

World Diplomats Slam West for ‘Double Standards’ on Palestine, ‘Holocaust of Children’



Large-scale demonstrations have been held across the world in solidarity with Palestinians.

DUBLIN (Dispatches) – Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar says that there is “double standards” from the EU and some Western powers in relation to the Zionist regime and Palestine. Varadkar made his comment during an interview with Irish radio station RTE, adding that neither Shannon Airport, nor any

other Irish airport, was being used by the U.S. military to support the Zionist regime. “No. You have to receive express permission to bring munitions through any airport in Ireland and they have to be signed off on by the Department of Transport and the Minister for Transport, and that’s not happening,” he told

RTE. The Taoiseach stressed that when it comes to international humanitarian law, it has to apply across the board. Meanwhile, Pakistan’s caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar, on Monday, drew a parallel between the ongoing spree of children’s killing in Gaza and

one of the West’s few red lines, the Holocaust, Anadolu Agency reports. We are witnessing a holocaust of Palestinian children in Gaza. This appalling and atrocious children holocaust must stop immediately Kakar said, while addressing a World Children’s Day ceremony in the capital, Islamabad, state-run Pakistan Television reported. Denouncing the “senseless” killing of children in Gaza, Kakar said Palestinian children have emerged as the prime victims of the Israeli actions in the besieged enclave. A professional army, he noted, never targets unarmed citizens and children during a war. “We are trying, along with our global partners from the platform of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) and others, to pressurize the western hemisphere, led by the United States, that some sort of sanity must prevail,” he went on to say. Pakistan has witnessed a host of huge protest demonstrations in support of Palestinians since 7 October.

Report: Almost Half of Israel’s Spy Balloons Inoperable During Hamas Operation

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Three of the Zionist regime’s seven reconnaissance aerostats, which could have warned the occupying regime’s authorities of Hamas’ October 7 operation, were inoperable that day because of the regime’s failure to upgrade and maintain the equipment, Daily Mail has reported, citing security sources.

The inoperable spy balloons made the regime’s military line along the Gaza border vulnerable. The failure to operate the aerostats may be attributed to insufficient funding. The aerostats, equipped with a payload of cameras, sensors and spyware, have long been a key part of the regime’s early warning system, and had they func-

tioned properly, the outcome of the Hamas operation might have been different, the newspaper reported. On October 7, Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched a surprise large-scale missile operation against the Zionist regime from the Gaza Strip, abducting people in neighboring Israeli communities. The

occupying regime launched strikes and ordered a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip, cutting off supplies of water, food, and fuel. On October 27, the regime launched a large-scale ground incursion into the Gaza Strip with the declared goal of eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the captives.

Israel’s Jobless Rate Spikes Due to Gaza Onslaught

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s jobless rate surged to near 10% in October, the Central Bureau of Statistics said on Monday, after the outbreak of war on the Gaza Strip led to tens of thousands of displaced citizens who had lived near the Gaza border. The main unemployment rate held steady at 3.4% last month. But when taking into account what is expected to be a temporary loss of work, the rate reached 9.6% in October as 428,400 people were jobless versus 163,600 in September, prior to the Oct. 7 conflict. In the wake of the attack, nearly

400,000 Israelis were called up to reserve duty, and official data show that about 80,000 Israelis were placed on unpaid leave in the last few weeks. The employment rate in October dipped to 56.5% from 61.1%. The bureau noted that due to the war it needed to make changes to its labor force survey last month, with nearly no interviews taking place the week after the attack while all subsequent interviews were by phone rather than in person. It said that it did not survey from communities within 7 km (4.3 miles) from the Gaza Strip and

that the response rate of the survey fell to 55.3% from 66.9% in September. The occupying regime’s low jobless rate had underpinned economic growth, but with so many people furloughed or out of a job, the economy is expected to contract in the fourth quarter and grow a less than expected 2.3% in 2023. On Sunday, credit rating agency S&P has reported that 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.

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 sevenfold increase compared to one year ago.

