

Charity Warns Child Malnutrition in Gaza Worsening Amid Genocide

LONDON (Dispatches) – The UK-based organization, Save the Children, warned on Tuesday of child malnutrition in Gaza amid the Zionist regime's genocide, Anadolu Agency reports.

The organization recalled that 346,000 children under the age of 5 are at risk in Gaza.

"In the north, it is estimated that one in three children under the age of two are now suffering from wasting, the most severe form of malnutrition, compared to one in six children in January, according to The Global Nutrition Cluster – a group of humanitarian organizations focused on nutrition," it explained.

The British Charity narrated the stories of Gazans, including children with special health conditions such as anaemia or those starving to death, and added that "they also need essential medicines such as antibiotics, health facilities and



Gazan premature baby Leila faces the looming threat of death as a result of malnutrition and restricted access to water as she is receiving treatment at the newborn intensive care unit of Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia, on March 29, 2024.

trained health care workers who can detect and treat malnutrition." "Life-saving supplies which could be used to treat malnourished children are being delayed and denied entry by Israel. Es-

sential food and medical items are obstructed from entering Gaza for days, weeks, or even months," the organization also said.

It further added that attacks on aid workers undermine deliveries,

"further restricting an already hamstrung humanitarian response".

The Zionist regime has killed more than 32,000 Palestinians since an October 7 operation by Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, which claimed 1,200 lives.

However, since then, it has been revealed by Haaretz that helicopters and tanks of the Israeli army had, in fact, killed many of the 1,139 soldiers and civilians claimed by Israel to have been killed by the Palestinian resistance.

It has also imposed a crippling blockade on the Gaza Strip, leaving its population, particularly residents of northern Gaza, on the verge of starvation.

Last week, the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to ensure "unhindered provision" of urgent aid to Gaza. The UN Court said "Palestinians in Gaza are no longer facing only a risk of famine ... but that famine is setting in."

Palestinians Living 'Never-Ending Nightmare' in Israeli Detention

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Yousef Srour did not know if Ramadan had begun or not.

Arrested on 18 October from his home in Ni'lin, west of Ramallah in the center of the occupied West Bank, Srour was in an Israeli prison in the Negev (Naqab) desert on 10 March.

"The prisoners don't have any means of communicating with the outside world. If the jailers find a wire in the room or batteries, all the prisoners are beaten, punished, taken out of the room and all their belongings are confiscated," he told Middle East Eye, explaining that they all estimated the start of Ramadan based on when they had arrived at the prison.

After six months in the so-called administrative detention, the 49-year-

old Palestinian was discharged to hospital a week ago. He was seriously underweight and showed signs of fatigue and neglect. Srour told MEE that he could not count the number of times he had been brutally beaten during those months in prison.

The Israeli army has carried out a massive, ongoing arrest campaign across the occupied West Bank since Oct 7, targeting almost 8,000 Palestinians, including women and children, the sick and elderly.

According to the Palestinian prisoners' rights group Addameer, there are currently an estimated 9,100 political prisoners being held in Israeli prisons, of which 3,558 are 'administrative detainees', meaning they are being held without charge or trial.

Israel has taken prisoners from Gaza, describing this as a necessary part of their operations against Hamas. In February, the Israeli army arrested and imprisoned an 82-year-old Palestinian woman in Gaza under a law aimed at detaining unlawful combatants.

According to lawyers and human rights organizations that monitor Palestinian prisoners, these six months have been one of the worst time periods ever, with Ramadan in jail described by Srour as a "never-ending nightmare" and by others as the worst they have experienced in decades. Prayer is forbidden, as is reading the Qur'an.

Prisoners have been exposed not just to physical assault, but to other viola-

tions including starvation, sleep deprivation, cutting off contact with their families and the withholding of water.

Like other former prisoners, Srour was targeted in the crackdown that followed 7 October. Held without charge or trial, he lost 42kg in prison. Medical examinations carried out after his release showed that he was suffering from a severe nutritional deficiency, so doctors advised him to only eat soup for the next month.

This Ramadan, the food given to prisoners has been no different to their usual diet. There is one meal a day, consisting of 12 tablespoons of rice, three tablespoons of lentil soup and 50 grams of chopped cabbage. Prisoners report that the water they are given tastes like chlorine.

Jewish Group Demands UK End Israeli Arms Sales

LONDON (Dispatches) – A UK Jewish group has blockaded the entrance to Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) to demand that the UK government send aid to the besieged Gaza Strip instead of sending arms to the Zionist regime.

Images posted online showed Naamod placing tents and banners at the entrance of the FCDO that said "no to arms" and "UK Jews say stop arming Israeli war crimes".

Among the calls by Naamod include calls on the government to reverse its decision to defund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), which supports millions of Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and regional

countries.

"We're here because, even as the UN Security Council has come to the belated conclusion that a ceasefire can't wait, the UK gov drags its feet in drawing a line in the sand," Naamod said on X, formerly Twitter.

"In the face of unimaginable catastrophe in Gaza, we demand that our government follows others and restore funding to Unrwa.

"Unrwa is the only hope of reaching civilians desperately in need of life-saving aid. Every day the Foreign Office delays, it allows famine to continue."

The UK government announced in late January that it was pausing funding to Unrwa in the wake of Israeli allegations that agency staff were

involved in the 7 October operation.

