

TEHRAN – Decrying the U.S. and Westerners for using force and focusing on their own illegitimate interests in the existing world order, an Iranian deputy foreign minister said a lasting and compressive order cannot be achieved without Africa's effective role. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri presented Iran's views about peace and security in Africa in a panel in Senegal, attended by his counterparts from France, Germany and Turkey. "The current world order, despite all its complexities, suffers from many weaknesses and challenges to the extent that, as everyone admits, it is impossible for this order to continue to exist, and undoubtedly, this order will fall apart," he said.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali says the Islamic Republic and Russia have closely cooperated "at various levels" to bring an end to the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians in Gaza, with plans for the future underway.

"Despite the differences between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation regarding the Zionist regime, they have had close interaction to stop the crimes of the Zionists in Palestine during the course of recent events," he told IRNA.

Viewpoint

Growing Consensus Worldwide for Outlawing Zionism

Eslami: IAEA Responsible for Any Israeli Nuclear Accident



Iranian Kurash Players Win Five More Medals at World Championship



WHO: Palestinian Children, Civilians 'Deserve to Live in Peace'



Zionist Regime Between Rock and Hard Place

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — International mediators appeared to make progress Wednesday on extending the truce in Gaza, encouraging Hamas fighters to keep freeing Zionist captives in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners. The ceasefire will otherwise end within a day.

The occupying regime of Israel has welcomed the release of dozens of captives in recent days and says it will maintain the truce if Hamas keeps freeing them.

Weeks of heavy aerial bombardment and a ground invasion demolished vast swaths of Gaza and killed thousands of Palestinians. But it seems to have had little effect on Hamas' power, evidenced by its ability to conduct complex negotiations, enforce the ceasefire among other armed groups, and orchestrate the release of prisoners.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people are now crammed into southern Gaza, with some three-quarters of them driven from their homes. The truce has led to a frenzied rush to obtain supplies to feed their families as aid enters in greater, but still insufficient, amounts.

International pressure for a lasting ceasefire is mounting. An Israeli ground invasion of the south will likely bring an escalating cost in Palestinian lives and destruction that the United States, Israel's main ally, could be unwilling to bear given the cost dealt to its credibility so far.

The ceasefire is due to end at some point after an exchange of prisoners Wednesday.

Diaa Rashwan, head of Egypt's state information services, said negotiations have made progress and that it is "highly likely" an extension would be announced Wednesday. Egypt, along with Qatar and the U.S., played a key role in mediating the original ceasefire and a two-day extension announced Monday.

More than 14,000 Palestinians have been martyred, roughly two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza.

The toll is likely much higher, as officials have only sporadically updated the count since Nov. 11 due to the breakdown of services in the north. The ministry says thousands more people are missing and feared dead under the rubble.

The Zionist regime says 77 of its soldiers have been killed in the ground invasion, but Palestinian resistance groups say the

true death toll is much higher.

Israel said Wednesday around 160 Zionists are still held in Gaza. A total of 60 Zionists have been freed under the truce, most of whom appear physically well. Another 21 prisoners — 19 Thais, one Filipino and one Russian-Israeli — have been released in separate negotiations since the truce began. Before the ceasefire, Hamas released four prisoners. Two others were found dead in Gaza.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that a resumption of fighting in Gaza threatens to "devour the region."

"A resumption in fighting would only, most likely, turn into a calamity that devours the whole region," he said.

The United Nations' secretary general said that inhabitants of the Gaza Strip are experiencing "a monumental humanitarian catastrophe".

Antonio Guterres called for a "real ceasefire" and said that the world "must not look away".

"The volume of aid reaching the Palestinians in Gaza is still completely insufficient to meet the needs of more than two million people," particularly for fuel, insisted the secretary general, who once again called for the opening of other points of passage into the Gaza Strip, including Rafah.

The bodies of five premature Palestinian babies have reportedly been discovered in Al-Nasr Hospital as reporters and aid workers sort through the remains of the bombed-out health facility during the truce in the Gaza Strip.

Journalists from Emirati TV channel Al-Mashhad discovered the decomposing remains of the children, who were not among those evacuated from the children's hospital after Zionist forces ordered patients and staff to leave on 10 November.

In the West Bank, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said Adam al-Ghoul, nine, and Basil Suleiman Abu al-Wafa, 15, were killed by Zionist soldiers in Jenin refugee camp, in the occupied West Bank.

On Tuesday evening Israeli forces launched an all-out assault on the camp, which is a major source of resistance and has been invaded repeatedly over the past year, especially since the October 7 attack on southern occupied territories.

CCTV footage of Ghoul's killing was greeted with outrage on social media.

Leader: Al-Aqsa Flood De-Americanized West Asia



This combination of pictures shows Ayatollah Khamenei addressing hundreds of Basij volunteers on the occasion of the National Basij Week in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said here Wednesday Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against the Zionist regime disrupted the American policy scheme in West Asia.

