

Report: Nearly 650 Athletes Martyred in Gaza Since Last Oct.

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Football Association has reported that at least 644 athletes, including nearly 400 football players have been killed by Zionist troops in Gaza since October 2023.

It added that at least 91 of them are children. They are among the 45,206 Palestinians killed by Zionist troops in Gaza since October 2023.

Israel's October-present genocidal war on the Gaza Strip left its impact on football, the most popular sport in Palestine. The war has also forced the Palestinian men's football team to play its matches away from home.

In May, the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) presented arguments accusing the Israel Football Association (IFA) of violating FIFA statutes with its war on the besieged enclave and its inclusion of teams located in illegal settlements on Palestinian territory in its domestic league.

The PFA wanted FIFA to adopt "appropriate sanctions" against the Zionist regime and its teams, including an international ban.



Flagbearers Wasim Abusal, Valerie Rose Tarazi and athletes of Palestine aboard a boat in the floating parade on the river Seine during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, on July 26, 2024, in Paris.

The IFA termed the request a "cynical political move".

FIFA had passed the issue to independent legal advisers who carried out an evaluation and compiled a response.

FIFA has repeatedly postponed a decision on the Palestinian call to ban the Zionist regime from football amid its ongoing war on Gaza.

Following a meeting at its headquarters in Zurich in early October, the Federation Internationale de Football Association – FIFA, football's world governing body – said its disciplinary committee

will review the allegations of discrimination that have been raised by the PFA.

"The FIFA Disciplinary Committee will be mandated to initiate an investigation into the alleged offence of discrimination raised by the Palestine Football Association," FIFA announced in a statement.

"The FIFA Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee will be entrusted with the mission to investigate – and subsequently advise the FIFA Council on – the participation in Israeli competitions of Israeli football teams al-

legedly based in the territory of Palestine," it added.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino stated the council had implemented "due diligence" on the matter and followed the advice of independent experts.

This was not the first time that FIFA has deferred a ruling. It had promised to address the issue at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July, but deferred the decision until its last council on August 31. It then moved its decision to its October meeting.

Katarina Pijetlovic, head of the PFA's legal department, termed FIFA's decision "purely political".

"FIFA allowed Israel FA to continue using the Palestinian territory [occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds] as their own territory, and to use football under its umbrella as an instrument of colonial expansion," she wrote in a post on X.

"Will we wait two yrs again, as in 2015-17, for the committee to suggest the obvious and then have their suggestion rejected again?" she asked.

Zionist Settlers Establish New Illegal Outpost Near Ariha

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist settlers established on Saturday a new illegal outpost near the Palestinian Bedouin community along the al-Ma'arajat Road, based northwest of Ariha city in the eastern occupied West Bank.

Hassan Mleihat, the general supervisor of the local al-Baidar Organization for Defending Bedouin Rights, told Wafa news agency that settlers set up a tent on the community's land early this morning and performed provocative dances in the area.

He also noted the presence of five settler outposts near the al-Ma'arajat Road, with four established since October 7, 2023.

These outposts are part of ongoing efforts to expand settlers' control over the border areas between the Ramallah and Ariha governorates.

Israeli estimates indicate that more than 720,000 Zionists now live in illegal settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank, including East Al-Quds. Settlement construction has accelerated sig-

nificantly since the Zionist regime's right-wing cabinet, led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, came to power in December 2022.

The international community, including the UN, considers these settlements illegal under international law. The UN has repeatedly warned that continued settlement expansion threatens the viability of a so-called "two-state solution," a framework sought to pass off as key to resolving the Zionist-Palestinian conflict.

In a significant legal development in July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a ruling that declared the Zionist regime's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories "illegal". The court called for the immediate evacuation of all existing settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds.

Despite global condemnation and calls for a halt to settlement activity, the regime continues its expansion efforts, deepening tensions in the region.

Yemen's... (Continued From Page One)

army has launched over 200 ballistic missiles and 170 drones at Israeli targets, severely testing Israel's defense capabilities.

It added that Israel's defense mechanisms, particularly the Iron Dome and other air defense systems, have struggled to cope with the evolving threat posed by Ansarullah.

It noted that the sheer volume and sophistication of the attacks have continued to strain Israel's defenses.

The report emphasized that the Israeli military is facing significant difficulties in both defending against and responding to the attacks.

It acknowledged that since the war's beginning, Yemeni forces have inflicted significant damage Israel's economy.

The report criticized Israel's military response and intelligence preparation, saying the entity was unprepared for the threat posed by the Yemeni forces.

"Israel was not ready – either politically or in terms of intelligence – to deal with the threat coming from Yemen," the report said.

The Israeli military and intelligence agencies only began reacting after the Yemeni missile and drone strikes intensified, according to the report.

Maariv stressed that efforts by the Israeli military, including airstrikes on Yemen, were seen as little more than public relations gestures.

The failures of Israel's air defense systems were underscored, with Maariv reporting that the "Arrow" missile defense system, the Zionist regime's main line of defense against ballistic missiles, had failed four times in a row to intercept missiles, including three launched from Yemen and one from Lebanon.

Deal... (Continued From Page One)

U.S. is reviewing the sanctions it has imposed on Syria.

The delegation's visit also coincides with the expiration of the Caesar sanctions, a U.S. law that imposed a wide array of sanctions on Syria's economy.

Syria's de-facto ruler on Saturday appointed Asaad Hassan al-Shibani as the country's new foreign minister.

No details were immediately available about Shibani.

Meanwhile, the Syrian people worry that a fragmented coalition of armed groups could ignite intense political jockeying and cause chaos by targeting religious minorities, political opponents and personnel from the former government.

