

UK Opposes ICJ Ruling on Zionist Occupation of Palestine

LONDON (Dispatches) – The UK has come under scrutiny for reportedly attempting to hinder the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from issuing a legal opinion on the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestine.

The UK's alleged move came to light through a 43-page legal opinion submitted to the ICJ, which is currently in the fact-finding stage before an expected advisory opinion from the Court on the legal consequences of the "occupation, settlement and annexation" of Palestinian land.

The UK's objection submitted in the "amicus brief" has been met with dismay as it not only seeks to derail the work of the ICJ, it also goes against the grain of other member states and non-governmental organizations by opposing the hearing of the case entirely.

Critics argue that the UK's stance ignores the entrenched nature of the Zionist regime's occupation and the deteriorating situation on the ground. Palestinian diplomats and international humanitarian law experts have expressed dismay at the UK's submission. The ICJ, based in The Hague, is the top United Nations Court for resolving disputes between nations; its decisions are binding, although it lacks enforcement powers.

"[Assuming that the document is



A Zionist trooper pointing his gun at a Palestinian protester in the occupied West Bank.

authentic] ... this is a rather weak and uninformed document that portrays Israel's longstanding occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its annexation of East Jerusalem (Al-Quds), as a bilateral dispute between two sides," Dr Victor Kattan, an assistant professor in public international law at the University of Nottingham is reported saying in the Guardian.

The ICJ is expected to deliver its advisory opinion to the UN General Assembly on the legal consequences of the "occupation, settlement and annexation" of Palestinian land in the

coming months.

This follows a UNGA resolution in December that requested the ICJ's opinion on "legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory".

At that time, the Zionist regime and its Western backers including the US and UK voted against the resolution, claiming that it would push the parties to the conflict away from negotiations.

The Guardian reports Palestinian diplomats as well as international humanitarian law experts as saying the UK position ignores not just the fact that the

regime's occupation is "entrenched", but that the situation is rapidly deteriorating.

"This is a rather weak and uninformed document that portrays Israel's longstanding occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and its annexation of East Jerusalem (Al-Quds), as a bilateral dispute between two states," said Dr. Victor Kattan, an assistant professor in public international law at the University of Nottingham and an expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The UK submission is a complete endorsement of Israeli talking points. They are not arguing that this is not the right time to go to the ICJ, because the peace process is working. They are saying the Israeli violations Palestinians point out are not as important as negotiation frameworks from decades ago." A senior Palestinian source told The Guardian unanimously.

Daniel Machover of Hickman & Rose solicitors in London, who has extensive experience in human rights litigation, told the Guardian: "It is a matter of concern that the UK is seeking to block the court from addressing such important matters, something I am sure it would not do were the court asked to address comparable issues ... such as Russia's occupation of Ukrainian territory."

Rise...

(Continued From Page One)

growth lies in linking with independent economies in the region that can help realize resistance economy in the country," he told reporters in Tehran on his return from the summit.

In Johannesburg, he met with world leaders including President Xi who said China is willing to boost cooperation with Iran on BRICS and other platforms.

"China is ready to consolidate friendship and deepen mutual trust with the Iranian side and to continue to support each other on issues of mutual core interests," the Chinese president said.

Raisi said Iran is ready to give a boost to its bilateral cooperation with China and help enhance multilateralism, stressing that Iran's membership in BRICS would also strengthen the core approaches of the group, including opposition to the U.S. unilateralism.

Referring to the agreements already signed between Tehran and Beijing, the Iranian president stressed the need for the enforcement of a 25-year comprehensive deal between the two countries.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held wide-ranging talks with President Raisi, during which they reviewed bilateral ties including in areas of trade and investment, energy, connectivity, counter-terrorism, and Afghanistan.

"Had a wonderful meeting with President Ebrahim Raisi. I am glad that Iran will be joining BRICS. Discussed ways to deepen trade and cultural cooperation between India and Iran," Modi said in a post on platform X.

The prime minister's office said that Modi and Raisi held wide-ranging talks during which they discussed ways to boost ties in sectors like energy, connectivity, and trade.

They had spoken over the phone on Friday and discussed strengthening of bilateral and regional cooperation, including realizing the full potential of Chabahar Port.

In a separate meeting with Raisi, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva congratulated the Islamic Republic on joining the BRICS group.

He said there are many opportunities in the fields of scientific, technological and academic exchanges and culture to expand cooperation between the two countries.

The president of Brazil denounced sanctions as a "criminal weapon" against world nations that targets the people of the embargoed country.

He said the current UN structure is incapable of preventing the encroachment of the powers against the rights of other nations, which requires the current structures to be redesigned.

BRICS, President Lula said, should be able to establish a new economic logic and order in the world.

President Raisi touched on the American officials' acknowledgement of the scandalous failure of the "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

He said despite the cruel sanctions, Iran's advances in science and technology have been going in leaps and bounds.

Absolute...

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the plane's passengers, including Yevgeny Prigozhin. Of course, in the West, all this speculation is presented from a well-known angle," Peskov told reporters.

"All of this is an absolute lie, and here, when covering this issue, it is necessary to base yourself on facts. There are not many facts yet. They need to be established in the course of investigative actions," he said.

