

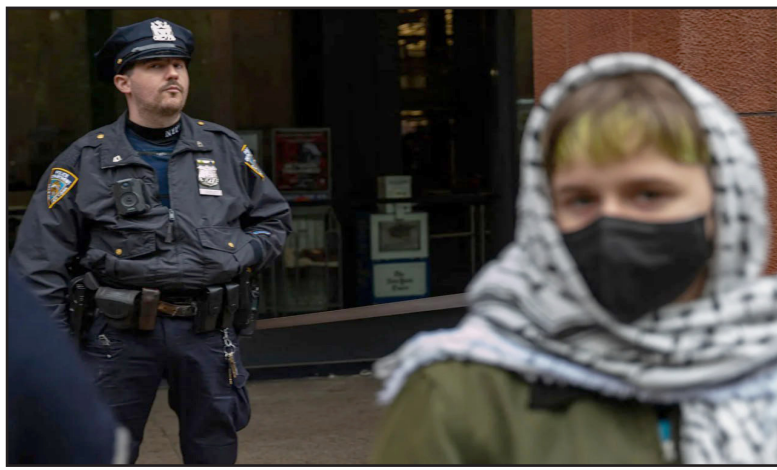
New York University Issues One-Year Suspensions Over Peaceful Sit-Ins for Gaza

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – | Almost a dozen students have been suspended for a year from New York University (NYU) for participating in non-violent, anti-war protests for Gaza last month, a pro-Palestine group of staff members there have said.

NYU Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (NYUFSJP) wrote in a press release that the notices went out, suspending 11 students until January 2026.

The group called it “a draconian case of collective punishment”.

“Those suspended thus far include students who participated in a sit-in in front of the administration offices on the 12th floor of Bobst Library and those who simply sat in the lobby of the library in solidarity. The sit-in was to demand a meeting with administration officials regarding disclosure of and divestment from institutional investments in Israel,” the



Pro-Palestinian students and other supporters gather outside Bobst Library at New York University in Manhattan to protest against the school's investments in Israeli-linked corporations, on 10 May 2024.

statement read.

Two NYU faculty members were also arrested during those sit-ins in December, despite the American Association of University Professors saying they were not involved in the protest itself

but were there to ensure the safety of the student demonstrators.

Three faculty members were informed at the time that they had been declared personae non gratae (PNG) by the school's security. The move rendered them unable

to enter any university buildings, including their own classrooms.

This week, the Office of Student Conduct at NYU told the students they are being punished for holding a protest which produced “a significant disruptive impact... during a particularly critical time”.

NYUFSJP insisted the sit-ins can only be described as “minor disruptions of distributing flyers and chanting for fifteen minutes” and were “intended to highlight the much more significant disruption of teaching, learning and scholarship that has taken place in Gaza”.

The group cites the resolution passed earlier this week by the American Historical Association, in which it voted 428 to 88 to approve a resolution opposing “scholasticide” in Gaza, as well as the U.S. funding of the Zionist regime's 15-month long assault on the enclave.

2 Killed, 2 Injured in Israeli Airstrike on Southern Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Two people were killed and two others injured in an Israeli airstrike targeting Tayr Debba, a municipality in southern Lebanon's Tyre district, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported.

According to the official National News Agency, an Israeli drone targeted a car in Tayr Debba, killing two and wounding two more, all of whom have been transferred to hospitals in Tyre.

Despite a ceasefire agreement with Lebanon, which took effect on Nov. 27, 2024, the Zionist regime has conducted intermittent strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon, some of which have caused casualties.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon has condemned as a “blatant violation of international law” the Israeli regime's continuous breaches of the ceasefire agreement with the resistance movement Hez-

bollah.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) made the remarks in a statement on Sunday, noting that the Israeli military is “deliberately” destroying its property and critical infrastructure in southern Lebanon.

It also said the deliberate and direct destruction by the Israeli military is “a flagrant violation” of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the

33-day-long Israeli military onslaught on the country in the summer of 2006.

The warning comes as Hezbollah leader Sheikh Naim Qassem warned that the resistance group's patience with Israeli violations could run out before the end of the ceasefire's 60-day implementation timeframe.

Sheikh Qassem said Hezbollah had decided to show patience, but emphasized that this would not last indefinitely.

Senior UK Military Figures Made Secret Trips to Israel in 2024, Data Reveals

LONDON (Dispatches) – Senior figures within the United Kingdom's defense establishment have made numerous unpublicized and secret visits to the Israeli-occupied territories since October 7, 2023, British government data has revealed.

According to the outlet, Declassified UK, which cited the British government's records of senior Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials' business expenses, hospitality and meetings for the entirety of 2024, a number of those officials conducted at least five such secret visits to the occupied territories in the months following Hamas's operation into Israel and Tel Aviv's launching of its genocidal cam-

paign on the Gaza Strip.

