

# Yemen Warns Israel of ‘Blockade’ If It Ignores Ultimatum on Gaza

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Yemen’s Supreme Political Council has warned that it would resume its naval operations aimed at enforcing a “blockade” against the Zionist regime if Tel Aviv failed to heed the country’s ultimatum on stopping its deadly attacks against the Gaza Strip.

In a statement on Sunday, the council declared that Yemen’s Armed Forces were fully prepared to carry out the directives of Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leader of Yemen’s Ansarullah resistance movement, once the four-day ultimatum expired.

Houthi issued the ultimatum recently amid the regime’s incessant violations of a ceasefire deal between Tel Aviv and the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, which is hoped to end Tel Aviv’s 15-month-plus war of genocide against the coastal sliver.

“We affirm the full readiness of the Armed Forces and all relevant agencies to implement the directives of the Leader of the Revolution if the deadline expires,” the statement added.



The Yemeni Armed Forces’ showcasing a missile during a military parade in the capital Sana’a

“The Zionist enemy and its allies are fully responsible for the resumption of Yemeni naval operations.”

The council was referring to the robust military, political, and intelligence support that Tel Aviv’s Western allies, mainly the United States, were providing for the war that has so far claimed the lives of at least 48,453 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

The Yemeni Armed Forces began taking Israeli ships and the vessels carrying supplies to the occupied Palestinian territories via the waters off the Arab Peninsula country, under missile and drone strikes after October 7, 2023, when the regime launched the brutal military onslaught.

The operations took serious toll on the Israeli economy, contributing to meaningful price increases across commodities consumed by the regime’s illegal settlers.

The statement, meanwhile, said Yemen’s actions also served as a response to, what it denounced as, the failure of Arab states to take meaningful steps in defense of Palestinians -- in spite of their verbal condemnation of the Israeli atrocities.

“Our operations respond to weak Arab stances failing the central cause of the [Yemeni] nation,” the council noted.

It, meanwhile, praised the widespread public support among the members of the nation for the pro-Palestinian stance, calling it a “responsible position” that aligned with Yemen’s commitment to the Palestinian cause of liberation from Israeli occupation and aggression.

## Israeli Torture: Urinating on Palestinian Prisoners, Burying Them Alive



Men injured in Israeli detention pictured after their release at al-Najjar hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on December 24, 2023.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s jailers would wrap Palestinian prisoners in shrouds and bury them alive.

As they began to suffocate, just before death took hold, a small amount of air was allowed in to keep them alive, only for the process to be repeated moments later.

This is one of many accounts of torture inflicted on Palestinian detainees by the Zionist regime’s authorities.

Following the recent Hamas-Israel prisoner exchange, hundreds of detainees have been released, and similar harrowing testimonies have emerged.

Middle East Eye spoke to some of the recently freed prisoners in Gaza, who described how Palestinians were “tortured to death” in Israeli prisons.

Mahmoud Ismail Abukhater, 41, was at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza when an Israeli military quadcopter hovered overhead, broadcasting a voice ordering “people of the neighborhood to surrender,” on October 20, 2024.

“They fired bullets at houses and balconies and bombed homes nearby as they broadcast those messages to terrorize us. That’s when they detained us,” he recalled.

Abukhater said the torture began the moment they were detained and continued until the very last moment before their release.

“They treated us like animals, not humans,” he said.

Before being transferred to prison, the prisoners were taken to a place that resembled a cattle farm in Gaza, he explained.

There, they were forced to endure the freezing night, wearing only boxers and the thin white clothes they were given.

“Our hands and feet were shackled, and

they struck us with frozen water bottles and bottles filled with olives,” he added.

“There, the soldiers urinated in a container and then poured it over our faces and bodies.”

Abukhater was then taken to the notorious Sde Teiman military detention camp, where he was kept handcuffed for nearly two months.

“It’s a torture camp for men,” he said.

“They forced us to sit from dawn until midnight without moving, and we were only allowed to go to the toilet with permission and with our hands shackled. Sometimes the officer allowed it, other times he didn’t, and many detainees ended up urinating on themselves,” he continued.

Despite being denied access to toilets and having their hygiene restricted, soldiers forced prisoners to shower every other day in freezing water during December and January, in spite of the bitter cold.

If they discovered someone hadn’t bathed, they would punish and torture them immediately.

However, according to him, one of the most harrowing torture methods at Sde Teiman involved deceiving prisoners into believing they were being drowned or suffocated to death.

“They would place a detainee in a shroud connected to a hose with a small camera inside, bury him in a pit, and then monitor him through the camera,” he explained.

As soon as he was on the verge of complete suffocation, believing he was about to die, the guards would allow in a small amount of air to keep him alive.”

Abukhater recalled that one of the most haunting moments in prison was witnessing the torture to death of Musaab Haniyeh, the nephew of Ismail Haniyeh, the former political leader of Hamas.

## Qatar Demands IAEA Oversight of Zionist Regime’s Nuclear Facilities

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Qatar has called for international efforts to bring all of the Zionist regime’s nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The foreign ministry of Qatar, in a statement, called on the occupying regime “to subject all its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards” and for Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The statement followed a meeting of IAEA governors in Vienna attended by Jassim Yacoub al-Hammadi, Qatar’s ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations in Vienna. The meeting addressed “the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories

and Israel’s nuclear capabilities.”

