human Rights Council. They have ordered women to return home from markets for shopping without a male guardian.

With female lawyers and judges excluded from working or practicing law, women and girls have less ability to obtain legal representation and access to justice, the report stated.

The Taliban edicts have prompted an international outcry. But officials, including the chief Hibatullah Akhundzada, have told other countries to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Nobody from the Taliban was immediately available for comment on the UN report.

## Islamic Jihad Condemns Zionist Regime's Participation in Riyadh UNESCO Meeting

RIYADH (Dispatches) – The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has condemned the Saudi Arabia for allowing an Israeli delegation to participate in a UNESCO meeting in Riyadh.

"Receiving an Israeli delegation in the land of the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the place of revelation is trying, in vain, to legitimize the normalization efforts that are rejected by the peoples of our Arab and Muslim nation," said the movement.

It added that the participation of the Zionist delegation in this meeting comes at a time when Israel itself rejects UNESCO decisions and has boycotted the organization in the past.

Islamic Jihad pointed out that this is happening while the Israeli occupation forces are carrying out aggressive Judaization of Palestinian land, and illegal settlement growth. Moreover, it follows the regime's ongoing violations against Palestinian students, the fight against the Palestinian curriculum in occupied Al-Quds, and

the imposition of Judaization on its people.

"This [presence in Riyadh] is nothing but a cover for and encouragement of these crimes and neglect of Al-Quds and its sanctities," concluded the resistance movement.

UNESCO, on Tuesday, confirmed that a Zionist delegation attended its conference.

"We confirm that a delegation from Israel... is present at the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee which is being held in Riyadh," UNESCO told Anadolu, without giving further details.

On Monday, an Israeli official also confirmed the news for Anadolu, adding that this is the first time an Israeli delegation is paying an official visit to Saudi Arabia, which has no official ties with Israel.

The delegation is made up of Zionist foreign ministry officials, said the source, who asked not to be named as he is not authorized to speak to the media.

### 'Following in Footsteps of France'

## Egypt Niqab Ban in Schools Stirs Outrage

CAIRO (Dispatches) – The Egyptian government has caused fury after announcing a ban on the wearing of the face-covering niqab in schools from the beginning of the next term on 30 September.

Education Minister Reda Hegazy said students would still have the right to choose whether to wear a headscarf, but insisted it must not cover their faces.

He also said that the child's guardian should be aware of their choice, and that it must have been made without any outside pressure.

"Here, the role of the teachers of the Arabic language, religious education, and social and psychological education, will be to prepare the students

psychologically to implement the ministry's decision with all kindness and gentleness, taking into account the students' psychological state and their age level," he said in a statement.

There has been an ongoing debate over the wearing of the niqab in schools for many years in Egypt.

The garment has been worn by Muslim women for religious reasons across the world for centuries.

Rights group have argued that the Egyptian constitution protects religious freedoms and restricting the niqab is a violation of civil liberties.

A number of public and private institutions across Egypt already impose bans on the wearing of the niqab.

Cairo University has banned the wearing of face veils by teaching staff since 2015, a rule that was upheld by an Egyptian court in 2020.

M A, a 33-year-old marketing manager from Alexandria, believes the ban might lead some parents to transfer their children from mixed schools to female-only ones.

Writer F A, 45, from Cairo, thinks the government's decision is the latest case of how women are used as "punching bags ... socially, politically and economically".

"Doesn't matter under what pretext, or none ... females always pull the short straw," she said.

"A story as old as time and one that continues to be written and

many applaud/decry it depending on which lens they have slapped on to see the world."

She said: "With France banning the abaya and the burkini, Egypt following suit with the niqab ban and before that the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade and the Taliban continuing to severely constrain and constrict females from basically living – the policing of women's bodies continues."

I A, a 33-year-old civil engineer, also expressed support for women wearing niqab at schools "as it is part of everyone's freedom".

"Egypt is a Muslim country," he told Al Jazeera, adding that he believed it would be difficult to erase the country's identity with such a decision.

## Hezbollah Calls for Immediate Ceasefire in Ain al-Hilweh Camp

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement voiced deep sorrow over the infighting in Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

In a statement, Hezbollah boldly opposed and categorically rejected the infighting, stressing that the Zionist enemy is the only beneficiary and that the Palestinian people and cause are the most affected.

"At a time when the Palestinian resistance fighters in the inside are engaging in the greatest epics aimed at liberating the soil of Palestine, this pointless fighting ... destroys people and stones, deepens the tragedy, and greatly harms Palestinian national unity and the future of national action."

Hezbollah called for an immediate ceasefire and commitment to the stipulations as well as mechanisms of the solution approved within the framework of the Palestinian national action, in coordination with the Lebanese security services and the active and influential forces.

"Deeply pained by the fall of the innocent victims", Hezbollah asked God Almighty to grant the casualties families mercy and patience and the wounded wellness and recovery.

Hezbollah finally praised all the efforts exerted by all parties to decisively end this fighting, cope with its repercussions, and prevent it from erupting again.

Ten people were killed and dozens wounded in renewed violence between rival groups in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon, with a senior Palestinian official flying in on Monday amid fears the bloodshed could spread.

Fighting resumed over the weekend after a month-long ceasefire and has since left at least 10 people dead, according to two Palestinian sources in the camp. Six of them were from Fatah and another two were from the rival group.

The two remaining victims were civilians, a Lebanese security source and two Palestinian

sources said. One was killed on Saturday when a stray bullet from the clashes reached a town near the camp, the Lebanese security source said.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem also said on Sunday that the armed clashes in the Ain al-Hilweh camp in southern Lebanon would lead to no victory and serve the Zionist regime's interests.

"Undoubtedly, these incidents will not win any victory and none of the involved parties will benefit from them," he said. "These events are only in line with the interests of the occupying regime because the camps for refugees must be calm to prepare them to confront the enemy and prepare their return to their land after liberation; not for war and conflict."

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said over 2,000 people were forced to flee since the beginning of the clashes in the camp in late July, which involved heavy weaponry.