Hamas Denies Reports About Prisoner Exchange With Zionist Regime

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A senior Hamas member on Monday denied media reports that the Palestinian group has reached a prisoner swap agreement with the occupying regime. “Reports about a prisoner swap deal are untrue,” Izzat al-Rishq said in a brief statement. Israeli newspapers also denied reports about a deal with Hamas to exchange prisoners. “There is nothing yet,” The Jerusalem Post daily said, citing a senior Israeli official. On Sunday, Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani stated that a hostage exchange deal between the occupying regime and Hamas was “imminent”. Also on Monday, an Israeli official said that

progress has been made in the Qatar-mediated talks aimed at freeing some of the 240 captives held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. According to Israel’s state-owned Kan TV news, the proposed deal includes the release of about 50 women and children, who would be released in several stages. In exchange, Palestinian women and minors currently held in Israeli prisons would be released, in addition to a few-day pause in the relentless Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip. The official, speaking to Xinhua on condition of anonymity, said that talks resumed on Sunday after a brief hiatus during which Hamas refused to negotiate, citing Israeli raids on Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza’s largest medical center.

“There is progress in the efforts to free the hostages but nothing is final yet,” said the official. Hamas is believed to be holding at least 239 Israelis following a surprise operation on Oct. 7. The Palestinian group says it is ready to release the captives in return for thousands of Palestinians held in Israeli jails. At least 13,000 Palestinians have been killed, including over 9,000 women and children, and more than 30,000 others injured in the occupying regime’s air and ground attacks since Oct. 7, according to the latest figures. An Israeli blockade has also cut Gaza off from fuel, electricity and water supplies, and reduced aid deliveries to a small trickle.

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The Zionist military issued a statement with video of air-strikes and troops going house-to-house in Gaza. Since Oct. 7, at least 13,000 Palestinians have been martyred in the Gaza Strip, including at least 5,500 children, by unrelenting Israeli bombardment. The United Nations says two thirds of Gaza’s 2.3 million people have been made homeless. Another 20,000 Gazans, including increasing numbers of unaccompanied children, journeyed from the north to south, mainly by donkey cart or bus or on foot, on Sunday, and some 900,000 displaced people are now in UN shelters, the UN Humanitarian Office (OCHA) said in an update on Monday. Thousands more displaced people were sleeping against the walls of shelters in the south, out in the open, with an average of one shower for 700 people and one toilet for 150, OCHA said. The Zionist military claims its forces have seized wide areas of the north and northwest and east around Gaza City. But Hamas and local witnesses say resistance fighters are waging guerrilla-style warfare in the warrens of the congested, urbanized north, including parts of Gaza City and the sprawling Jabalia and Beach refugee camps. Sirens sounded on the Lebanese border after an attack from Hezbollah caused damage to an Israeli military base on Monday, according to Haaretz.

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their backs, are reminiscent of the infamous Abu Ghraib scandal in Iraq in 2003. Al-Rishq accuses Israel of obstructing a potential deal for the exchange of 50 hostages and a humanitarian truce. He said: “The Occupation still refuses and delays in getting 50 women and children released and declaring a real humanitarian truce, in exchange for the release of a number of our women and children in the Occupation prisons.” As Israel intensifies its violence against Gaza, a disturbing parallel emerges — a similar level of aggression is mirrored against Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli jails. But still, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu persists in asserting a narrative that contradicts the extensive and indiscriminate airstrikes Israel has unleashed on Gaza. Despite hitting hospitals, schools, residential buildings, mosques and churches, Netanyahu claims that Israel and its army are adhering to the “highest standards of international law to prevent harm to uninvolved civilians and will continue to do that to victory.” Last week and over the weekend, Gaza’s Al-Shifa Hospital was raided, with Israel alleging that Hamas was using the facility as a command centre. However, the Israeli army has failed to present evidence of Hamas-run tunnels or a military command centre beneath the hospital. Evidence it has provided has repeatedly been refuted or found to be forged from historic videos circulating online of other countries. Ashraf al-Qudra, spokesperson for the Health Ministry in Gaza, paints a grim picture, stating that thousands of women, children and the sick and wounded are at risk of death as Israel continues its raid on Al-Shifa. It has also forced most patients and staff out of the medical facility at gunpoint. Compounding the crisis, hospitals in Gaza have exhausted their beds, leaving many patients to be treated on the floor. Doctors are forced to perform procedures with no anesthetic and often using only the light provided by mobile phones, due to the shortage of fuel, medical supplies and equipment. Patients not only grapple with injuries but also suffer hunger, as limited aid is entering the Strip and systems collapse. Beneath the layers of Israel’s lies, a single chilling truth stands out – Israel’s ongoing war is far from a noble effort to fight terrorism or rescue hostages. Instead, as it orders the displacement of one million Palestinians in northern Gaza, shoots at them as they flee along ‘safe routes’ and razes entire neighborhoods, Israel’s offensive reveals a darker objective: the forceful progression of an illegal occupation and a disturbing attempt at ethnic cleansing.

Courtesy: Middle East Monitor