

Rights Group Sues Biden

NGOs Call on Pentagon to Stop Supplying Zionist Regime With Artillery Ammunition

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A coalition of civil society organizations has urged the Pentagon's top brass to halt a planned transfer of artillery ammunition to the Zionist regime. Around 11,500 Palestinians have been killed in the regime's military campaign in Gaza so far.

Over 30 groups, including Oxfam America, Amnesty International, and the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), penned a joint letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to express alarm over the Pentagon's plans to transfer armaments from existing U.S. stocks already positioned in Israel.

"Under the current circumstances, granting Israel access to these munitions would undermine the protection of civilians, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), and the credibility of the Biden administration," the groups wrote, according to a copy of the letter obtained by The Washington Post.



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"Simply put, it is difficult to imagine a scenario in which high explosive 155mm artillery shells could be used in Gaza in compliance with IHL," they added.

The arms are part of what is known as the War Reserve Stockpile, which is pre-positioned in Israel to facilitate the arming of U.S. forces, or for transfer to Israel, the daily reported. The newspaper said it is not clear if

the transfer of the artillery ammunition has already happened.

U.S. President Joe Biden has been facing growing criticism after voicing unwavering support for the occupying regime's campaign.

A federal complaint has been filed against Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin for failing to "prevent an unfolding genocide

and complicity in its development."

New York civil liberties group the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed the suit on Monday on behalf of Palestinian human rights organizations, Palestinians in Gaza, and U.S. citizens with relatives in the besieged enclave, who have faced nearly 40 days of unrelenting bombardments by Israel, which has been militarily and financially backed by the U.S.

"Under international law, the United States has a duty to take all measures available to it to prevent genocide. Yet, defendants have repeatedly refused to use their obvious and considerable influence to set conditions or place limits on Israel's massive bombing and total siege of Gaza," the lawsuit reads.

It slammed the Biden administration for opposing "a life-saving cease-fire and lifting of the siege" and even vetoing "United Nations measures calling for a ceasefire."

Israeli Woman Arrested in Iraq Admits to Having Spied for Mossad, CIA

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – An Israeli woman arrested in Iraq earlier this year has admitted to have worked for the Israeli and American spy agencies, Mossad and the CIA, both in Iraq and Syria.

In a video aired by Iraq's Al Rabiya satellite TV network, Elizabeth Tsurkov said in Hebrew that she was tasked to establish ties between the Zionist regime and the U.S.-backed militant group Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

She also admitted her role in coordinating the October 2019 demonstrations in Iraq to sow

strife among Shias in the Arab country.

Using her Russian passport, Tsurkov went to Iraq in January under the guise of doing academic research. Two months later, she disappeared in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

This summer, the office of Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that Tsurkov was being held by Iraq's anti-terror resistance group Kata'ib Hezbollah.

In the video, she said that she has been detained for more than seven months, without identifying her captors or the

location where she is being held.

The spy also told the families of the Israelis, who are being held by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, that if they want to see their loved ones again, they need to stop the occupying regime's war on the Gaza Strip.

"I ask the families of the hostages in Gaza to constantly make efforts to stop the war on Gaza," she said.

"This war that is being stupidly run by Netanyahu through his wife, Sara, and his son, Yair, will lead to the hostages

being killed. If you want your sons and daughters to return alive, the war must stop."

The occupying regime waged a bloody war on the Gaza Strip on October 7.

Since the start of the aggression, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 11,240 Palestinians in Gaza, mostly women and children, and injured about 29,000 others.

It has also imposed a "complete siege" on the coastal sliver, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

Report: Likud Party Seeking to Oust Netanyahu

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist regime ministers and lawmakers from the ruling Likud party are discussing a plan to oust current prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media reported on Tuesday.

Channel 13 News reported that the plan includes recruiting 61 lawmakers to pass a vote of no confidence on Netanyahu's cabinet, and to form a new cabinet without going to elections.

