

# Erdogan: Turkey to Ask UN to Verify Whether Zionist Regime Has Nuclear Weapons

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey will ask the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify the Zionist regime's possession of nuclear weapons, the country's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

"We will put forward initiatives both in the UN Security Council and in the IAEA on the issue that threatens the security of the region, especially Turkey," the Star newspaper quoted the Turkish leader as saying at an economic forum in Algeria, TASS reported.

Erdogan earlier spoke about the need to verify the presence of nuclear weapons in the occupied territories and the intention to initiate the relevant process in international structures, including after the June 20 government meeting. The Turkish president pointed out that the occupying regime openly recognizes that it possesses nuclear



The Israeli Dimona nuclear reactor in the Negev Desert

weapons, but international structures, particularly the IAEA and the UN, do not conduct a corresponding investigation.

Erdogan also told the forum that Turkey would make efforts to rebuild Gaza and seek to hold the Zi-

onist regime criminally responsible for crimes committed in the Palestinian enclave.

Meanwhile, he said the Western countries that have taken the Israeli regime's side in its conflict with Palestine should refrain from par-

ticipating in its crimes.

"Before it's too late, the governments of the countries that have sided with Israel should move to the side of international law, human rights, conscience and morality, and refrain from participating in these crimes. We need to side with those oppressed and save them from the steps that oppressors are taking," the Turkish leader told reporters upon return from Algeria.

The Western public is unable to stand this test as it is on the wrong side of history, he said, adding, "This time, it's different."

"As you know, the governments of these countries preferred to stand aside but their people are now saying: 'Enough of these atrocities.' ... The politicians who are deaf to this voice will soon get a democratic response from their own people," TASS quoted Erdogan as saying.

## Settlers Set Fire to Palestinian Primary School, Attack Female Employee

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist settlers set fire to a Palestinian primary school located south of Al-Khalil, resulting in the destruction of three classrooms, reported Wafa news agency.

According to a local source in the village of Zanota, a group of settlers burned down three classrooms at Zanota Mixed Elementary School, which marked the second arson attempt on the school over the past month.

Moreover, there have been reports of settlers assaulting and physically attacking a Palestin-

ian female school employee.

Recent escalations in attacks by settlers, backed by Zionist troops, on village residents and their property have resulted in the forced displacement of 36 families, Wafa reported.

The Palestinian Ministry of Education denounced the school arson, labeling it as another crime in the ongoing series of offences committed by the occupation and settlers against educational institutions in the occupied territories.

The ministry further noted that the assault on a primary school,

occurring just one day after the observance of World Children's Day, reveals the discriminatory nature of the occupation and its aim of instilling fear among students and children.

It appealed to international human rights institutions and organizations dedicated to safeguarding children's rights to urgently intervene and bring an end to these violations.

The Zionist regime has occupied the West Bank since 1967. Human rights abuses against the Palestinians and breaches of international law are common,

say human rights organizations.

Since 7 October, OCHA has recorded 271 settler attacks against Palestinians, resulting in Palestinian casualties, damage to Palestinian-owned property, or both. This reflects a daily average of almost six incidents, compared with three since the beginning of the year. Over one-third of these incidents included threats with firearms, including shootings. In nearly half of all incidents, Zionist troops were either accompanying or actively supporting the attackers, UN OCHA said.

## Iraqis Displaced by Climate Change Fall Into Poverty

NASIRIYAH (AFP) – For the past decade, Nasser Jabbar and his children have lived in a run-down house built of grey concrete blocks at a shantytown in southern Iraq.

Drought chased the father of 10 out of the countryside, where he had been a herder and farmer, and into a life of unemployment and urban poverty.

"We lost the land, and we lost the water," said the father in his 40s, wearing a traditional white robe.

He spoke to AFP in his home on the edges of Nasiriyah, capital of Dhi Qar province.

Jabbar's neighborhood typifies the extreme poverty that those displaced by climate change face in south and central Iraq.

With declining rainfall, the coun-

try has seen four consecutive years of drought.

In the shantytown where he lives, cracked streets lined with rubble and piles of rubbish snake between houses thrown together by their inhabitants.

On an empty lot surrounded by ramshackle buildings, sewers empty onto open ground as cows rest in the shadow of a low wall nearby.

Like Jabbar, many of the displaced who live here abandoned their villages after a life working in agriculture.

In the old days in Gateia, Jabbar's village in Dhi Qar, he farmed five hectares (just over 12 acres) of land with his brothers.

In winter, they harvested barley; in summer, vegetables.

Before leaving his fields behind for the last time, Jabbar did what he could for four years to combat the onward march of an increasingly inhospitable climate.

He dug a well, but 'little by little the water dropped', and he had to sell off his herd of 50 goats one by one.

Once in the city, he found work on construction sites carrying bricks or mixing concrete, but had to stop in the end because of back problems.

"I haven't worked for three years," he said.

Now two of his children, aged 17 and 18, support the family by carrying goods to market, earning a little less than four dollars a day.

