

## Euro-Med: Israeli Prisons 'Graves for the Living'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The deteriorating health conditions of freed Palestinian prisoners reflect the systematic torture in the Zionist regime's jails, a Geneva-based rights group says, calling the Israeli prisons "graves for the living", Anadolu Agency reports.

In a statement, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor shared an image of a freed Palestinian prisoner showing severe signs of health deterioration.

"The poor health of Palestinian detainees and prisoners released by Israel as part of the ceasefire agreements in the Gaza Strip reflects the terrible conditions they endured while in custody, including torture, mistreatment and degrading abuses that persisted until the very last minute," it said.

Hundreds of Palestinians were released by the Zionist regime in return for 18 captives under the ceasefire deal that took effect on January 19.

"The majority (of prisoners) appeared to be in a serious state of



*Until the final moments before their release, most of the Palestinian detainees endured psychological torture in addition to mistreatment and beatings, says the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor.*

decline, with each of them losing several kilograms of weight due to what appears to be intentional starvation," the rights group said.

"Many of the inmates and detainees required immediate hospital transfers for critical medical examinations. One, in particular, seemed incapable of recognizing his future after being denied treatment while in custody."

The Euro-Med Monitor said the poor health conditions of the freed

Palestinian prisoners demonstrate "how Israel has transformed its jails into institutionalized torture facilities."

"Until the final moments before their release, most of the detainees endured psychological torture in addition to mistreatment and beatings."

The rights group said the Israeli practices "constitute a blatant violation of human rights and the rights of prisoners and detainees guaran-

teed by international law because they mirror the abuse, humiliation, starvation and systematic torture that they endured both during their detention and after being released."

The violations "extended beyond subpar detention conditions and turned into a systematic policy of retaliation against all Palestinian prisoners and detainees," it added.

"Detainees were subjected to severe torture, intentional starvation and prolonged solitary confinement as part of punitive measures that ramped up brutally after the events in the Gaza Strip in an attempt to punish them for nothing more than the fact that they were Palestinians."

The rights group cited the testimony of a freed Palestinian boy, who called the conditions in the Israeli prisons "graves for the living".

"I call for a widespread protest against the sadistic practices of Israel towards Palestinian detainees," Ramy Abdu, head of the Euro-Med Monitor, said on his X account.

"Demonstrations must be held in front of ICRC offices," Abdu added.

## Report: Trump Pushing for \$1bn in New Arms Sales to Israel



*Zionist reserve combat troops take part at a training drill in Golan Heights on May 8, 2024.*

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The Trump administration has requested congressional approval for the transfer of roughly \$1 billion in bombs and other military equipment to the Zionist regime, even as Washington seeks to uphold a fragile ceasefire in Gaza, said a report.

The Wall Street Journal, citing U.S. officials familiar with the sale, reported that the proposed arms transfers include 4,700 1,000-pound bombs valued at over \$700 million, along with Caterpillar-built armored bulldozers worth more than \$300 million.

The report added that the request would be paid from the annual U.S. military aid allocated to the Zionist regime, which totals \$3.3 billion in foreign military financing.

Congressional approval is required for major foreign arms sales, with the State Department notifying key committees before proceeding. The House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations committees must approve such transfers before they can be finalized.

The State Department did not immediately respond to Anadolu's request for comment.

The request comes amid Zionist

prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington to discuss the ceasefire in Gaza as well as broader regional tensions.

The new proposal came after the Biden administration, in the final days of its term, "informally" notified Congress of an \$8 billion proposed arms deal with Israel, including munitions for fighter jets and artillery shells.

The U.S. faces criticism for providing military aid to the Zionist regime, as more than 47,500 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023, according to Gaza's health authorities.

Amid a ceasefire and hostage exchange deal in Gaza on Jan. 19, the Zionist regime intensified violence in the occupied West Bank, where more than 900 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist troops and settlers since last October, according to local authorities.

Several human rights groups, former State Department officials and Democratic lawmakers have urged the U.S. government to halt arms transfers to the occupying regime, citing violations of U.S. laws, including the Leahy Law, as well as international laws and human rights.

## ICJ President 'Plagiarized 32 Percent of Pro-Israel Dissenting Opinion'

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) – Fresh allegations have emerged of Julia Sebutinde, acting president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), appearing to plagiarize large sections of her dissenting opinion on the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestine.

Last month, Sebutinde, who arguably holds the most prestigious judicial position, was accused of directly lifting sentences almost word for word in her dissenting opinion written on July 19.

