

Israel Becomes 'Largest Cumulative Recipient' of U.S. Foreign, Military Aid

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is the “largest cumulative recipient” of U.S. foreign aid, as the occupying regime received \$297 billion between 1946 and 2023, most of which is in military aid, according to data from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reported by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

The report revealed that the occupying regime became the largest non-NATO member ally of the U.S., and the regime “has privileged access to the most advanced U.S. military platforms and technologies,” according to the New York-based think tank.

It was highlighted in the report that the U.S. military aid to Tel Aviv garnered a lot of criticism after the



Zionist troops point guns at the Palestinian worshippers to prevent them from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

events of Oct. 7, 2023, and upon the Zionist regime’s attacks on Gaza resulting in tens of thousands killed, criticism towards the aid sent to the country became a hot topic worldwide.

“Israel has been the largest cumu-

lative recipient of U.S. foreign aid since its founding, receiving about \$300 billion (adjusted for inflation) in total economic and military assistance,” said the report.

The occupying regime was granted \$216 billion in military aid and \$81

billion in economic aid from the U.S. between 1946 and 2023, which totals \$297 billion.

After Israel came Egypt in the list of countries receiving U.S. foreign aid, though lagging far behind the occupying regime, with only \$89 billion in military and \$78 billion in economic aid.

The report also pointed out that the U.S. provided significant economic aid to Israel between 1971 and 2007.

“But nearly all U.S. aid today goes to support Israel’s military, the most advanced in the region,” added the report.

The U.S. has come under intense criticism for the use of its military aid and arms sales as the regime has given support to Israel’s attacks on Gaza, resulting in the massacre of civilians.

Spanish PM: EU May Re-Evaluate Relations With Israel

MADRID (Dispatches) – Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says the EU should re-think its strategic relation with the Zionist regime if the European Commission finds that the regime has breached humanitarian law in its war on the Gaza Strip.

“In the case of the EU, the situation would be that there’s an open door to have a debate within the European Council in order to see if we continue with this strategic relation or not,” Sanchez told Al Jazeera network.

“But this is something for which we first need to have the assessment of the European Commission,” he added.

In February, Sanchez and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar asked the EU to urgently review whether Israel was complying with its human rights obligations in the Gaza Strip.

Sanchez reiterated his call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and for the international recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state with full membership in the United Nations.

He said Spain would recognize Palestinian statehood by July and expressed hopes that other Western nations would follow suit.

Ireland, Malta and Slovenia also announced last month they would work toward the recognition of a Palestinian state.

Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Bolivia, Bahrain, Belize, Jordan, Turkey, Chad, and South Africa have suspended diplomatic relations with Israel over the campaign of death and destruction in Gaza that has killed nearly 33,000 people since early October.

Meanwhile, the President of the European Council Charles Michel on Friday urged an end to use hunger as means of war in Gaza.

“Gazan children and infants are dying of malnutrition. Substantial and urgent efforts are required to immediately end hunger as an instrument of war in Gaza,” he said on X.

Noting that the international

community has repeatedly called for more humanitarian aid to enter into Gaza notably to prevent, he added: “Israel’s announcement to reopen temporarily the Erez crossing point as well as to allow aid to enter through the Ashdod port is not enough.”

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

It stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which last week asked it to do more to prevent famine in the enclave.

Kuwait Opposition Keeps Parliament Majority After Vote

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) – Opposition lawmakers maintained a majority in Kuwait’s parliament, results showed Friday, after the Persian Gulf state’s third parliamentary vote in as many years held just months into the new emir’s reign.

Opposition candidates won 29 seats in the 50-member assembly, according to results carried by the official KUNA news agency, matching the outcome of last year’s election.

The make-up of the new parliament is very similar to the outgoing one, with all but 11 lawmakers retaining their seats.

“No radical change was expected in the results,” said Bader al-Saif,

assistant professor of history at Kuwait University.

“This is one of the lowest change ratios,” he told AFP.

Parliamentary elections have become an annual occurrence for the OPEC member, which has seven percent of the world’s oil reserves and the monarchical Persian Gulf’s most powerful elected assembly.

However, clashes between the national assembly and the royal-appointed cabinet have caused constant stalemate, delaying much-needed reforms.

With little change to the parliamentary line-up, the political impasse is expected to continue, according to Saif.

“A new showdown is in the making,” he said, adding that “some of the new faces are quite outspoken”.

Thursday’s election was the first to be held under the new emir, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Turnout was around 62 percent after polling stations closed at midnight, the information ministry said.

Sheikh Meshal, formerly the world’s oldest crown prince, came to power aged 83 in December after the death of his half-brother and predecessor, Sheikh Nawaf.

He took aim at both the cabinet and parliament in his inaugural speech to the assembly, before announcing an era of “reform” as he picked Kuwait’s first foreign minister from

outside the ruling family.

But in February, the national assembly was dissolved once again, a royal decree accusing it of constitutional violations including “offensive and inappropriate language”, after a lawmaker responded to the emir’s criticism.