Channel 13 added that the Likud lawmakers fear that if Netanyahu stays at the party helm and then leads it into a loss in the next elections, most of those lawmakers will not be part of the Israeli political system.

It noted that after the end of the military ground operation in Gaza, which so far shows no signs of concluding, the lawmakers will move ahead with their plans to have a parliamentary session to oust Netanyahu.

To calm down opposition fears, the proposed Likud figure to head the cabinet after Netanyahu would reportedly not run in the next elections.

The channel said, however, that chances of the plan succeeding are low since only 10 lawmakers from Likud are on board with the plan but it will need at least 15 Likud lawmakers to go ahead, according to the occupying regime's law.

Netanyahu's cabinet was sworn in on Dec. 29, 2022 following November elections which gave his right-wing bloc a simple majority to form a new cabinet.

The latest Israeli opinion polls showed that support for Netanyahu and the Likud Party has fallen significantly in favor of the opposition parties following Hamas' surprise attack on Oct. 7 on the Israeli-occupied territories and amid the relentless onslaught ever since.

Overcrowded Migrant Boat Overturms Near Yemen, Dozens Missing

ADEN (Xinhua) – Dozens of migrants went missing and feared dead when an overcrowded boat overturned near Yemen's coast, an official told Xinhua on Monday.

The local official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that in the waters near Yemen's conflict-affected shores, a boat carrying approximately 75 migrants overturned near the coastal city of Mocha on Sunday.

He clarified that all the passengers were predominantly migrants from countries in the Horn of Africa seeking asylum in Yemen.

He said that strong winds are believed to have caused the boat to overturn.

While 26 survivors managed to swim ashore and were rescued by the Yemeni coastguard troops, at least 49 other passengers remained missing, according to the official.

Yemeni authorities, including the coastguard units, have engaged in search and rescue efforts.

"It is a heartbreaking tragedy," said Ahmed Ali, an officer for the Yemeni coastguard troops. "These migrants left their homelands

hoping to find refuge in Yemen. Instead, they have met with disasters at sea."

Despite years of Saudi-led war, Yemen continues to serve as a transit country for tens of thousands of migrants heading from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia. With the ongoing war leaving Yemen in turmoil, curbing the illegal smuggling operations has become increasingly challenging.

Yemen has been embroiled in a devastating war since 2015, with the Ansarullah forces in the north fighting against the Saudi-backed mercenaries in the south.

Bodies...

(Continued From Page One)

last remaining journalists at Al-Shifa. He described doctors leaving the bodies on hospital grounds so that they would not decompose inside.

There is no power for refrigerators to store bodies and access to electricity is functionally non-existent.

He estimated there were 100 bodies, which have been left at the mercy of the elements and feral animals.

"Stray dogs and other animals bite at and eat the bodies," he told Middle East Eye, adding that he and others at Al-Shifa were powerless to intervene.

"We watch them eat but no one can move because Israeli snipers and quadcopters shoot at anyone who walks out of the hospital's buildings."

He further described the horror of witnessing those inside the hospital seeing their relatives' bodies desecrated.

In one case he recounts a woman watching the body of her brother being mauled by street dogs. "The scene was horrible as she was watching, unable to move or do anything."

On October 9, the occupying regime of Israel imposed a full siege on Gaza and completely cut off its electricity, fuel supplies, water and food.

This means that power generators running hospitals, including Al-Shifa, have completely shut down.

In intensive care units, which rely on a continuous flow of electricity for incubators and other medical equipment to work, people are dying, including premature babies.

On Monday, Sarsour managed to get out of the hospital complex, joining a band of displaced people who were sheltering at Al-Shifa.

Even then, the reality of death was ever-present. Despite there ostensibly being a safe corridor through the hospital, Israeli snipers continued to shoot.

"While we were walking, many people were shot dead although they did not do anything. They were just walking," Sarsour said, adding: "I recorded a lot of footage proving that they were shot while peacefully crossing the safe corridor."

A number of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals feel they have no choice but to remain at the hospital and stay with their patients until the end. However, the staff are limited in the treatment they can offer to those in need.