A study seen by Middle East Eye compiled by Majd Abuamer, a Palestinian researcher at the Doha Institute, for an upcoming book by U.S. scholar

Norman Finkelstein has now alleged that "at least 32 percent of Sebutinde's dissent was plagiarized".

The research will be presented as part of a chapter in Finkelstein's upcoming book Gaza Gravediggers, which will be published in June.

Last July, a 15-judge panel found that the Zionist regime's decades-long occupation of the Palestinian territories was "unlawful" and that its "near-complete separation" of people in the occupied West Bank breached international laws concerning "racial segregation" and "apartheid".

While most judges agreed with

the advisory opinion, Sebutinde rejected the findings.

When contacted by MEE for a response, Sebutinde declined to comment on the plagiarism allegations.

Finkelstein told MEE that when he initially read the Ugandan judge's dissenting opinion in July, he found it to be "bizarre", and suspected that sentences may have been plagiarized.

"So I posted on my Twitter account: 'Would anyone care to volunteer to help me track down some plagiarism?'" the writer and scholar said.

Following Finkelstein's call-out on X, formerly known as

Twitter, Abuamer, who grew up in Gaza, responded with a thorough examination of the document.

"He's very precise. He finds 32.2 percent of her dissent was plagiarized," said Finkelstein.

One of the sources Abuamer found that Sebutinde repeatedly borrowed sentences from, word for word, is a video by conservative activist David Brog, entitled "Why isn't there a Palestinian state?"

Not all of the sources that Sebutinde took sentences from are pro-Israeli or conservative. Abuamer finds that several sections are directly lifted from Wikipedia and BBC News.

## Hamas Confirms Talks Start on Second Phase of Gaza Ceasefire Deal

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Talks have started on the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire deal, the spokesperson for the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said on Tuesday.

The first phase of the ceasefire between the Zionist regime and Hamas went into force on Jan. 19 after 15 months of war and involved a halt to fighting, the release of some of the Israeli captives held by Hamas and the freeing of some Palestinian prisoners.

Phase two of the three-phase deal is intended to focus on agreements on the release of the remaining captives and the withdrawal of Zionist regime troops from Gaza.

"Contacts and negotiation on the second phase

have begun," Hamas spokesperson Abdel-Latif Al-Qanoua said, without providing further details.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said earlier on Tuesday that the occupying regime was preparing to send a high-level delegation to the Qatari capital Doha to discuss continued implementation of the deal.

Netanyahu was due to hold talks with U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday, with the focus likely to be on the ceasefire as well as a possible normalization of relations with Saudi Arabia.

The initial six-week truce, agreed with Egyptian and Qatari mediators and backed by the

U.S., has remained largely intact but prospects for a durable settlement are unclear.

The war began on Oct. 7. Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza since then has killed more than 47,000 Palestinians, Palestinian health authorities say.

Hamas and Netanyahu's regime, which includes hardliners who opposed the ceasefire deal, say they are committed to reaching an agreement in the second phase.

Qanoua said Israel had stalled in implementing the humanitarian protocol of the ongoing first phase, hindering the repair of hospitals, roads, water wells and infrastructure destroyed by the Zionist regime's 15-month genocide.

## NGOs, Civil Society Groups Urge EU to End Trade With Zionist Settlements

LONDON (Dispatches) – More than 160 NGOs, civil society groups and trade unions have urged the EU to ban trade with illegal Zionist settlements in the Occupied Territories.

The appeal came in a letter addressed to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

She was urged to take action to ensure that Europe complies with international law by ending its support for the Zionist regime's illegal settlement enterprise.

It comes amid renewed international attention on the Palestinian question in the wake of the Gaza ceasefire.

Palestinians "continue suffering" in the enclave despite the "fragile" ceasefire, while in the West Bank Israeli authorities have "expanded their illegal settlements and intensified their repression of Palestinians," Human Rights Watch said.

EU member states have repeatedly condemned Israeli settlements through unanimous voting. Two rounds of targeted sanctions against Zionist settlers were also

launched by the bloc.

Last July, the International Court of Justice ruled that the regime's occupation is illegal, and called for the dismantling of settlements.

States have an obligation to prevent trade "that assists in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories," the court said.

Existing EU policies breach this obligation, groups said in the letter, warning that goods exported from Israeli settlements are not excluded from entering the European market.

HRW said: "Amid sharp divisions, the EU has been unable to adopt measures that respond to Israel's war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide in Gaza."

"But the bloc should at least be coherent with its own statements, and live up to its obligations under international law, by banning trade and business with settlements, which are inexorably linked to egregious rights abuses."