Thursday’s election -- the third since 2022 and the fourth in five years -- was different in that the new parliament will be tasked with approving Sheikh Meshal’s choice of crown prince, Kuwait’s future emir.

If the assembly takes the unprecedented step of rejecting his heir, Sheikh Meshal will submit three candidates for parliamentarians to choose from.

PM: Israeli Strikes Have Made South Lebanon 'Devastated Agricultural Area'

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon’s caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, has said the Zionist regime’s air strikes have turned southern Lebanon into a “devastated agricultural area”.

The occupying regime and the Lebanese resistance moment Hezbollah have been trading fire across the northern parts of the occupied territories since war erupted in Gaza, with Hezbollah firing rockets and Israel launching air strikes and artillery shells.

The Israeli strikes have burned tens of thousands of olive trees and torched farmland across southern Lebanon, hurting herders and farmers already suffering from a deep eco-

nomical crisis that has made it even more important for Lebanon to produce its own food.

“Eight hundred hectares have been completely damaged, 340,000 heads of livestock have died, and about 75% of farmers have lost their final source of income,” Lebanon’s National News Agency quoted Mikati as saying. “This problem will extend to the coming years.”

Agriculture Minister Abbas Hajj Hassan sounded the alarm last month, saying the Zionist strikes were preventing farmers in villages and towns near the border reaching their fields, affecting up to 30% of Lebanon’s agri-

cultural output.

The Israeli regime has repeatedly attacked southern Lebanon since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on Gaza that has killed at least 33,037 Palestinians, most of them women and children, so far. Another 75,668 individuals have also been injured in the onslaught.

In retaliation, Hezbollah has launched nearly-daily rocket attacks on Israeli positions.

Hezbollah has already fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. The resistance forced the regime to retreat in both conflicts.

Unprecedented...

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leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky attended the rallies in Tehran.

Also attending, were senior Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi who said the cries of abhorrence expressed by the people “will definitely lead to the destruction of the Zionist regime and the elevation of the dignity of the Palestinian people and the Muslims of the world”.

This year’s rallies took place as Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and elsewhere have come under the most unprecedented campaign of bombings and displacement by Israel.

More than 180 days into the onslaught, at least 33,100 people have been martyred in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children. Tel Aviv has also blocked water, food, and electricity to Gaza, plunging the coastal strip into a humanitarian crisis.

Quds day is an annual pro-Palestinian event held on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan to express support for Palestinians and oppose Israel and Zionism. The event, initiated by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini, was first held in 1979 in Iran, shortly after the Islamic Revolution.

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the Zionist regime will collapse soon.

Major General Hussein Salami described Israel as a fake regime at the service of certain Western countries’ malicious policies.

“America, lacking political insight, has suffered heavy economic and political costs and psychological burdens to support and perk up a doomed regime, whose collapse is very close,” he said.

The U.S., he said, is extending Israel’s existence with “artificial respiration,” but the regime will collapse as soon as the U.S. draws back its support.

“The Zionist regime is struggling between life and death and knows that if it continues the war in Gaza and even if it withdraws it will still fail,” he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salami warned Israel that it would certainly receive a response for a deadly missile strike against the consular section of the Iranian Embassy in Syria.

“We warn that not a single action from any enemy against our sacred establishment will go unanswered,” the IRGC chief said.

Echoing remarks made by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the general said “our brave men will punish the Zionist regime”.

Terrorist...

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“We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and pray for the recovery of the injured,” Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a weekly news briefing in Islamabad.

“Pakistan is ready for any kind of support in case of any request from Iran, and Islamabad is determined to cooperate with Tehran for a common solution against the threat of terrorism. It is a regional and global threat that requires resolute response.”

Pakistan’s Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu said, “We stand in full solidarity with our brotherly neighbor Iran in fighting terrorism and protecting its interest.”

Official news agency IRNA on Thursday described Jaish al-Adl as the “terrorist group of Jaish al-Zulm (Army of Brutality), whose nature and dependence on the infamous Zionist regime is quite clear”.

The overnight attack by the group conspicuously coincides with the aftermath of an Israeli airstrike on Iran’s consular section in Damascus which left 13 people dead, including seven IRGC military advisors.

The IRGC’s Thursday statement said, “We warn the regional and extra-regional enemies and terrorist groups and armed villains hired by their spy services that the national security and peace of the people in every part of dear Iran is the red line of the defenders of the security of the Islamic homeland and any threatening factor and element in this arena will be decisively dealt with.”

UN...

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Gaza, home to over two million Palestinians, has been under Israeli siege since June 2007. Since last October, Israel has tightened what was already a crushing siege, ordering a “complete siege”.

The Friday’s resolution warned in particular “against any large-scale military operations in the city of Rafah” where nearly more than half of Gaza’s population have sought shelter from Israeli strikes elsewhere in the strip, and called on countries to “prevent the continued forcible transfer of Palestinians within and from Gaza.”

The resolution also decried “the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in Gaza”, where the UN has warned of a looming famine.