Doctors are currently unable to give their patients the procedures they require due to a lack of resources. Even coordinating treatment between different departments is impossible as walking over to another building is a life-and-death matter.

In some cases, doctors have been stuck inside the hospital since the start of Israel's assault, and are reaching the end of their mental limits.

"[The hospital] is totally surrounded by snipers and tanks. Drones are targeting whoever tries to move between the buildings of the hospital and within the hospital area," Dr Ahmed Mukhallalati, the chief of plastic surgery at al-Shifa, told MEE.

"We had many incidents where the wounded were in the adjoining block of the hospital, and they asked for help, and no one was able to reach the place," he continued.

"One of the members of the Alami family got injured. Her sister is a doctor here, and she tried to call an ambulance.

"No one was able to arrange for an ambulance to get there. She died waiting for help in the other block of the hospital."

The stresses of war are causing a higher rate of miscarriages and premature births among pregnant women in Gaza.

Mukhallalati stated that his hospital's officials had tried to arrange the burial of bodies with the International Committee of the Red Cross but there had been no progress at the time of writing.

On Tuesday, Palestinian health ministry officials confirmed that they would bury the bodies at a mass grave on site as a consequence.

The doctor, like his colleagues at Al-Shifa, said Israel's aim was to destroy Gaza's healthcare system.

"This is the fifth day since the siege on Al-Shifa started. The day before yesterday, they attacked the water well and the water tank on top of the building," he said.

"Currently, we have no water in our buildings. The hospital is without water. This would affect the basic hygiene for the patients and workers, as well as for displaced civilians in the hospital," he continued.

"The hospital has not received drinking water and food for the past four days. We have no fresh food to eat and the food we do have is about to finish."

Mukhallalati said the hospital was "no longer a suitable place" to treat patients and that it could not offer any benefits to its patients.

Hospitals and medical facilities have been caught in the crossfire during the Zionist regime's war in Gaza - both literally and in the clashing narratives over the conflict.

Palestinian officials have said a staggering 22 hospitals and 49 medical centers have completely stopped working because of airstrikes and Israel's decision to suspend all fuel and electricity supplies to the strip since October 9.

Heavy rainfall and flooding in the besieged Gaza Strip has compounded the misery of the displaced Palestinians.

In southern Gaza, where many displaced Palestinians are now living in temporary accommodation, the rain has seeped through their tents, soaking belongings and causing makeshift beds to become damp.

People are also struggling to stay warm in the cold conditions, with little to no source of heating due to the cutting of electricity and scarce levels of fuel.

Raisi ...

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food in the enclave amounts to an "intensive and organized collective punishment" of the people in Gaza and is in clear violation of all fundamental principles of the international law.

Raisi said in the letter that Palestine, as a nation under occupation, is entitled to the right to resist aggression and occupation through all means, including armed struggle, adding that the same international laws do not give the Zionist regime of Israel a legitimate right to defend itself through killing civilians.

He called on world leaders to condemn the crimes committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza and to force the regime to stop its aggression on the enclave.

President Raisi said the international community has a duty to force the Israeli regime to lift its blockade on Gaza to allow humanitarian aid, including food, medicine and fuel, to reach the people in the territory.

At the end of letter, the Iranian president expressed hope that the Almighty God may save the oppressed Palestinian nation from occupation, aggression and crimes of the Zionist regime.

French ...

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The pro-Israeli position by France had resulted in a "loss of credibility and influence" for the country in the region largely due to Macron's public statements, they said.

The crisis of trust between France and the Middle East is "serious" and risks being "long-lasting", warned the authors of the note.

"We have experienced crises in the past with the caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, but we were able to defuse them quite quickly," said the diplomats.

"This time the distrust towards us is deep and likely to last. Our interlocutors feel that we are betraying ourselves; they believe that our discourse based on humanism is in contradiction with our new approach. For them, France with its alternative voice no longer exists," they added.