"The historic event of Al-Aqsa Flood is against the Zionist regime but in fact it is aimed at de-Americanization," Ayatollah Khamenei told hundreds of Basij volunteers on the occasion of the National Basij Week.

"The incident literally managed to disrupt the table of American policies in the region, and God willing, if this storm continues, it will wipe out the whole table," the Leader noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the "Al-Aqsa Flood" will not subside, adding the "important and unique incident" has brought the goals closer and made the way easier.

"The Zionist regime, whose nerves were torn apart by this

storm, started bombing hospitals, schools, and people's populations and killing children in order to extinguish it," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the failure of the Zionist regime in all its goals in the war on Gaza, saying no degree of anger and brutality can make up for the failure.

"The barbaric and cruel actions that the Zionist regime committed in its crimes against the people of Gaza, not only destroyed the

reputation of the regime, but also that of the United States. It took away the reputation of several renowned European countries, and also ruined the reputation of Western culture and civilization," the Leader said.

"The culture and civilization of the West is the one that when 5,000 children are killed with phosphorus bombs, the regime of a certain Western country says Israel is defending itself. Is this self-defense? This is the Western culture which has been discredited," he added.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said "killing and displacing people, including women and children, and building settlements by destroying Palestinian houses and farms were among the continuous crimes of the invaders in the past 75 years, which they committed all those crimes in an intensive manner in 50 days".

Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the failure of the U.S. plan to change the political geography of West Asia.

"A few years ago, in the case of Lebanon, they said that they were looking for the formation of a 'new Middle East' based on their own illegitimate needs and interests, but of course they failed," he said.

"America sought to destroy Hezbollah, but after the 33-day war, Hezbollah became more than 10 times stronger than before."

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After Large Protest by Students, UK College Halts Ties With Arms Supplier to Israel

LONDON (Middle East Eye) -- A college in Luton, UK has suspended its relationship with the British subsidiary of an Italian aerospace company that supplies components to the Israeli military after hundreds of students walked out of their classes to protest for Palestine.

Luton Sixth Form College confirmed on Wednesday that it had suspended all activities with Leonardo following student-led protests against its presence on campus.

In an online statement sent to students and staff, the college confirmed that "all further activities with Leonardo will be suspended until further notice".

"There has been some inaccurate reference to the college being closely affiliated with Leonardo - an engineering firm... that makes navigation parts for some aircraft, including some military aircraft," it said.

"They attend career fairs for schools and colleges in Luton to offer work placements to students and, have been in attendance at our job fairs, and have offered work experience opportunities to some of our STEM students. "That is the extent of our relation-

ship with Leonardo, and we are currently reviewing our position with them in conjunction with Luton Borough Council and other schools and colleges."

Luton Sixth Form College made its statement after disbanding the student council, which organized the pro-Palestine protests against Leonardo earlier this month, and announced plans to invite a group called Shout Out UK on campus to talk about media literacy and disinformation.

Earlier this month, images posted online and sent to Middle East Eye showed hundreds of students gathered on the college courtyard to protest against its involvement with Leonardo and in support of Palestine.

Following the protest, hundreds of students also signed an open letter calling on the college to completely cut ties with Leonardo.

Hassan Sajjad, who chaired the student council, confirmed to Middle East Eye that students will continue protesting until the college completely cuts ties to Leonardo.

Sajjad said: "The decision to disband the student council was done

behind closed doors without informing them of whether or not they want to finish this year's session early. So we want that element of student input to be stronger within the college."

One student, who helped organize the protest and wished to remain anonymous, told MEE that many within the student community had been unaware of Leonardo's business interests in Israel before the student action.

"College should be a place where we are educated, not funneled to join arms companies like Leonardo," the student said.

Commenting on the college's reaction to the protest, the student said another motivation behind the protests was the college ignoring concerns raised via the student council.

"Its crazy that one of the first things the college did was disband the student council, when its term typically lasts until March or April, to coincide with exams and near the end of the academic year," said the student.

Leonardo, formerly known as Finmeccanica, is an Italian aerospace and defense company that is the

world's ninth-largest arms company. The company supplies military helicopters, warplanes, drones, missiles, naval guns, artillery and armored combat vehicles to armies across the world.

The Italian company has been in Luton since 2003, and says it employs 1,000 people in the area. Leonardo also says it has "strong connections" with local schools, colleges, and universities.

In June, the Israeli war ministry selected Leonardo to supply the Israeli army with air surveillance and radar technology. The company has also previously supplied the Israeli Air Force with warplanes.

AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of Leonardo, makes components for Apache attack helicopters used by the occupying regime of Israel in Gaza, according to Campaign Against the Arms Trade.

Leonardo has also sold seven training helicopters to the Israeli military worth billions of dollars.

Earlier this month, activists from Palestine Action occupied the roof of a Leonardo factory in Southampton to oppose its involvement in Israel.