

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The United Nations General Assembly has been scheduled to hold a vote on a draft resolution that would recognize Palestine as a full UN member. Diplomats told media if the vote, set for Friday, goes through and gains landslide winning majority, the Assembly would recommend the UN Security Council “reconsider the matter favorably.” A condition to become a full UN member is to be approved by the 15-member UN Security Council. Diplomats say the vast majority of the 193-member General Assembly is likely to support the Palestinian bid.

Fear! Fear! By Allah, He has hidden your sins so much so as He has forgiven.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN Agencies: Gaza ‘Choked Off’ From Aid Since Crossings Shut

GENEVA (Dispatches) – UN agencies said on Tuesday the two main crossings into the southern Gaza Strip remained shut, virtually cutting off the Palestinian enclave from outside aid with few stocks positioned inside.

The global agency’s humanitarian office spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists the Zionist regime had shut both the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings for aid and people as part of its military operation in Rafah, where around 1 million uprooted people are sheltering.

“The two main arteries for getting aid into Gaza are currently choked off,” Laerke said, adding UN agencies had very low stocks inside the Gaza Strip since humanitarian supplies were consumed immediately. The enclave has just a one-day buffer of fuel stocks, he said.

“If no fuel comes in for a prolonged period of time it would be a very effective way of putting



Displaced Palestinians flee Rafah with their belongings to safer areas in the southern Gaza Strip on May 7, 2024 following an evacuation order by the Israeli army the previous day.

the humanitarian operation in its grave,” he said.

A World Health Organization spokesperson said in response to a journalist’s question that no exceptions were being made for sick and

injured patients.

While some non-fuel supplies have entered Gaza via the northern Erez crossing in recent days, the UN agencies said this was insufficient and difficult to deliver to Ra-

fah since it meant crossing active combat zones.

“Erez will simply not be enough,” said James Elder, a spokesperson for the United Nations children’s agency. “If Rafah gate closes for an extended period, it’s hard to see how famine in Gaza can be averted,” he said.

Even before the latest escalation in the seven-month-old conflict, the United Nations has repeatedly accused Israel of restricting aid access despite famine warnings. Faced with growing international pressure, Israel had pledged to improve access but says UN agencies are to blame for not distributing aid more efficiently within the enclave.

UN agencies said they had pre-stocked some aid within Rafah but said there were very low supplies of water and high-energy nutrition supplies needed to treat malnourished children.

Israel Faces Fury From Captives’ Families for Stalling on Deal



A rally in Tel Aviv calling for the return of captives held by Hamas and a ceasefire, 6 May 2024

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is coming under increasing pressure from the families of those taken captive by Hamas to end the war in Gaza and bring their family members back, as thousands of people took to the streets across the occupied territories last night.

At a sweeping set of protests in Tel Aviv, which saw demonstrators clash with police, the families of captives spoke out against the Zionist regime’s position.

Standing on top of a vehicle in the middle of a crowd of protesters on the Ayalon highway, a loudspeaker in her hand, Einav Zangauker, whose 24-year-old son Matan is being held in Gaza, addressed the regime.

“It’s time to accept the deal. It’s time for a ceasefire. We’ll not let you miss the opportunity. We’re not going to let you continue abandoning our children... Bring them back home.”

The Israeli mother went on to say, “Hamas has agreed to the deal. Now is the time for the Netanyahu regime to return the hostages. Otherwise, we will burn” the occupied territories.

In Al-Quds, over 100 demonstrators marched towards the residence of Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a banner say-

ing, “The blood is on your hands.”

On Monday night Hamas agreed to a ceasefire proposal. Netanyahu’s office said that while it was “far from meeting Israel’s core demands, Israel will dispatch a ranking delegation to Egypt in an effort to maximize the possibility of reaching an agreement on terms acceptable to Israel.”

Israel has invaded Rafah, the city in southern Gaza that sits on the border with Egypt, seizing the key border crossing there. It has been bombing the densely crowded area ever since.

Netanyahu and his war cabinet say the proposal agreed to by Hamas differs from one seen by Israel.

Two U.S. officials told the New York Times that “minor wording changes” had been made to the proposal agreed to by Hamas, and that these were made by Arab mediators in consultation with CIA director William Burns, who has been the main U.S. representative in the negotiations.