The Zionist regime has been using the power vacuum to make new land grabs inside the Syrian territory where militants and takfiri terrorists have stood by and watched.

On Friday, Syrians in Maariyah in the western Daraa countryside staged a protest against Israel's continued invasion of their lands.

The Israeli army, which recently set up a base in the town, reportedly fired at the protesters, injuring one of them.

Images posted by local Syrian social media accounts showed protesters carrying banners, which read: "Free, free Syria, Israel get out." In videos, protesters could also be heard chanting the same slogan.

After the fall of the Assad government in Syria, Israel launched an invasion of Syrian territory, accompanied by hundreds of airstrikes across the country.

After quickly taking over the UN-mandated buffer zone, the Zionist regime expanded its incursions to nearby countryside reaching as far as Qatana, 26 km from Damascus.

Residents in the areas of Quneitra, bordering the occupied Golan Heights, have been ordered by the Israeli army to leave, with some reportedly refusing.

According to Al Jazeera, the occupying regime of Israel resorted to cutting off water networks and destroying streets in Quneitra to pressure people into leaving.

Farmers in the area say Israeli forces are also banning them from working in their fields.

The protest from local villagers came as a response to Israel's repeated attacks.

When asked in an interview about Israel's attacks, Jolani said, "We don't want conflict either with Israel or with other countries."

Syrian protesters near Quneitra have asked their new government for support against Israel's invasions.

"They banned us from our land ... and from any kind of work near these lands," said another protester.

"That is why we call on all international bodies, as well as our new government, to blatantly refuse this incursion which ruined our joy with our victory and Assad's defeat."

700,000... (Continued From Page One)

more aggressive approach, intensifying sanctions and rolling back steps toward normalization.

Current President Joe Biden's administration has not substantially distanced itself from Trump's policies but has adopted a handful of steps to relax restrictions on remittances and flights to Cuba.

Ministry... (Continued From Page 2)

to Syria to assist Lebanese refugees."

He said all Iranian nationals were evacuated to Iran using Iranian aircraft via the Hmeimim airbase, which, in coordination with Russia, was consistently used alongside Damascus airport.

Iran and Russia, Baghaei said, maintain significant relations across various fields, with continuous dialogue taking place at multiple levels. "We prefer that the exchange of views and experiences occurs through official channels."

U.S. ... (Continued From Page 2)

oversight of the Swiss government.

The unnamed source explained that due to their advanced technology, the equipment produced by the companies has multipurpose uses. Once legally sold in Iranian markets, the products can be purchased and utilized by any individual or entity.

However, the U.S. government has fabricated charges, claiming the equipment was used in drones involved in the aforementioned attack, leading to the arrest and prosecution of the individuals.

He emphasized that the lack of formal communication with the Iranian embassy and the denial of access to Abedini constitutes a clear case of abduction.

"Even if the allegations were proven, the appropriate course of action would have been to prevent his entry into Europe or the United States, not to detain him based on unsubstantiated claims," he said.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its consulate in Italy, has launched extensive efforts to secure Abedini's release or at least obtain information about his condition.

U.S. Judge Finds Israel's NSO Liable for Hacking in WhatsApp Lawsuit

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A U.S. judge has ruled in favor of WhatsApp in a lawsuit accusing the Zionist regime's NSO Group of exploiting a bug in the messaging app to install spy software allowing unauthorized surveillance.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton in Oakland, California, found NSO liable for hacking and

breach of contract. The case will now proceed to a trial only on the issue of damages, Hamilton said.

Will Cathcart, the head of WhatsApp, said: "We spent five years presenting our case because we firmly believe that spyware companies could not hide behind immunity or avoid accountability for

their unlawful actions. "Surveillance companies should be on notice that illegal spying will not be tolerated."

WhatsApp in 2019 sued NSO, accusing it of accessing WhatsApp servers without permission to install the Pegasus software on victims' mobile devices.

The lawsuit alleged the intru-

sion allowed the surveillance of 1,400 people, including journalists, human rights activists and dissidents.

NSO had claimed that Pegasus helps law enforcement and intelligence agencies fight crime and that its technology is intended to help catch terrorists, pedophiles and hardened criminals.

WHO: Lebanon Facing 'Staggering' Unmet Health Needs

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon is facing "staggering unmet health needs" as thousands of civilians cry out for reconstructive surgeries and physical rehabilitation after the ceasefire between the Zionist regime and Hezbollah resistance movement, the World Health Organization Lebanon Office says.

Over 4,000 people have been killed and 17,000 others injured in Lebanon since last October, and the death toll has been climbing continuously "as more bodies are found in the 16,000 buildings that have been partially or completely destroyed, leaving an estimated 8 million tons of debris," the office said in a news release.

"One in four people with life-changing injuries will need long-term rehabilitation," it noted.

Most hospitals in Lebanon are running below capacity due to financial restraints and shortages of health workers, long-standing challenges in Lebanon, it said.

The need for health workers is also dire in the country, as more than 530 health workers and patients have been killed or wounded in attacks on health care, and thousands of health workers have been displaced, it said.

"Water and sanitation systems have been severely disrupted, compounding the risk of disease outbreaks," it added.

The ceasefire agreement between the Zionist regime and Hezbollah went into effect on Nov. 27, putting an end to the confrontations that erupted on Oct. 8, 2023.

Despite the agreement, the occupying regime's army continues to carry out strikes in Lebanon, which, according to reports from official Lebanese media, ranged between machine gun fire, artillery shelling, bulldozing homes, and airstrikes, some of which resulted in deaths and injuries in southern and eastern Lebanon. Meanwhile, Hezbollah has violated the truce once after it said it was in response to the repeated Israeli attacks.