

‘Over 40 Captives Killed in Israeli Strikes’

Israelis Protest to Demand Completion of Gaza Prisoner Exchange Deal

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – For the second consecutive day, Zionist protesters gathered outside the war ministry in Tel Aviv on Sunday to demand the regime continue a Gaza ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement with Hamas, Anadolu reports.

According to Maariv newspaper, hundreds of protesters and relatives of Israeli captives in Gaza camped overnight in Tel Aviv to call on prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to sabotage the swap deal.

Protesters demanded that an Israeli negotiating delegation traveling to Doha on Monday be granted full authority to finalize an agreement ensuring the return of all captives at once.

Sunday’s protest came after thousands of demonstrators surrounded the ministry headquarters on Saturday to demand the completion of the ceasefire deal.

Einav Zangauker, the mother of Israeli captive Matan, called for continued public pressure on the government to complete the agreement.

Families of Israeli captives and activists plan to demonstrate daily around the war ministry and stage a sit-in overnight to pile more pressure on the Netanyahu regime to



Hundreds of Israelis gather in Kaplan Street to demand the continuation of the swap process between Hamas and the Zionist regime.

complete the agreement.

The protests come as a recent report has revealed that more than forty Israeli captives held by the Palestinian resistance group Hamas in the Gaza Strip have been killed by the regime’s airstrikes since October 7, 2023.

According to an analysis by The New York Times (NYT) published on Saturday, of the 251 Israeli soldiers and settlers taken captive by Hamas in Gaza, 41 have been killed by “Israeli bombing and friendly fire.”

Citing the Zionist regime’s cabinet, the U.S. daily added that of

the 59 Israeli captives still held by Hamas and other Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza, only 24 remain alive and 130 others have been released alive.

“A few [captives] were almost certainly killed in the first days of the war, before it was possible to seal a truce. But many others have died since the brief first cease-fire collapsed in November 2023 and the fighting continued in a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians,” the report said.

“The corpses of 40 others have been returned to Israel in exchange for the release of hundreds of Pal-

estinian prisoners and detainees following ceasefire agreements in November 2023 and January of this year.”

The NYT underlined that its analysis was based on forensic reports and military investigations into the captives’ deaths, as well as interviews with more than a dozen Zionist troops and officials, a senior official and seven relatives of captives.

The paper attributed the deaths to the occupying regime’s prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s preference to continue his genocidal war on Gaza, rather than reach a deal for a permanent end to the war.

“We could have brought home more [captives] — earlier and for a smaller price,” Yoav Gallant, former Israeli minister of military affairs, said in a televised interview last month.

“Only continued military pressure, until total victory, will bring about the release of all of our [captives],” Netanyahu claimed last year.

Israeli media also reported multiple times since the start of the war that Netanyahu was committed to sabotaging a deal that would end the war and bring the Israeli captives home.

European Powers Back Arab Reconstruction Plan for Gaza

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – Key European nations, including the UK, France, Germany, and Italy, have backed an Egyptian proposal to reconstruct Gaza as a counter to U.S. President Donald Trump’s controversial “riviera” plan that advocates the forcible displacement of Palestinians from the Strip.

Despite their support for and whitewashing of the Zionist regime’s genocidal actions in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war in October 2023, the foreign ministers of the UK, France, Germany, and Italy announced in a statement on Saturday that they endorse the Egyptian initiative that would improve “cata-

strophic living conditions for the Palestinians.”

“The plan shows a realistic path to the reconstruction of Gaza and promises, if implemented, swift and sustainable improvement of the catastrophic living conditions for the Palestinians living in Gaza,” read the statement.

On Saturday, the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) officially adopted the Arab League’s proposal for Gaza’s reconstruction during an emergency meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The OIC urged “the international community and international and regional funding in-

stitutions to swiftly provide the necessary support for the plan.”

A comprehensive draft of the Egyptian-proposed Gaza reconstruction plan includes allocating \$53 billion for rebuilding efforts and establishing a management committee to facilitate the Palestinian Authority’s return within six months.

The initiative further outlines a series of key measures, including an international conference in Cairo, a donor-contribution trust fund, and three reconstruction phases spanning six months to two and a half years.

The early recovery phase requires \$3 billion, and the subsequent phases cost \$20 billion

and \$30 billion, respectively.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv have expressed opposition to its implementation.

The Egyptian-proposed reconstruction plan stands in contrast to Trump’s controversial suggestion that the U.S. “take over” Gaza, transform it into the “Riviera of the Middle East,” and displace Palestinians to neighboring Arab nations. His proposal drew widespread condemnation.

The Zionist regime endorses Trump’s proposal advocating the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Gaza, where its relentless attacks since 2023 have killed over 48,000 Palestinians, primarily women and children.

Zionist Regime Says to Issue Work Permits for Syrian Druze

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime would issue work permits for Druze citizens of Syria to work in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, the occupying regime’s war minister Israel Katz announced on Sunday.

The move would be made “soon,” Katz said in a statement, without specifying the exact timeline.

Katz added that the permits would be issued as part of a regime plan. The regime “is now approving an unprecedented aid plan for the Druze and Circassian communities in Israel,” he noted.