The trips reportedly include that of the UK's Chief of the Defense Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, who had visited Israel on January 21, 2024 and met with his Israeli counterpart, Herzl Halevi “to discuss future operations in the region”.

General Charles Stickland, the Chief of Joint Operations at the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters – responsible “for the command and integration of UK global operations” – also visited the Israeli-occupied territories on March 18, 2024, under what the British government simply referred to in documents as “MoD Directed attendance at meetings to be held

in Tel Aviv”. That same day, the MoD's Director-General for Security Policy, Paul Wyatt, was also visiting Israel.

Other senior UK defense figures who have made the unpublicized trips to Israel include the head of the UK's Strategic Command, James Hockenhull, who reportedly subtly visited Tel Aviv for a “UK-Israel bilateral” back on 28 December 2023.

The head of the Royal Air Force (RAF), Air Chief Marshal, Sir Richard Knighton, also made a visit on 9 January 2024 for undeclared purposes. Although the topic of that trip remains unspecified, the RAF's operations in the Middle East have

since dramatically increased, with the Air Force conducting hundreds of flights over the Gaza Strip to gather intelligence to share with Israeli Occupation forces.

According to a MoD spokesperson quoted by the outlet, the UK and its allies made efforts “to reach a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in Gaza”, hence why “senior defense officials have visited Israel for routine diplomatic visits”. They claimed that the “Discussions included the UK calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the need for all parties to comply with international humanitarian law while recognizing Israel's right to security.”

IRGC... (Continued From Page One)

The Great Prophet 19 exercise is the latest in a series of drills conducted by Iran's military to showcase its capabilities and project a message of strength in the region.

On Friday, Gen. Salami said Iran will soon unveil missile and drone cities, calling them as symbols of military strength and self-reliance, independent of foreign territories like Syria.

Iran, he said, faces no shortages of missiles, drones or naval vessels, calling them key elements of the country's deterrence strategy.

Gen. Salami said Iran does not rely on Syria for its deterrent power. “Syria fell, but we did not rely on military advantages from Syria to an extent that would impact our deterrence.”

“Our deterrence is not based on operations from any other land. It is fully rooted in Iranian soil, will, decisions, and actions,” he added.

On Friday, the IRGC Ground Force launched the final stage of the Great Prophet 19 military exercise in western Iran, during which rapid response operation scenarios were performed with the swift transfer of troops and equipment to the exercise area.

In another part of the exercise, the IRGC Ground Force Airborne Division's Cobra helicopters practiced destroying predetermined targets.

In Tehran, 110,000 Basij members paraded in the city, demonstrating their readiness to confront threats and participate in relief and rescue operations. IRGC Tehran chief Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzadeh had described the parade as a cultural-combat even, saying it conveyed the message to the enemies that those sacrificing their lives for the Iranian nation remain firm in the scene.

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

its accompanying warships to withdraw from the northern Red Sea region.”

Yemen's also carried out strikes on Yaffa near Tel Aviv, using three unmanned aerial vehicles on Thursday, it added.

On Monday, Yemen's Ansarullah targeted the USS Harry Truman in the northern Red Sea and claimed missile and drone attacks on targets in southern and central Israeli occupied territories.

Yemeni forces have targeted Israeli cargo ships or ones linked with Tel Aviv in the Red Sea with missiles and drones in a show of support with the Gaza Strip, where over 46,000 people have been martyred in Israel's genocidal war since October 2023.

Since early 2024, a coalition led by the U.S. has been carrying out airstrikes on Yemen, drawing retaliation from Ansarullah and its allies.

The leader of the Ansarullah movement on Thursday said Israel is incapable of intercepting and shooting down hypersonic Yemeni missiles.

In a televised speech, Adul-Malik al-Houthi said the failure points to the huge and significant gap in the Tel Aviv regime's defense capabilities.

He said Yemeni forces have managed to target Israeli military positions deep inside the occupied lands multiple times, using hypersonic missiles and drones.

Yemen's operations, which are being carried out in retaliation for the Israeli genocidal campaign against Palestinians in Gaza, are imposing a substantial economic cost on the usurping regime, he added.

“The operations have an enormous impact. They are instilling fear, anxiety and panic into the Zionist enemy, which has failed to intercept Yemeni missiles. The Israeli aviation industry has been dramatically influenced, as flights into and out of Ben Gurion Airport are halted during our operations.” Houthi hit out at the outgoing administration of U.S. President Joe Biden for an \$8 billion aid package for Israel that includes munitions for fighter jets and attack helicopters alongside artillery shells, stating that “the Zionist enemy will use the ammunition to kill women and children”.

Like... (Continued From Page One)

PowerOutage.us, which tracks outages nationwide, while water and sewage infrastructure across the area has suffered extensive damage.