Earlier on Friday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov had scolded U.S. President Joe Biden for expressing his lack of surprise that Prigozhin had been killed in a plane crash, accusing Biden of disregarding diplomatic norms.

Russian investigators have opened a probe into what happened, but have not yet said what they suspect caused the plane to suddenly fall from the sky northwest of Moscow.

Nor have they officially confirmed the identities of the 10 bodies recovered from the wreckage.

Asked if the Kremlin had received official confirmation of Prigozhin's death, Peskov said: "If you listened carefully to the Russian president's statement, he said that all the necessary tests, including genetic tests, will now be carried out. The official results - as soon as they are ready to be published, will be published."

Peskov, who said Putin had not met Prigozhin recently, also said it was unclear how long the tests and investigative work would take.

It was therefore impossible to start talking about whether Putin would attend Prigozhin's funeral, Peskov said in answer to a question on the subject.

"There are no dates for the funeral yet, it is impossible to talk about it at all. The only thing I can say is that the president has a rather busy schedule at the moment."

Nigel Gould-Davies, a former British ambassador to Belarus who is now a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), said the funeral would be significant.

"If Putin wishes to emphasize that Prigozhin died as a traitor, he will ignore it," said Gould-Davies.

"(While) Prigozhin's supporters may use it as an opportunity to eulogize him and his critique of the Kremlin's conduct of the war -- and could strengthen the hostility of a core of Wagner loyalists towards the Kremlin," he said.

British military intelligence said on Friday there was not yet definitive proof that Prigozhin had been onboard but that it was "highly likely" he was dead.

The Pentagon has said its own initial assessment is that Prigozhin was killed.

Russia's Baza news outlet, which has good sources among law enforcement agencies, has reported that investigators are focusing on a theory that one or two bombs may have been planted on board the plane.

Asked about the future of the Wagner Group, which has series of lucrative contracts across Africa and a contingent in Belarus training the army there but now appears leaderless, Kremlin spokesman Peskov was concise.

"I can't tell you anything now, I don't know," he said.

Nearly ...

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The fire is the deadliest in the U.S. since a 1918 forest fire in Minnesota and Wisconsin killed more than 450.

On Thursday, Maui County sued Hawaiian Electric for failing to shut down its equipment despite warnings that the high winds could knock down power lines.

"We are very disappointed that Maui County chose this litigious path while the investigation is still unfolding," the company said in response to a request for comment.

President...

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improve the level of economic and cultural relations.

Hassan, for her part, welcomed the activation of the joint economic commission, stating that Iran and Tanzania have amicable political and diplomatic relations, and their trade ties should grow in proportion to such relations.

President Raisi also held separate talks with his counterparts from Bangladesh, before leaving for Tehran.

What...

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and defined by its host city and region," explained Vincenzo de Bellis, director of fairs and exhibition platforms at Art Basel.

In the forthcoming edition of Paris+par Art Basel this October, the fair will offer an expanded, citywide public program beyond its venue at the Grand Palais Éphémère, with freely accessible exhibitions, outdoor installations, and a series of talks and debates.

"Art Basel is a means of dialogue and discovery for everyone who wishes to attend, from museum representatives to art enthusiasts and this sense of discovery isn't confined to the walls of the exhibitor halls," de Bellis added.

Other fairs are dedicated to specific categories of artworks such as photography or works on paper.

Helping to legitimize unconventional mediums in the context of the contemporary art market, art fairs push at curatorial boundaries, explained Helen Toomer, director of PHOTOFAIRS New York, which takes place in September.

"PHOTOFAIRS New York is working to shift perceptions of what photography can be, providing a space to appreciate photography in all its forms; from modern examples, right through to digital and film work, and looking ahead to the future," she told Artsy.

"The fair includes a multitude of solo shows, and in addition to championing well-established artists, is looking to support the younger generation of talent."

Artworks from a broad range of artists are displayed at fairs and so they also become hot spots for collectors to explore and discover new artists.

"Art fairs provide an extraordinary opportunity for anyone new to, or interested in, art collecting," said Nicole Berry, director of The Armory Show, which runs during the first week of September in New York.

"During their run, attendees can see work by a variety of artists, speak with exhibitors and artists, and converse with countless collectors of all experience levels. Immersion in this welcoming environment allows beginner collectors to enjoy a vast array of contemporary art and to find an entry point for their new collection."

Additionally, art fairs are a central place for connectivity in the art world. Not only do these events serve the purpose of viewing art in person, but they offer gallerists, collectors, and art professionals an opportunity to engage in important conversations. Relationship-building is crucial as a collector, and so these large-scale shows are important social events.

"Art fairs serve as platforms for artists, galleries, and collectors to connect, exchange ideas, and build deeper relationships," said Kelly Freeman, director of Art on Paper, which specializes in paper-based art and also takes place in New York in September.

"Art fairs provide a snapshot of current trends and are a vital place for the discovery of emerging talent."

Sana'a Warns of Escalating Tension Over Suspended Salaries

SANAA (Xinhua) – The Sana'a-based government in Yemen has warned of an escalation of the tensions if the Saudi-backed forces in the south do not pay the salaries of civil servants in northern areas.

