

ANKARA (Dispatches) – A senior Russian diplomat, Nikolai Kobrinets, was found dead in a hotel in Turkey. The 61-year-old head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Pan-European Cooperation had arrived in Turkey to participate in a summit of ambassadors from different countries but did not show up for the scheduled morning meeting, after which his colleagues raised the alarm. Russian media and official statements have already said that Kobrinets died of a heart attack, but Turkish police have launched an investigation into the death of the high-ranking diplomat. There were no signs of violence, so he probably died as a result of a heart attack, as already announced in the obituary published by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## Thousands Rally in London, New York in Solidarity With Palestinians

LONDON (Dispatches) – Thousands of people rallied Saturday in central London for a pro-Palestinian protest following police warnings that anyone showing support for the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas could face arrest.

Attendees, who gathered near BBC News' headquarters through the morning, began a march through the British capital ahead of an afternoon rally near parliament and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Downing Street office and residence.

Some displayed Palestinian flags and placards -- bearing slogans including "freedom for Palestine", "end the massacre" and "sanctions for Israel" -- as they made their way towards the end-point for a series of planned speeches.

"I think all just people around the world, not just in Britain, must stand up and call for this madness (to end)," Ismail Patel, chairman of



Supporters of Palestine participate in a rally in Times Square in New York City, on 13 October 2023.

the Friends of Al-Aqsa campaign, told AFP at the demonstration.

"Otherwise, in the next few days, (we) might see a catastrophe unfolding."

The rally comes as the occupying regime intensifies its war to

destroy Gaza, relentlessly pounding the coastal strip and deploying tens of thousands of troops nearby ahead of a likely ground offensive in the enclave.

Furthermore, thousands of people took to the streets of Times Square

in New York City on Friday wearing red, black and green, the colors of the Palestinian flag, shouting their support for Palestinians in lieu of the bombardments Israel is inflicting on the Gaza Strip.

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" swarms of people shouted on the already-crowded streets of Times Square on Friday.

Security was packed in what was anticipated to be one of the largest protests in New York City in support of Palestine in the last few days.

In New York City, police officers stood on every corner monitoring the protests and the counter-protests that were to follow.

"Every member of the New York Police Department (NYPD) will be ready and be in uniform tomorrow," New York Police Department chief of patrol John Chell said on Thursday.

### MSNBC Removes Muslims Anchors Report: U.S. Tells Diplomats Not to Use 'De-Escalation' When Discussing Gaza Conflict



The U.S. Department of State has reportedly sent messages to diplomats advising them to avoid using terms that call for a calming of tensions amid the ongoing bombardment of Gaza.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Huffington Post reported that the U.S. Department of State has sent messages to diplomats advising them to avoid using terms that call for a calming of the situation amid the ongoing bombardment of Gaza.

The messages tell diplomats to avoid using the terms "de-escalation/ceasefire", "end to violence/bloodshed" and "restoring calm" in press materials, according to the website, which said it had viewed the dispatches.

The report comes amid criticism that President Joe Biden's administration has not done enough to urge the Zionist regime's restraint amid high civilian casualties.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Ministry of Health accused Zionist troops of the "targeting and killing of medical and ambulance personnel during their humanitarian missions to evacuate the victims of aggression".

At least 15 health facilities were damaged and 23 ambulances were destroyed in airstrikes Friday, according to the Palestinian ministry.

A dramatic video posted on the ministry in Gaza's Facebook page captured the moment an ambulance was rocked by an explosion as it attempted to flee a chaotic scene.

In another development, American cable channel MSNBC has quietly taken three prominent Muslim journalists "out of the anchor's chair" since the onset of war between Palestinians and the Zionist regime, a report says.

In a report on Saturday, Semafor news website said MSNBC quietly took Mehdi Hasan, Ayman Mohyeldin, and Ali Velshi "out of the anchor's chair" after the war broke out on October 7.

According to the report, MSNBC did not broadcast its scheduled Thursday night episode of The Mehdi Hasan Show on the streaming platform Peacock.

As a British-American broadcaster

and best-selling author of Indian descent, Hasan has presented The Mehdi Hasan Show on Peacock since October 2020 and on MSNBC since February 2021.

The network also reversed a plan for Mohyeldin to fill in for another host on Thursday and Friday.

The Egyptian-American journalist, the network's most experienced reporter in Gaza, is a fierce critic of policies adopted by the Zionist regime toward Palestinians. As a veteran NBC News correspondent, he covered the conflict from the besieged Gaza Strip for two years.

Citing an unnamed sources with knowledge of the plans, Semafor said MSNBC also plans to replace Velshi with Alicia Menendez in this upcoming weekend.

As a Canadian journalist of Indian descent, Velshi is a Muslim and a senior economic and business correspondent for NBC News since October 2016. He serves as an anchor for MSNBC.

Velshi on Sunday had interviewed a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, which governs the occupied West Bank.

According to the report, some staff at MSNBC have been concerned by the shifts, feeling all the three hosts have some of the "deepest knowledge" of the conflict in the occupied territories.

NBC claimed that the changes are "coincidental" and denied that the hosts – three of the most high-profile Muslim on-air personalities on the network – are being sidelined, saying that the three Muslim journalists continue to appear on air to report and provide analysis.

The apparent dismissals came after the editorial board of the New York Post published a scathing attack on MSNBC for its "shameful" coverage of the Palestinian operation, accusing the news organization of having "run interference for Hamas."

