

AMMAN (Dispatches) – Jordan's King Abdullah has called on immediate action from the international community to secure a ceasefire in Gaza to prevent a looming humanitarian catastrophe caused by Israel's offensive in the besieged territory. King Abdullah made the call during a meeting with visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday while discussing the intensifying Israeli violence in the coastal territory. He also said that the Zionist regime's continuation of its "ugly war on" Gaza and its illegal violations in the West Bank and occupied Al-Quds will lead to an explosion in the situation in the entire region.

Fresh Rallies Held Across World in Solidarity With Palestine



'Palestine will be free,' 'Down with Israel,' 'Stop genocide against Palestinians' among slogans inscribed on banners and placards carried by participants of rally in Lahore

KARACHI (Dispatches) – People across the world have held fresh rallies to express solidarity with Palestinians and demand an end to the Zionist regime's war on Gaza.

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered on a main thoroughfare in Pakistan's second-largest city, Lahore, on Sunday to show solidarity with the people of Gaza, where Israeli forces have intensified strikes and launched a ground operation.

Protesters, including women and children, gathered on Canal Road near the Punjab University and marched towards Kalma Square, waving tri-color Palestinian flags and wearing arms and headbands engraved with the slogan

"Labbaik ya Gaza" (Aqsa, we are here).

Organized by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), the country's mainstream religiopolitical party, the march is viewed as one of the biggest rallies held in Pakistan since Oct. 7.

Organizers claimed that over 100,000 people attended the rally, while security officials estimated that the figure was closer to 50,000.

"Palestine will be free," "Down with Israel," and "Stop genocide against Palestinians" were among the slogans inscribed on banners and placards carried by protesters.

"Labbaik, Labbaik, Labbaik ya Gaza" (Gaza we are here), thousands chanted in unison as JI chief Siraj-ul-Haq, wearing a "keffiyeh" scarf,

and other leaders made a hand-chain to express solidarity with Palestinians.

Thousands of people also flooded the streets of the Irish capital in solidarity with the Palestinian people for the sixth week in a row, calling for an end to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Pro-Palestinian protests began from the Garden of Remembrance and marched across the River Liffey with protesters waving Palestinian flags and chanting slogans.

"In our thousands in our millions, we are all Palestinians," "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and "Ceasefire now," they chanted.

Protesters also marched to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveagh House, where they took part in a sit-in.

In Belfast, too, thousands of people also took part in a pro-Palestine protest. They marched from Writers Square to the offices of Northern Secretary Chris Heaton Harris in the city center.

In a press conference in Paris on Tuesday, Irish Prime Minister Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said that Ireland was "working really hard at the EU level and UN level to put pressure on" a ceasefire to be implemented.

About 2,500 pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Berlin in solidarity with the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip as German police accompanied the demonstration with several hundred officers.

The protesters demanded a free Palestine in chants as they walked through the streets, calling for Israel to "stop the war on Gaza."

They also accused the German government of taking a biased approach to the Gaza war by siding with the Zionist regime.

Iraq's Kataeb Hezbollah: Attacks Aim to 'Drain' U.S., Sanctions 'Ridiculous'



Iraq's Kataeb Hezbollah (KH) popular resistance movement says the group's attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria are meant to "drain the enemy".

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq's Kataeb Hezbollah (KH) popular resistance movement, a powerful armed faction, brushed off U.S. sanctions on the group over attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria and said such strikes aimed to "drain the enemy".

The U.S. on Friday issued sanctions against several KH members and against another resistance movement and its secretary-general, accusing them of being involved in attacks against the United States and its partners in Iraq and Syria.

A statement on Telegram by Abu Ali al-Askari, a security official in the group, dismissed the sanctions as "ridiculous," and said the measures would not affect the group's operations.

"Well-studied strikes by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq against enemies, causing losses in their ranks and destroying vehicles or confusing or distracting them, is going according to a strategy to drain the enemy," the statement said.

The Iraqi resistance front said the attacks were carried out in retaliation for U.S. support of the Zionist regime's bloody aggression against and genocide in the besieged area.

Israel waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Strip-based Palestinian resistance groups of Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Flood into the occupied territories in response to the occupying regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people.

According to the Gaza-based health ministry, at least 12,300 Palestinians have been killed in the strikes, most of them women and children, and more than 32,000 others injured.

On Sunday, Iraq's anti-terror resistance front carried out a drone attack on an American military base in the Arab country's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in response to the U.S.-backed Israeli onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a statement cited by Iraq's Saberin News, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, claimed responsibility for an overnight attack on the al-Harir Air Base in Erbil in northern Iraq and said the operation was in retaliation for Israel's ongoing crimes in Gaza.

"In response to the crimes committed by the enemy against our people in Gaza, the fighters of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq targeted the American occupation base al-Harir in northern Iraq, with a drone that directly hit its target," the statement said.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq also said it had attacked the Al-Tanf U.S. occupation base in the central Syrian province of Homs and targeted the strategic military site with combat drones.

