'Haniyeh Met Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran After Op'

TEHRAN -- A senior Hamas member said Saturday the resistance movement's leader Ismail Haniyeh was in Iran in recent days to meet with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Osama Hamdan, himself a member of Hamas politburo and its top representative in Lebanon, said Haniyeh traveled to Tehran "a couple of days ago" and "had met and talked with" Ayatollah Khame-



U.S. House Passes Bill to Step Up Iran Oil Sanctions

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to bolster sanctions on Iranian oil.

The Stop Harboring Iranian Petroleum (SHIP) bill, which passed 342-69, would impose measures on foreign ports and refineries that process petroleum exported from Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

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## With Palestinians Until Final Victory Zionist Airstrikes on Gaza **Hospitals Intensify**

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -The occupying regime of Israel on Saturday struck Al-Fakhoura school in the Jabalia neighborhood in Gaza, martyring at least 15 people and wounding dozens of others, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Thousands of people, who had fled their homes due to bombing, were sheltering in the school when missiles struck, leaving craters in the courtyard and causing panic.

Victims of the bombing were mostly women and children sitting in the school yard, according to a health ministry official, who said they "were torn to pieces" and "their bones and flesh were collected in plastic bags".

Israeli bombing also targeted Al-Quds hospital, while Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza shut down after its generator stopped working due to fuel shortages.

Al-Nasr Children's hospital, the only one of its kind in the besieged enclave, was also targeted.

Ashraf al-Qudra, spokesperson for the Palestinian health ministry, announced that 16 hospitals in Gaza have now been rendered out of service, while 105 medical facilities have been targeted.

UN Secretary-General Anto-

close to Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza, leading to deaths, injuries and damage."

"We reiterate: patients, health workers, facilities and ambulances must be protected at all times. Always," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Video footage shared by Al Jazeera Arabic showed Israel bombing al-Azhar University in Gaza. Since the war started, the occupying regime has also bombed Gaza University, the Islamic University of Gaza and Al-Aqsa University.

The health ministry also said that around 2,200 people, including 1,250 children, are buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza and that one Palestinian in Gaza has been martyred every four minutes since the start of the war.

Israeli missiles also targeted the home of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who is not at present in Gaza, according to Reuters.

The death toll of the Zionist regime's most ruthless bombing campaign in Gaza has reached 9,448 since the start of the war on October 7, including 3,900 children and 2,500 women.

Local Palestinian media reported that Israeli bombing was intentionally target-



Pictures show Iranians across the country marking the anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran with pro-Palestine protests on Saturday.

TEHRAN — Millions of Iranians took to the streets in some 800 cities and towns Saturday to mark the anniversary of the 1979 takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" while condemning Washington's support of Israel as it goes on with its massacre of the Palestinians.

Shortly after the 1979 Islamic Revolution toppled the Western-backed shah, Iranian students stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held more than 50 Americans for 444 days.

The rally came as the occupying regime of Israel's ruthless killing of Palestinians entered its fourth week.

People assembled outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, with some burning American and Israeli flags.

Protesters stomped on im-

ages of extremist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden. Others carried banners calling the U.S., "Great Satan." The banner on the main podium read: "We trample America under our feet."

Parliament speaker, Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf, addressed the crowds while denouncing U.S. support of Israel. "We consider the criminal U.S. a principal culprit in

all these crimes," in Gaza and against Palestinians, he said.

Ghalibaf said the Hamas operation against the Zionist regime has caused "irreparable" intelligence and security damage to Israel.

In a statement published at the end of the commemoration, protesters called for an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza and warned the U.S., Britain and France that the crisis might expand in the region.

The statement ended with a pledge that Iranians would stand by the Palestinians "until final victory."

"For more than three weeks, educational centers in Gaza have been subjected to the most brutal rocket attacks by the Zionist regime, and as a result, more than three thousand children have been martyred and hundreds of thousands of students have been displaced.

"This level of brutality in shedding the blood of innocent people who have taken refuge in the hope of respecting international laws in not attacking schools is unprecedented.

"Once again, the arrogance of the US and its western allies (Continued on Page 7)

**NBC Television Reveals:** U.S., EU Pressure Ukraine Into Peace Talks With Russia

nio Guterres said he was "horrified" by the bombing that struck an ambulance convoy outside Al-Shifa hospital Friday.

He added that "now, for nearly one month, civilians in Gaza, including children & women, have been besieged, denied aid, killed and bombed out of their homes. This must stop."

At least 15 people were martyred in the bombing of Al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital, according to Al Jazeera. Video footage circulating online showed bloody and chaotic scenes.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he was "utterly shocked by reports of attacks on ambulances evacuating patients ing vital services, including mosques, solar panels, generators and hospitals, as well as water tanks. Gaza's Al-Azhar University was also bombed, seen in footage shared widely online.

Over 25,000 tonnes of explosives have been dropped on Gaza by Israel since the start of the war, Gaza's media office announced on Saturday.

The Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, announced that they killed five Israeli soldiers and wounded several others in a building northwest of Gaza City.

Meanwhile, another exchange of fire took place at the Lebanon border, with the Zionist army saying it attacked Hezbollah targets.

(Continued on Page 7)

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- U.S. and European officials have spoken to the Ukrainian government about what possible peace negotiations with Russia might entail to end the war, NBC quoted an unidentified senior U.S. official and one former U.S. official as saying.

The war in Ukraine, now in its 21st month, has killed or wounded hundreds of thousands and destroyed swathes of the country. It has also triggered the deepest crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

NBC said the conversations had included very broad outlines of what Ukraine might need to give up to reach a deal with Russia.

Asked on Saturday about the NBC report, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky reaffirmed his stance that this was not the time to negotiate with Russia, and he also denied that any Western leaders were pressuring him to do so.

"Everyone knows my attitude, which coincides with the attitude of Ukrainian society ... Today no one is putting pressure (on me to negotiate), not one of the leaders of the EU or the United States," he told a joint news conference with the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in Kyiv.

"For us now to sit down with Russia and talk and give it something - this will not happen."

Ukraine has repeatedly said it aims to retake all the territory taken by Russia, including Crimea which was annexed in 2014, and that it will not rest until every Russian soldier has been driven from its lands. NBC quoted the U.S. officials as saying that the conversations with Ukraine came amid concerns in the United States and Europe that the war has reached a stalemate and worries about the West's ability to continue providing aid to Kyiv.

Russia currently controls about 17.5% of Ukraine's internationally recognized territory.

Moscow says it had to launch what it calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine in

response to what it sees as a hostile and aggressive West it says is using Kyiv to undermine Russia.

The Kremlin says it will achieve all of its aims in Ukraine.

On Friday, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in an interview with German broadcaster ZDF that his country is not conducting any secret talks with Russia.

He said the basis for a peace deal is respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"From diplomatic to plain language, it means that Russia must leave Ukraine," Kuleba said. "Until that happens, until they are ready to do that, there (Continued on Page 7)