## Erdogan Lashes Out at Blinken Over Sectarian Position

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hit out at the United States for exacerbating tensions between the Zionist regime and Palestine by sending an aircraft carrier to the region and using sectarian language.

"Of course, the U.S. sending aircraft carriers to the region unfortunately does not contribute to peace or reduce tensions between the parties," Erdogan said during televised comments.

"U.S. Secretary of State [Antony Blinken] says 'I approach Israel as a Jew, not as a secretary of state.' What kind of approach is this? If, in response, the people tell you that they would approach the region as a

Muslim, what would you say? You should approach people as humans."

The Turkish president said that cutting off the electricity, water, fuel and food of two million people squeezed into 360 square kilometers in Gaza was a violation by the occupying regime of the most basic human rights.

"Wholesale punishment of the people of Gaza will only exacerbate the problem and cause more pain, more tension, and more tears," Erdogan said.

He acknowledged that Turkey had sent a military plane carrying emergency aid, including food, water and medical supplies to Egypt's El Arish airport, calling on the regime to permit the

entrance of aid to Gaza through the Rafah crossing.

More than 1,500 people in besieged and densely populated Gaza have already been killed by waves of Zionist airstrikes that have leveled residential neighborhoods since Saturday.

### Cause of Conflict 'Injustice' Against Palestinians

On a related note, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that the cause of the conflict was "historical injustice" against Palestinians, as he met with the EU's foreign policy chief in Beijing.

"The root of this problem lies in the long delay in the realiza-

tion of Palestine's aspiration to establish an independent state, and in the fact that the historical injustice suffered by the Palestinian people has not been corrected," Wang said after holding a meeting with Josep Borrell.

Jordan also said on Saturday any move by the Zionist regime to impose a new displacement of Palestinians would push the region to the "abyss" of a wider regional conflict.

Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi also said the occupying regime's blocking of humanitarian aid to Gaza and forcing its residents to leave their homes as it escalates its military action were a "flagrant" breach of international law.

## EU President Warns About Spillover of Gaza War Into Europe

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – European Union leader Charles Michel has warned that the Zionist regime's war on Gaza could create a surge in refugees heading for Europe, raising the risk of spurring on anti-migrant forces, deepening divisions and inflaming tensions between supporters of the occupying regime and the Palestinians.

"Look, if there would be more difficulties at the regional level, we would have immediately huge difficulties on the European soil because of the refugees," EU Council President Michel said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"And we know how it can be used by some political groups within the EU to fuel some controversies and to make the EU more fragmented," he said, adding it could increase polarization on one of the most contentious issues in many European nations.

"We know that in our societies across the EU, there are also different feelings, emotions among our citizens, and this is very important not to import within the EU the tragic conflict," he said. "This is not the time to have more difficulty because we will import in the EU conflicts."

One week ahead of the EU-U.S. summit in Washington with President Biden, the two longstanding trans-Atlantic partners have been caught up in the increasingly frantic diplomatic efforts to prevent the war from escalating.

The Zionist regime warned civilians living in the northern part of Gaza, which has a population of more than 1 million people, to leave the area, ahead of an expected ground offensive by the

occupying regime's military.

To have an immediate impact as the battle around Gaza intensifies, Michel called for increased immediate outreach to nations like Egypt, which would be a natural point of reception for those fleeing neighboring Gaza.

It would mean that international aid would have to increase.

However, Egypt says it already hosts millions of refugees and has signaled

its reluctance to take many more from Gaza.

"You can imagine for such a country with some financial and economic challenges what it means. It means that we need to engage with those countries to see what we can do in order to support the initiatives taken by some leaders in the region, taken by some in United Nations to allow some corridor, humanitarian corridor," he said.

## Taliban to Join China's Belt and Road Forum, Elevating Ties

KABUL (Reuters) – The Taliban will attend China's Belt and Road Forum next week, a spokesman said on Saturday, underscoring Beijing's growing official ties with the administration, despite its lack of formal recognition by any government.

Taliban officials and ministers have at times travelled to regional meetings, mostly those focused on Afghanistan, but the Belt and Road Forum is among the highest-profile multilateral summits it has been invited to attend.

The forum in Beijing on Tuesday and Wednesday marks the 10th anniversary of President Xi Jinping's ambitious global infrastructure and energy initiative, billed as recreating the ancient Silk Road to boost global trade.

The Taliban's acting minister for commerce and industry, Haji Nooruddin Azizi, will travel to Beijing in the coming days, ministry spokesman Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad said in a text message to Reuters.

"He will attend and will invite large investors" to Afghanistan,

he said.

The impoverished country could offer a wealth of coveted mineral resources. A mines minister estimated in 2010 that Afghanistan had untapped deposits, ranging from copper to gold and lithium, worth between \$1 trillion and \$3 trillion. It is not clear how much they are worth today.

China has been in talks with the Taliban over plans, begun under the previous foreign-backed government, over a possible huge copper mine in eastern Afghanistan.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Azizi will continue discussions in Beijing on plans to build a road through the Wakhan corridor, a thin, mountainous strip in northern Afghanistan, to provide direct access to China, Akhundzada said.

Officials from China, the Taliban and neighboring Pakistan said in May they would like Belt and Road to include Afghanistan and for the flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor to

be extended across the border to Afghanistan.

The Taliban has not been formally recognized by any government since taking control of Afghanistan two years ago as U.S. and other foreign forces withdrew.

A series of restrictions on women's access to public life and the barring of many female NGO staff from work has increased roadblocks to recognition, especially by Western countries, officials and international relations analysts say.