By mid-September, "21,798 families (130,788 individuals) remain

displaced because of drought conditions across 12 governorates" in central and southern Iraq, an International Organization for Migration report said.

According to the IOM, 74 percent of climate refugees resettle in urban areas.

Dhi Qar's deputy governor in charge of planning, Ghassan al-Khafaji, noted "significant internal migration" in the province, sparked by water shortages.

In five years "3,200 housing units were built on the outskirts of the city" of Nasiriyah, as a result of an exodus from Iraq's famed southern marshes which have been assailed by drought.

Those houses account for "between 20,000 and 25,000 people", Khafaji added.

## Ayatollah...

(Continued From Page One)

he said, adding because the Zionist athlete "is a criminal and he is doing sports and going to the field for a criminal state and is helping a terrorist and criminal regime".

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to extend his gratitude to Iran's national football team, who showed their support for the Palestinian cause by wearing keffiyehs when they came onto the field during the 2023 Jordan football tournament.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the athletes who donated their medals to the children of Gaza and the martyrs who were killed in a hospital by the atrocious acts of the Zionists. I would also like to thank the athletes who refused to compete with the athletes of the Zionist regime.

"I would like to sincerely thank the respected lady, who bore the flag of Iran's sports caravan in the Asian Games while wearing a full hijab. I would also like to thank the sportswoman who refused to shake hands with a non-mahram man during the awarding of her medal, as well as the lady who went to the podium with her child and highlighted the respect that families and mothers should be given around the world via the demonstration of this symbolic move."

Ayatollah Khamenei also thanked teenagers and youths in the meeting for their remarkable display of Iran's traditional Pahlevani sport, saying it has the potential to become an international discipline and that efforts should be made for its realization.

## Iranian...

(Continued From Page One)

bombing and destruction that is causing such suffering to more than two million Palestinians is a welcome respite for the delivery of some humanitarian aid – but no more than that," she said in a statement.

"The next four days will be eaten up by a desperate emergency effort that can offer only very limited relief, not equal to the size of suffering and destruction and ultimately with no sustainability. This is a band-aid that will be ripped off a bleeding wound after four days."

A former Israeli interior minister said that the "solution" for the situation in the Gaza Strip is for two million people to be removed from the enclave.

Speaking to Israeli TV, Ayalet Shaked said that other countries should be told to absorb refugees from Gaza.

"We need to take advantage of the destruction [to tell] the countries that each of them should take a quota, it can be 20,000 or 50,000," she told Channel 13. "We need two million to leave. That's the solution for Gaza."

Meanwhile, Sweden's prime minister faced ridicule after appearing to just stop himself saying "Israel has the right to genocide" during a speech.

Ulf Kristersson was speaking to an audience in Gothenburg on Tuesday when he addressed the subject of Sweden's attitude to the war in Gaza.

"Sweden and the EU stand united in that Israel has a right to geno...self-defense," he said.

A number of audience members laughed at his mistake, while others started calling out "Has Israel the right to commit genocide?"

## Seven...

(Continued From Page One)

rates — along with China, at 0.013.

"It is a little surprising that a country like ours should have this level of gun violence," Ali Mokdad, a professor of global health and epidemiology at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, told NPR. "If you compare us to other well-off countries, we really stand out."

Mokdad said a major driver is the large presence of gangs and drug trafficking. "The gangs and drug traffickers fight among themselves to get more territory, and they fight the police," Mokdad said. Citizens who are not involved are also often caught in the crossfire.

## UNHCR: Deportation Drive Sparks 'Sense of Panic' Among Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

KARACHI (Reuters) – The UN refugee agency has expressed concern over widespread distress in large Afghan refugee communities across Pakistan where authorities are conducting searches to round up and expel undocumented foreigners.

Islamabad last month announced it would expel over a million undocumented refugees, mostly Afghans, amid a row with Kabul over charges it harbors anti-Pakistan militants. Over 370,000 Afghans have fled Pakistan since Oct. 1.

Pakistan says documented refugees are exempt, but the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said even those with the right documents were being targeted.

"The announcement and follow-up actions, in-

cluding reports of intimidation by local authorities and evictions by landlords, have created a sense of panic," UNHCR's Pakistan representative, Philippa Candler, said at a briefing in Geneva, according to a statement from the agency.

She reiterated that the return of Afghans should be voluntary and that Pakistan should identify vulnerable individuals who need international protection.

Pakistan says harassment of documented refugees is rare and it is taking action against perpetrators. But it has continued a search operation in various cities to verify the status of refugees, many of whom have lived in the country for decades.

In the southern port city of Karachi, where hundreds of thousands of Afghans live, police carried out door-to-door searches in refugee settlements along with officials of the national database authority.

In one area on the outskirts of the city, a slum settlement of hundreds of small houses, officials knocked on the doors and asked residents to provide identification, which was cross checked by electronic tablets.

Reluctant and visibly distressed residents allowed a female police officer into their homes to verify the identification of women and children as well. None of the families wanted to speak to Reuters journalists present at the site.