The minister praised the “loyalty, bravery, and contribution to Israel’s security” of the Druze citizens, many of whom serve in the occupying regime’s military. “We will continue to strengthen them and also protect their brethren in Syria against any threat,” he added.

Druze people primarily live in Lebanon, Syria, and the occupied territories, with smaller groups in Jordan. The occupying regime has been working to solidify ties with the Druze community since expanding its occupation towards

Syria and in the occupied Golan Heights following the collapse of Bashar al-Assad’s government in December 2024.

Earlier this month, following an outbreak of unrest between security forces and local gunmen in the Druze area of Syria’s Jaramana, Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Katz ordered military troops to ‘defend’ the Druze population there.

Last week, Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt called on Syria’s Druze community to remain cau-

tious of the Zionist regime’s plots.

Speaking at a press conference, the former leader of the Progressive Socialist Party said: “The free people of Jabal Al-Arab [the Druze] must be wary of Israeli schemes in Syria.”

“There is a plan to undermine Arab national security,” he stressed.

Commenting on the Druze community, Jumblatt said: “Those who united Syria during the era of Sultan Pasha al-Atrash will not heed the calls of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.”

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People...

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she told MEE. “They killed my aunt’s friend in her house, a girl named Zina. They burned two of our houses. Thank God, both families were hiding.”

The eyewitness said terrorists stormed the village of Farsh Kabieh in Baniyeh, targeting unarmed civilians from specific households.

She said a house where generations of a local family, known by the surname Ali, had gathered was raided on Friday.

“They shot at a girl’s leg and her brother and husband. To this day, their bodies have not been buried.”

The massacres continued into Sunday, with an HTS official telling the official Sana news agency that fighting was taking place in the village of Betannita in the Tartous countryside.

Elsewhere, a cable linking the cities of Dara’a and Damascus was deliberately damaged, leading to telecommunications and internet being cut in Dara’a and Sweida.

Several water pumping stations and fuel depots were targeted.

Sana reported clashes at Banias gas power plant, following an alleged attack by remnants of the former government.

Iraq...

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Iranian officials have said they will not negotiate under pressure.

“Some bully governments – I really don’t know of any more appropriate term for some foreign figures and leaders than the word bullying – insist on negotiations. Their negotiations are not aimed at solving problems; they aim at domination,” Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday.

Ministry...

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colonial extermination of indigenous populations, rather than leveling baseless accusations against others.

Iran has long been the target of Western sanctions, which have intensified under the Trump administration and its European allies.

The so-called “maximum pressure” campaign has significantly impacted Iran’s economy and has been widely condemned as a form of hybrid warfare.

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carjackings, diabetes, and even the COVID-19 vaccine.

He called on the U.S. media and American politicians to focus on addressing their domestic issues before considering military intervention abroad.

“Still think Iran is the greatest threat? How about we focus on our own country for a minute,” he wrote.

Speaking to Fox News last week, Trump said he hoped to clinch a nuclear deal with Tehran.

“The other alternative is we have to do something because you can’t let another nuclear weapon,” he said, threatening to take military action against the country despite Tehran repeatedly saying that it does not want nuclear weapons.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday that the insistence of some bullying powers on holding talks with Iran does not aim to solve issues.

“The insistence of some bully governments on negotiations is not aimed at resolving issues, but rather [aims] to assert and impose their own expectations,” the Leader said.

“Absolutely, the Islamic Republic will not accept their expectations,” Ayatollah Khamenei added.

During his first presidency, Trump pulled Washington out of a multilateral international agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany in 2015.

Under the JCPOA, Iran was required to scale back some of its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of debilitating sanctions imposed on the country, especially by the United States.

The U.S. president also slapped economic sanctions on Tehran despite Iran’s adherence to the obligation under the JCPOA.

In response, Tehran began a series of pre-announced steps ending its commitments under the JCPOA.

Israel Says Cutting Off Electricity Supply to Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime says it is cutting off its electricity supply to Gaza. The full effects of that are not immediately clear, but the territory’s desalination plants receive power for producing drinking water.

Sunday’s announcement comes a week after the occupying regime cut off all supplies of goods to the territory to over 2 million people. It has sought to press Hamas to accept an extension of the first phase of their ceasefire. That phase ended last weekend.

Hamas has pressed to start negotiations on the ceasefire’s more difficult second phase

instead.

Gaza has been largely devastated by the war, and generators and solar panels are used for some of the power supply.

Israel has also cut off humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip a day after the first phase of a truce deal with Hamas expired on March 1. On Saturday, UNICEF communication specialist and spokesperson Rosalia Bollen warned that the blockade risks undoing much of the work humanitarian organizations have been able to complete during the ceasefire.

“It’s not just the aid that is halted from coming into Gaza, it’s also fuel.”

The coastal territory, she said, doesn’t have access “to sufficient electricity and that means its critical infrastructure – from desalination plants to hospitals – are dependent on the entry of fuel.”

She highlighted the urgent need to “scale up water production [and] fuel is a key element for that.”

Bollen said she saw “a very small baby that was born at 28 weeks,” before the ceasefire took effect in January.

“That baby died after three weeks because of a lack of ventilators and CPAP machines in that hospital.”