The Iraqi resistance said in a similar statement that the drone attack was launched "in response to the crimes committed by the enemy against our people in Gaza."

Late on Saturday, Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network reported several explosions at the U.S. base in al-Omar oil field, east of Syria's Dayr al-Zawr Province.

The television news network also said the Conoco gas field, which houses American occupation forces in the eastern Syrian province, had been targeted by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq with a salvo of missiles.

Report: Israel Headed for Sharp Economic Downturn Amid Gaza War

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's economy will contract 5% in the fourth quarter of this year amid rising geopolitical and security risks due to the conflict with Palestinians, credit rating agency S&P has reported.

The rating agency cited lower business activity, falling consumer demand, and a "very uncertain" investment

environment.

S&P projects an Israeli fiscal deficit of 5.3% of GDP in 2023 and 2024, compared with the agency's pre-war estimate of 2.3%.

The Zionist regime has significantly increased expenses to fund the military and to compensate businesses near Gaza, as well as the families of victims and captives held

by Hamas. This has led to a record budget deficit, which last month ballooned to \$6 billion, a more than seven-fold increase compared to one year ago.

The S&P report comes after the agency downgraded the Zionist regime's credit outlook from 'stable' to 'negative' last month, just two weeks after the conflict

began on October 7. Ratings agencies Moody's and Fitch have both put the occupying regime on review for a downgrade.

S&P, however, indicated it could restore Israel's credit outlook to 'stable' if the conflict is resolved, as that would mean a reduction in regional security and internal risks.

Ben Gvir: Knesset Set to Discuss Death Penalty Law for Palestinian Prisoners

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's parliament is set to discuss a controversial draft law on "executing Palestinian prisoners" for initial approval this week, far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has said.

Ben Gvir in a post on X (formerly Twitter) said that he will bring the death penalty law for Palestinian prisoners, already prepared by his Otzma Yehudit party, to the Knesset on Monday.

"The Knesset will discuss on Monday preparations for the first reading of the death penalty law for Palestinian prisoners," he wrote.

He added that the draft "is expected to receive support by all members of the Knesset."

Last March, in a preliminary reading, the Knesset approved a draft law that stipulates that courts can impose the death penalty on those who kill an Israeli with nationalistic motivation. However, it would not apply to an Israeli who killed a Palestinian.

The primary legislation was submitted by Ben Gvir and supported by prime minister Benjamin

Netanyahu. It was met with a wave of opposition. Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement, vowed that such policies would not deter the Palestinian people from exercising their right to resistance against the occupying regime and its illegal settlers.

The death penalty law has been proposed in Israel more than once in recent years, but the Knesset has so far refused to legislate it. The draft law must be approved three times in the Knesset to become effective.

In a related development, Israel "assassinated" another Palestinian prisoner, bringing to six the number of the inmates who died in an Israeli detention center since October 7 after Gaza-based resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a rights organization said.

The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs announced in a statement that Thair Samih Abu Assab, a resident of Qarawat Bani Hassan town northwest of Salfit in the northern West Bank, died late on Saturday in the Negev

desert prison.

The 38-year-old Abu Assab was detained on May 27, 2005, and sentenced to 25 years in jail.

Qaddoura Fares, the head of the commission, told the official Palestinian news agency Wafa that the Israel Prison Service (IPS) is "systematically assassinating" Palestinian detainees.

Fares held all Western powers supporting the Israeli occupation and oppression fully responsible for the ongoing crimes against Palestinians, especially the non-stop genocidal war in the besieged Gaza Strip, denouncing their abject failure to stop the regime's unlawful occupation and ethnic cleansing in the besieged territory.

Human rights organizations say Israel violates all the rights and freedoms granted to prisoners by the Fourth Geneva Convention. They say the so-called administrative detention violates their right to due process since the evidence is withheld from prisoners while they are held for lengthy periods without being charged, tried, or convicted.

Pakistan Says Four Militants Killed Near Afghan Border

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) – Pakistani security forces have killed four armed militants, including a highly sought individual, near the northwestern border with Afghanistan, the military announced Sunday.

Pakistani forces traded gunfire with the militants during an "intelligence-based operation" in the Khaissor area of North Waziristan district, said a military press release. The troops killed four militants, including one "high-value target" identified by the single name of "Ibrahim".

Troops found a cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives during the raid, the military statement said, and are continuing to search surrounding areas for militants in hiding.

"The Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the

menace of terrorism from the country," said the military statement.

North Waziristan long functioned as a safe haven for militants until the military rooted them out following an attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in 2014 that killed more than 150 people, mostly schoolchildren.

The army announced after the years-long operation that it had cleared the region of militants, but attacks persist sporadically, raising concerns that the local Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has found refuge in Afghanistan and is rebuilding there.

The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group but allies of the Afghan Taliban, which seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 as the U.S. and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout after 20 years of occupation.