“Hammadi underscored the need for the international community and its institutions to uphold their commitments under resolutions of the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the IAEA, and the 1995 Review Conference of the NPT, which called on Israel to subject all its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards,” the Qatari statement read.

Al-Hammadi noted during the meeting that “some of these resolutions explicitly urged Israel to join the NPT as a non-nuclear state.”

The Zionist regime is estimated to possess 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal, making it the sole possessor of non-conventional arms in West Asia.

It has refused to either allow in-

spection of its nuclear facilities by the IAEA or sign the NPT.

He also pointed out that all countries in West Asia, except the Zionist regime, “are parties to the NPT and have effective safeguard agreements with the agency.”

He further noted that Israel continues its aggressive policies, such as calls for a forced displacement of the Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, and its intensifying military operations in the West Bank, as well as the “obstruction of humanitarian aid to Gaza and continued restrictions on UNRWA’s operations.”

Qatar is a mediator for Gaza ceasefire talks between the occupying regime and Hamas resistance movement.

The top Qatari diplomat noted that Doha submitted a written memorandum last week to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding a request for an advisory opinion based on the UN General Assembly resolution of December 19, 2024.

“The request seeks clarification on Israel’s obligations concerning the activities of the United Nations, other international organizations, and third-party states,” Hammadi pointed out.

He emphasized that Qatar’s memorandum affirmed Israel’s duty to allow the UN and other international organizations, particularly UNRWA and humanitarian agencies, to operate in the Israeli-occupied territories.

## UN Rapporteur: Israel Repeating Gaza Scenario in Occupied West Bank

GAZA (Dispatches) – A high-ranking United Nations human rights official has warned that the Zionist regime had turned the occupied West Bank into the scene of the heavily deadly atrocities that it has been committing as part of its war of genocide against the Gaza Strip.

The regime’s current acts of aggression against the West Bank mirror those employed during the 15-month-plus war on Gaza that began in October 2023, the world body’s Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Francesca Albanese told Al Jazeera in remarks that the Qatari television network.

The atrocities, she said, was aimed at controlling “the remaining Palestinian territories.”

The Zionist regime occupied the West Bank and Gaza during a heavily-Western-backed war in 1967.

It withdrew from Gaza in 2005 after the Pal-

estinian resistance movement Hamas rose to power in the coastal sliver following a landslide electoral victory.

Tel Aviv, however, then began taking the territory under interminable deadly attacks.

The aggression has witnessed the regime subjecting Gaza to several wholesale wars, the last of which being the genocide that has claimed the lives of at least 48,453 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Hundreds of the fatalities have been caused since the implementation of a ceasefire agreement between the regime and Hamas in January during the former’s daily violations of the deal.

Tel Aviv also significantly ramped up its aggression across the West Bank following its launch of the assault on Gaza. The aggression comes despite the absence of any direct attacks on the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories from the West Bank.

Albanese condemned the regime’s actions in the West Bank as “shameful and illegal.”

She emphasized that the events of October 7, 2023 did not justify the regime’s ongoing violations throughout either Gaza or the West Bank.

The UN official was referring to a historic operation that Hamas and its fellow Gaza-based resistance groups launched against the occupied territories, after which Tel Aviv launched the war. The operation saw resistance fighters infiltrate into strategic Israeli bases, and taking 240 Zionists’ captive.

Albanese also denounced the regime’s repeated threats of resuming the war against Gaza.

The UN official reiterated that the regime had no legal claim to the either the West Bank, including the eastern part of the holy city of Al-Quds that falls within the territory, or Gaza.

## Children With Kidney Disease in Gaza Struggling to Survive

GAZA (Dispatches) – Despite sustaining damage in the Zionist regime’s attacks, al-Rantisi Hospital for Children, the only facility providing dialysis services for children in northern Gaza, is struggling to continue treatment for kidney failure under dire conditions.

Since the Zionist regime launched its genocidal campaign on Oct. 7, 2023, Gaza’s health care system has been devastated. Of the 38 hospitals in the enclave, 34 have been put out of service, either burned or destroyed, including the largest, al-Shifa Hospital.

Al-Rantisi Hospital was also severely impacted but has resumed limited operations.

The facility houses Gaza’s only dialysis center for children under 14 with kidney disease. Despite challenges, hospital staff are working to keep young patients alive.

Speaking to Anadolu, Nabil Ayad, head of the hospital’s nephrology department, said that before the war, the dialysis unit operated 14 machines and provided treatment to 45 children, each receiving dialysis three times a week for four hours per session.

“During the war, this unit was partially destroyed,” Ayad said. “We tried

multiple times to restore operations, and eventually, we managed to repair and reopen the unit, and begin accepting dialysis patients. Right now, we are providing hemodialysis to 12 children.”

He further said some child patients lost their lives due to difficulties in dialysis centers or necessary medications while the war continued.

The doctor noted that they are trying to restore the hospital’s dialysis unit to its pre-Oct. 7, 2023 condition. However, they are facing significant difficulties in obtaining essential medical supplies such as catheters and some medications.

Highlighting how life has become extremely difficult due to the war and the collapse of the health care system, he said: “We are trying to rebuild something amidst the rubble and provide healthcare services to children. We urge international organizations to help us in this matter.”

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

The Zionist regime also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.