Last week, in a letter to Foreign Secretary David Cameron, over 50 MPs and members of the House of Lords urged the government to reinstate funding for the agency "without delay".

The letter questions what evidence provided the basis for the decision to pause funding and why the UK's allies, including most recently Finland and Germany, have resumed funding while the UK has not.

Naamod's actions come after a Conservative MP admitted that the British government had received legal advice that Israel had breached international humanitarian law.

In a leaked recording revealed by the Observer, Alicia Kearns, who is

chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, tells donors to the Conservative Party that legal advice acknowledging Israeli forces broke international law meant Britain would need to end arms sales to Israel.

"The Foreign Office has received official legal advice that Israel has broken international humanitarian law but the government has not announced it," said Kearns.

"They have not said it, they haven't stopped arms exports. They have done a few very small sanctions on Israeli settlers and everyone internationally is agreed that settlers are illegal, that they shouldn't be doing what they're doing, and the ways in which they have continued and the money that's been put in.

Iran ...

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Russia's foreign ministry stressed that such "aggressive actions by Israel are absolutely unacceptable and must be stopped."

"We urge the Israeli leadership to abandon the practice of provocative military actions on the territory of Syria and other neighboring countries," it said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, "The security of diplomatic institutions cannot be violated, and Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity should be respected."

Pakistan also "strongly condemned" the Israeli strike as "irresponsible act", calling it "a major escalation in an already volatile region."

"The attack is an unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Syria and undermines its stability and security. It is a violation of international law and the UN Charter. Attacks against diplomats or diplomatic facilities are also illegal under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961," the country's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Islamabad also urged the UN Security Council to prevent Israel from "its adventurism in the region and its illegal acts attacking its neighbors and targeting foreign diplomatic facilities."

Aid...

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The organization is currently finishing building a jetty made from the rubble of bombed buildings to ease Gaza's food deprivation.

The president of Cyprus, from where the shipments are taking off, called for an urgent probe and said that the maritime aid corridor would continue.

"We need to double down on efforts to get aid to Gaza," Nikos Christodoulides said.

The Gaza-based government media office condemned the attack as "another Israeli massacre".

In a press conference from Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, the general director of the media office Ismail Thawabta said: "The brutal raid targeted armored vehicles that were clearly marked."

Since Israel declared war on Gaza in early October, WCK has shipped more than 37 million meals to the territory.

For months, the UN and other humanitarian groups have been warning of famine in northern Gaza.

In late March, 70 percent of the population was suffering from catastrophic levels of hunger, according to a recent UN-backed report.

Monday's assault comes after a series of attacks on convoys and aid seekers, including the shelling of a United Nations aid truck carrying food supplies in February.

At least 400 Palestinians seeking aid have been martyred by Israeli shelling, according to Palestinian health officials.

Additionally, Israeli strikes on aid missions have killed several Palestinian policemen working to secure food deliveries.

The International Court of Justice ordered Israel last week, in a legally binding decision, to "ensure, without delay" that humanitarian aid is provided to Gaza, encompassing essentials such as food, water, electricity, and other fundamental necessities.

The additional provisional measures ordered by the UN's top court came amid several deaths by starvation and warnings by UN and international NGOs of imminent "man-made" famine in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's prevention of the entry of aid through land crossings.

The court added that Palestinians in Gaza are not only facing a risk of famine, "but that famine is setting in".

On Tuesday, Gaza's health ministry said that 71 people were martyred in Israeli attacks on the enclave in the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 32,916 people since October 7.

Additionally, 75,494 people have been injured since the start of the war, 102 of them in the past 24 hours, the ministry said.

Pakistan...

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Pakistan approved earlier this year to start the construction of an 80-kilometer pipeline from its border with Iran to its southwestern port city of Gwadar. That came just as the country was nearing a deadline set by Iran to start pipeline construction under the 2009 agreement or face international legal action.

Based on the Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement signed in June 2009, Iran would supply 750 million to 1 billion cubic feet (up to 28.3 million cubic meters) per day of natural gas to Pakistan.

However, the project has stalled despite the fact that Iran finished building a 900-kilometer pipeline on its side of the border in 2011 as part of the agreement with Pakistan.

Dozens Killed in Istanbul Apartment Block Blaze

ISTANBUL (AFP) – A fire killed at least 29 people in a 16-story residential building in Istanbul on Tuesday, the governor of Turkey's economic capital said, updating an earlier toll of 15 dead and eight hurt.

"The number of people who lost their lives in the fire... in Gayrettepe of Besiktas district has increased to 29," governor Davut Gul's office said in a statement, referring to the Istanbul neighborhood.

"One person hurt in the fire was still being treated in hospital," it added.

The fire began at 12:47 (0947 GMT), the

office said, and was only brought under control by firefighters hours later.

Television images showed flames and a column of thick smoke rushing from upper-story windows.

The number of people reported killed and hurt rose throughout the afternoon in a string of statements from the governor's office, as more victims succumbed to their injuries.

The blaze had broken out during construction work in the first and second floors below ground, which housed a nightclub, Gul

told reporters.

"An investigation has been opened into the fire in Gayrettepe," Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya posted on X.

Five people have been arrested at the scene in connection with the blaze, news channel NTV reported.

Istanbul's newly re-elected mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, who rushed to the scene, said "the fire is under control. Let's hope there are no further victims," offering his "condolences" to the relatives of the dead and injured.