Abdulmalik al-Ajri, a member of the negotiating delegation, said that the situation has reached a critical point due to the issue of suspended salaries, which seriously threatens the fragile ceasefire in the country.

"The responsibility of the authority and the south rests with the responsibility of restoring the employees' basic right to salaries," the al Masirah TV quoted the official as saying on Friday.

Al-Ajri stressed that if the situation reaches a dead end, things will take an escalatory course, which they "do not wish for," according to the report.

He called on the international community and the United Nations to realize that the issue of salaries has become a serious threat to the fragile ceasefire.

The process of paying the salaries of public sector employees in Yemen has stopped since 2016, as a result of the collapsing economic situation and the financial division between the north and the south.

The Sana'a-based government has recently been facing increasing demands and pressure as civil

servants rallied to claim their overdue salaries.

Earlier this year, Sana'a rejected a proposal by Riyadh to transfer oil and gas revenues to the Saudi National Bank in return for the kingdom to pay public sector wages in Yemen.

Mahdi al-Mashat, the head of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, held the United States responsible for the hurdles created by Saudi Arabia in paying salaries of civil servants in the areas controlled by the Ansarullah movement.

Mashat also urged Washington not to make enemies among more than 10 million Yemeni public sector workers by preventing the

payment of their wages.

Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with its Arab allies and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and other Western states, launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015. It also imposed the most severe siege on Yemen, weakening the country's economy.

Riyadh sought to crush Ansarullah and reinstall the Riyadh-friendly regime of Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, but it failed to do achieve its objective.

The war, meanwhile, has killed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Ethiopian Survivors Recount Horror of Mass Killings at Saudi Border

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – Ahmed still struggles to sleep every night. Nightmares and memories of his perilous journey to Saudi Arabia through Yemen still keep him tossing and turning when he tries to go to bed.

The 25-year-old Ethiopian embarked on the route in order to flee the conflict at home between the Tigray region's ruling party and the federal government.

Along with thousands of others, he left Ethiopia in November 2022, with one of the closest routes being the Red Sea corridor via Djibouti, leading to Yemen and then Saudi Arabia.

But what he and other asylum seekers didn't expect was to be met with live fire and beatings by Saudi border guards.

"It was quiet, and we walked along a path with dead bodies lying every-

where; some cut to pieces," Ahmed told Middle East Eye.

"Then [Saudi border police] began firing at us. I managed to hide, but a girl who was with me was hit and had her shoulder ripped open. She bled to death right next to us. I think she was 15," he recounted.

During the attack, Ahmed suffered a serious leg injury, while two people died on the trail.

The route into Saudi Arabia and Yemen has been used by Ethiopian refugees and migrants for years, despite the dangers. Initially, a lack of employment and poor economic conditions caused people to leave Ethiopia in search of better opportunities.

However, a deadly conflict in Ethiopia in which Tigrayans were targeted has now made life impossible for many in their home country.

Ahmed became one of over two

million people who were displaced from their homes in Tigray, in northern Ethiopia, and either forced into camps or to find an alternative safe place.

Amongst the migrants who left Ethiopia in early 2022 was Mignot, who made his way to Yemen.

In the Yemeni city of Saada, around 90 kilometers from the Saudi border, people have been killed after getting stuck, following failed attempts to reach Saudi Arabia.

It took Mignot around five months to reach the border, where his group faced brutal attacks from border guards.

"We were around 50 people in our group. We left the smuggler prison camp during the call to prayer when the guards look away. Still, I thought we might be safer because there were women and little children walking with us," the 20-year-old

told Middle East Eye.

"First, we heard what sounded like bullets and I saw a few people fall. Everyone began to scream and run, then I heard a loud explosion.

"I remember seeing people screaming in pain, body parts everywhere. I hid among dead bodies and stayed there for hours, soaked in their blood. When it got dark, I got up and ran back in the direction we came from," he added.

According to Mignot, the dead are left behind and often buried in makeshift mass graves. Meanwhile, families in Ethiopia are left agonising over their disappeared loved ones.

Mignot says that in recent years, it is common to see platforms such as Facebook and Telegram awash with posts in Amharic and Oromo, asking for help finding missing relatives along the Saudi-Yemen border.

Source: Cairo Did Not Ask Palestinian Factions to Sign Truce

CAIRO (MEMO) – A high-ranking Egyptian source spoke with the Palestinian news website Dunia Al-Watan about the details of the Egyptian efforts for de-escalation in the Palestinian territories, as the Zionist regime's threats to strike the resistance continue.

The source, who preferred not to be named, denied that Cairo had asked any

Palestinian faction to sign a truce or ceasefire agreement.

The source stressed that Egypt's role is to work to achieve calm, and urged the parties not to escalate, denying that Egypt conveyed messages from the Zionist regime or put pressure on the Palestinian factions. Israeli media had reported earlier that

Egypt asked Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movements to sign an agreement regarding their intervention in the West Bank, which was denied by the Egyptian source.

Zionist settler attacks have increased in the occupied West Bank leading to greater resistance from Palestinians against the occupation.