The Palisades Fire between Santa Monica and Malibu on the city's western flank and the Eaton Fire in the east near Pasadena already rank as the most destructive in Los Angeles history, consuming more than 13,750 hectares and turning entire neighborhoods to ash.

Private forecaster AccuWeather estimated the damage and economic loss at \$135 billion to \$150 billion, portending an arduous recovery and soaring homeowners' insurance costs.

With nerves on edge, Los Angeles County mistakenly sent an evacuation notice countywide to a population of 9.6 million, even though it had been meant only for the area of the Kenneth Fire, officials said.

At least 20 arrests have been made for looting. The city of Santa Monica, which is next to Pacific Palisades, declared a curfew because of the lawlessness, officials said.

National Guard troops arrived in Los Angeles on Thursday evening and will help protect property.

Officials said the Eaton Fire had damaged or destroyed 4000 to 5000 structures while the Palisades Fire destroyed or damaged another 5300 structures.

Aerial video showed block after block of leveled homes, while satellite images showed the two largest fires forming a pincer around the city and thick plumes of smoke from the fires being blown out over the Pacific Ocean.

The homes of movie stars and celebrities were among those consumed by flames. Firefighters from half a dozen other U.S. states and Canada were being rushed to California, in addition to U.S. federal personnel and materiel.

Authorities have not determined the cause of the fires but are investigating various possible sources of ignition. While lightning is the most common cause of wildfires in the U.S., according to the National Fire Protection Association, there were no reports of lightning in the vicinity at the time the blazes began. Other common causes include intentionally lit fires and power lines.

Lebanon... (Continued From Page One)

provided a preliminary assessment estimating the Israeli war's physical damage to Lebanon at \$8.5 billion.

Since October 2022, Lebanon has been functioning without a formal government, which has worsened a financial crisis that prompted Lebanon to default on \$30 billion in Eurobond debt some five years ago.

The country's divided sectarian power-sharing system is often susceptible to deadlock due to both political and procedural challenges.

It has experienced multiple prolonged presidential vacancies, including the longest one which lasted nearly two and a half years from May 2014 to October 2016, ending with the election of former president Aoun.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday felicitated Aoun on his election, voicing Tehran's readiness to further enhance cooperation in “all fields” with Beirut.

“The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its readiness to further enhance bilateral cooperation in all fields during your presidency,” he wrote in his congratulatory message.

The Iranian president hoped that the election will bring “political stability, continuous economic growth, and peace and comfort to the dear people of Lebanon.”

“Strengthening resilience and unity will doubtless thwart the Zionist enemy's avarice towards the Lebanese territory,” he wrote.

On Thursday, the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon congratulated the “brotherly” Lebanese nation and Aoun on election results, hoping for strengthened relations between the two states that would “serve the mutual interests of our two countries and promote stability and prosperity in the region.”

Carrefour Announces Closure of Oman Branches Amid BDS Boycott Calls

PARIS (Dispatches) – French retail giant Carrefour has announced the closure of its branches in Oman, in the latest hit the company has suffered due to widespread boycott campaigns.

The news comes months after the chain announced its closure in Jordan, where consumers are known to strongly follow boycott campaigns targeting companies accused of supporting the Zionist regime.

Carrefour did not give a reason behind its closure, simply saying it will “cease operations” in Oman.

“On behalf of Carrefour management and employees, we extend our sincere gratitude for your continuous support over the past decades,” the company's statement said.

One of the biggest supermarket chains in the Persian Gulf, Carrefour has been a major target on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

(BDS) movement's list of companies accused of having strong ties to the regime during its ongoing war on Gaza.

BDS sites the chain's franchise partnership with two companies “active in the illegal Israeli settlement enterprise”.

According to the movement, Carrefour's partnership with Israel's Electra Consumer Products and its subsidiary, Yenot Bitan, contribute to “apartheid, genocide, and human rights violations”.

“The Palestinian BDS National Committee salutes its allies in Oman and the Omani people who contributed to this achievement,” BDS said on X. “Let this success be a driving force to hold more companies accountable for their complicity in Israeli crimes, including genocide, against Palestinians.”

The Zionist regime's war on Gaza has killed

over 46,000 Palestinians, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Widespread boycott campaigns against BDS-listed companies such as Carrefour, Starbucks, Siemens, SodaStream, Expedia, Disney+, McDonald's and others are believed to have caused them at least some financial woes, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

In February last year, McDonald's shares fell nearly 4 percent following reports that a sales slowdown in the Middle East had contributed to its fourth-quarter revenue missed estimates, CNBC reported.

A month earlier, the CEO of McDonald's said that the boycott campaign was harming sales in the Middle East, which accounts for 2 percent of the company's global sales and 1 percent of its global earnings before interest and taxes.