



DOHA (Dispatches) – Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia all condemned an 'Israeli map' on official social media claiming 'historic territorial rights' over Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, Anadolu News Agency reports. According to the report, Qatar's Foreign Ministry described the map as a "defense of international legitimacy resolutions" and stated that such provocations were destabilizing, particularly during the Gaza war. The ministry also asked the world to press the Zionist regime into following international law and stopping its expansionist policy. The report added that the UAE condemned the map, too, as "a concerted attempt to extend the occupation" and a "defense to international law". Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry also joined the outcry and called the Zionist regime out for "expanding its occupation", the report says.

Dozens More Killed in New Raids

Lancet Study Estimates Gaza Death Toll 40% Higher Than Recorded

PARIS (Dispatches) – Research published in The Lancet medical journal on Friday estimates that the death toll in Gaza during the first nine months of the Zionist regime's aggression on Gaza was around 40 percent higher than recorded by the Palestinian territory's health ministry.

The number of dead in Gaza has become a matter of bitter debate since the occupying regime launched its genocidal campaign on October 7, 2023 attack.

Up to June 30 last year, the health ministry in Gaza reported a death toll of 37,877 in the war.

However the new peer-reviewed study used data from the ministry, an online survey and social media obituaries to estimate that there were between 55,298 and 78,525 deaths from traumatic injuries in Gaza by that time.

The study's best death toll estimate was 64,260, which would mean the health ministry had under-reported the number of deaths to that point by 41 percent.

That toll represented 2.9 percent of Gaza's pre-war population, "or approximately one in 35 inhabitants," the study said.

The UK-led group of researchers estimated that 59 percent of the deaths were women, children and the elderly.

The toll was only for deaths from traumatic injuries, so did not include deaths from a lack of health care or



A boy mourns beside the bodies of Palestinians killed by Zionist troops at the morgue of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, on 5 January 2025.

food, or the thousands of missing believed to be buried under rubble.

AFP is unable to independently verify the death toll.

On Thursday, Gaza's health ministry said that 46,006 people had died over the full 15 months of war.

The researchers used a statistical method called "capture-recapture" that has previously been used to estimate the death toll in conflicts around the world.

The analysis used data from three different lists, the first provided by the Gaza health ministry of the bodies identified in hospitals or morgues.

The second list was from an online

survey launched by the health ministry in which Palestinians reported the deaths of relatives.

The third was sourced from obituaries posted on social media platforms such as X, Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp, when the identity of the deceased could be verified.

"We only kept in the analysis those who were confirmed dead by their relatives or confirmed dead by the morgues and the hospital," lead study author Zeina Jamaludine, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said.

The researchers scoured the lists, searching for duplicates.

"Then we looked at the overlaps between the three lists, and based on the overlaps, you can come up with a total estimation of the population that was killed," Jamaludine said.

The United Nations warns that a lack of fuel supply in Gaza threatens to shut down more medical facilities across the besieged territory, putting the lives of patients and newborns at "grave risk".

The UN's condemnation of the "deliberate and systematic" attacks on Gaza hospitals came as relentless Israeli strikes killed more than 50 more Palestinians since Thursday.

Gaza health officials on Thursday said Al-Aqsa, Nasser and the European hospitals are at risk of imminent closure, after repeated Israeli bombardment and blockade of supplies.

The armed wing of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas says most of the Israeli captives held in northern Gaza have gone missing, holding Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his military responsible for their lives.

Al-Qassam Brigades made the announcement on Friday, as the Israeli regime continues its intensified bombardment of the besieged Palestinian territory.

"Most of the enemy captives have gone missing due to the incessant Zionist aggression," a source from the Brigades told Al Jazeera Arabic.

'Very Real Threats' to Syria's Sovereignty Zionist Ministers 'Meet to Discuss Division of Syria'



Zionist troops look into Syria, after the ousting of Bashar al-Assad, in Ein Zivan in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, 25 December 2024.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Zionist regime ministers have reportedly met this week to discuss classified plans to promote the division of Syria into provincial regions.

The news outlet Israel Hayom reported that war minister Israel Katz chaired a ministerial meeting focused on Turkish involvement in Syria and concerns about the intentions of Syria's de facto leader, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) commander Ahmed al-Sharaa (also known by his nom de guerre Abu Mohammed Julani).

During the meeting, which was held before an upcoming discussion with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the ministers also reportedly discussed an Israeli plan first revealed by Middle East Eye in December.

Under this plan, Syria would be divided into provincial regions, or cantons, which Israel Hayom described as a way to "safeguard the security and rights of all Syrian ethnic groups", including the Druze and Kurdish populations.

Eli Cohen, the Zionist regime's energy and infrastructure minister, reportedly suggested that this proposal should be examined at an international conference convened by the Zionist regime, though Israeli politicians know that any initiative associated with the regime is likely to face significant resistance within Syria.

In December, regional security sources briefed on the plot told MEE that the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's government had thwarted an already-existing Israeli plan to divide Syria into three blocks in order to sever its ties with Iran and Hezbollah, which were supporting Assad.

The occupying regime planned to establish military and strategic ties with the Kurds in Syria's northeast and the Druze in the south, leaving Assad in power in Damascus under Emirati funding and control.

This would have also served to limit Turkey's influence in Syria to the northwest, which was the stronghold of HTS and Turkish-backed groups whose lightning offensive led to Assad's downfall.

The plot, which appears the same as the one discussed on Tuesday, was alluded to in a speech by Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saar last November.

The United Nations cautioned about "very real threats" to Syria's sovereignty after the fall of the government of Bashar Al-Assad.

"Syria seeks to chart a new course following the fall of the former government just one month ago. Decisions taken now will determine the future for a long time to come. There are great opportunities and real dangers," UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen told the UN Security Council.

UN Reports Worsening Hunger Crisis in Gaza Amid Severe Shortages, Access restrictions

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on Friday that the hunger crisis in Gaza continues to worsen, exacerbated by severe shortages of supplies, stringent access restrictions, and violent armed looting.

In its daily report, OCHA stated that humanitarian partners in central Gaza had exhausted all their supply stocks by Sunday.

Meanwhile, Zionist regime authorities continue to block most requests to allow food aid through the Erez checkpoint, located in the West, to reach areas south of the Gaza Valley, Wafa news agency reported.

The report further highlighted that approximately 120,000 metric tons of food aid—enough to provide full rations to Gaza's population for over three months—remain stuck outside the region.

Humanitarian partners are warning that without the delivery of additional supplies, the distribution of food parcels to starving families will remain severely limited. Over 50 community

kitchens that provide more than 200,000 meals daily in central and southern Gaza are also at risk of closure in the coming days.

The World Food Program (WFP) reported that, as of Monday, only five of the 20 bakeries it supports in the sector were still operational, all of them in Gaza City. These bakeries rely on the continued delivery of fuel from partners in Southern Gaza to stay open.

OCHA also warned that the fuel shortage needed to operate generators is crippling Gaza's already devastated health system, endangering the lives of patients. The ongoing attacks on Northern Gaza have severely disrupted healthcare services for the remaining survivors, with access to al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia—currently the only partially functional hospital in northern Gaza—being extremely limited.

Additionally, the UN has continued its efforts to reach northern Gaza, including an attempted mission Thursday, but Israeli authorities have consistently rejected these efforts, further compounding the crisis.

U.S. Lawmakers Vote to Sanction ICC for Issuing Netanyahu Arrest Warrant

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The U.S. House of Representatives has passed its first major foreign policy bill of the 119th Congressional session - in which both chambers are Republican-controlled - to sanction officials at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for issuing an arrest warrant for Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The warrant, issued in November, is for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the regime's ongoing assault on Gaza. The Biden administration was quick to condemn the warrant at the time.

The Biden administration's language is now mirrored in Thursday's bill that condemns the ICC's actions,

entitled the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, which would likely end up on President-elect Donald Trump's desk if it passes the Senate. For its part, the House voted 243-140-1 to sanction anyone associated with the ICC's efforts to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any "protected person" of the U.S. and its friends abroad who are not party to the Rome Statute, which established the court.

The legislation also mentions the warrant issued against the Zionist regime's former war minister, Yoav Gallant.

There were 45 Democrats who joined their Republican colleagues in

voting for the bill.

The text of the bill stipulates the U.S. would impose "visa- and property-blocking sanctions against the foreign persons that engaged in or materially assisted" in an investigation or arrest of Americans and their allies, and that "the president must also apply visa-blocking sanctions to the immediate family members of those sanctioned".

"Human rights lawyers and others documenting the worst atrocities committed on this planet are heroes who should be celebrated—not punished when the war criminals they pursue are allies of the United States," Representative Ilhan Omar,

who voted against the bill, said on X. Representative Rashida Tlaib said in an X post that the bill is aimed at protecting "genocidal maniac Netanyahu so he can continue the genocide in Gaza."

The Zionist regime launched its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group carried out a surprise operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

So far, the criminal regime has killed at least 46,006 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 109,378 others, in the besieged territory.

'10,400 Palestinians Held in Israeli Prisons'

Palestinian Dies Due to Medical Negligence He Faced in Israeli Prisons

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian prisoners advocacy groups have confirmed the death of former prisoner Ismail Taqatqa five months after his release, due to systematic medical negligence in Israeli prisons.

In a joint statement released on Thursday, the Palestinian Prisoners' Affairs Commission and the Palestinian Prisoners' Society confirmed that Taqatqa passed away in Jordan.

Taqatqa, who hailed from the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem, had no prior health issues before his arrest in March 2024. Upon his release on August 29, 2024, Taqatqa was diagnosed with leukemia, a result of systematic medical negligence during his detention.

His condition deteriorated rapidly while in Ofer Prison, leading to his transfer to Hadassah Hospital where it became clear that he needed a bone marrow transplant.

They then proceeded to release him from custody while he was hospitalized, on certain conditions.

The delay and obstructions imposed by the occupying regime contributed to his worsening health and eventual death.

The commission and the society highlighted that Taqatqa's case raises significant and ongoing questions about the fate of thousands of detainees in Israeli prisons.

The rights groups stated that Taqatqa is the latest known victim of the systematic medical crimes perpetrated by the Israeli prison system against thousands of prisoners who have been subjected to unprecedented systematic torture since the beginning of Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Palestinian prisoners' advocacy groups say at least 10,400 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails as of this month.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs made the announcement in a joint statement issued on Thursday.

According to the statement, 320 children and 87

women are among the detainees.

The groups noted that the number of Palestinians held under Israel's so-called administrative detention policy has also reached 3,376, including 22 women and 95 children.

Under its policy of administrative detention, the occupying regime detains Palestinians without trial or charge for up to six months; a period which can be extended for an indefinite number of times. Some prisoners have been held in administrative detention for up to 11 years.

The updated figures come while Israel continues to conceal the actual number of Palestinians detained during its ongoing war on Gaza.

The update on the number of Palestinian prisoners comes amid reports of torture and mistreatment of detainees in Israeli prisons.

Medical crimes and denial of treatment have been the primary tools for executing systematic killings of dozens of prisoners since the Israeli war began in Gaza, rights groups say.