The deal calls for a phased release of all Israeli captives in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel estimates that 128 of the 250 captives taken to Gaza in October remain there, including 35 who the military says are dead.

Report: U.S. Munitions Used in Israeli Strike on Lebanon Health Workers

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Israeli military killed seven healthcare workers in an airstrike in south Lebanon deploying a U.S.-made bomb, according to an investigation by The Guardian.

According to the leading rights group Human Rights Watch, the attack was described as a violation of international law - a description of this kind could invoke U.S. laws that would put a halt to American arms shipments to Israel.

The attack occurred on 27 March and targeted an ambulance center belonging to the

Lebanese Succor Association in the town of al-Habariyeh. The airstrike killed seven volunteer paramedics, all between the ages of 18 and 25.

According to an analysis by The Guardian, the shrapnel recovered by first responders to the attack revealed that the bombs used in the attack were the 500lb Israeli MPR bomb and a joint direction attack munitions (Jdam), a U.S.-manufactured missile guidance kit.

The newspaper had the pictures of the weaponry verified by Human Rights Watch and an inde-

pendent arms expert.

Jdams are manufactured by the American company Boeing. The guidance kits are attached to bombs, which turn them into guided missiles.

The revelation of this use of weaponry on healthcare workers comes ahead of an 8 May deadline in which the Biden administration must deliver a report on whether Washington finds Israel’s use of American weapons in violation of U.S. or international law.

Middle East Eye reached out to the State Department for com-

ment on this report but did not receive a response by the time of publication.

Since Israel’s war on Gaza began last October, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden responded with full diplomatic support for Israel. The administration also fast-tracked weapons shipments to the regime.

Israel’s military has so far killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in its war on the Palestinian enclave, the majority of them being women and children, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

European States Urged to Impose Economic Sanctions on Israel

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – Belgium Prime Minister Alexander De Croo is pushing for a coordinated effort among European nations to impose economic sanctions on the Zionist regime.

His move is in response to the Israeli evacuation order and threatened military operation in Rafah, a southern Gaza Strip city packed with 1.5 million displaced Palestinians.

De Croo told Het Laatste Nieuws that he aims to halt Belgium’s economic ties with the regime and rally other countries to join his country taking such action. “Can we now simply continue with Israel as a trading partner?” he asked. “I don’t think so.”

The Belgian leader emphasized the tragic loss of life, particularly among children, in Israel’s ongoing onslaught on the Gaza Strip, and stressed that Europeans cannot stand by passively. De Croo also voiced worries about the risk of further regional escalation.

“There have been 35,000 deaths, including 10,000 children,” he pointed out. “And it is

not the main reason, but we Europeans will bear the consequences. In ten years, they’re going to say, ‘You watched and took no action.’”

Regarding ongoing discussions with other European leaders, De Croo revealed that Belgium has been working with other European countries “for weeks”. He called upon EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to investigate whether Israel violated its association agreement with the EU.

Belgium’s Deputy Prime Minister, Petra De Sutter, echoed De Croo’s sentiments. “We are working on further sanctions,” she pointed out.

On Monday, Zionist troops issued evacuation orders for Palestinians in eastern Rafah, a move widely seen as a prelude to the occupation state’s long-feared attack on the city, home to some 1.5 million displaced Palestinians. The military also posted maps on its social media accounts illustrating evacuation routes.

According to Israel’s Army Radio, the decision to evacuate residents from eastern Rafah was taken late Sunday by the Israeli cabinet. It said that around 100,000 civilians believed to be present in the area were set to be evacuated.

Israel launched its aggression on October 7 last year. The occupation regime stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which it denies. An interim ruling in January ordered Tel Aviv to stop genocidal acts and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza. South Africa, which took the apartheid regime to the ICJ, has since claimed that Israel is ignoring the court’s ruling.

The subsequent Israeli genocide has to-date killed 35,000 Palestinians, most of them children and women, and wounded 70,000 more. An estimated 8,000 Palestinians are missing, presumed dead, under the rubble of their homes destroyed by Israel.

U.S. Senators Threaten ICC With Sanctions if It Seeks Netanyahu’s Arrest

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – A dozen U.S. senators threatened the International Criminal Court (ICC) with sanctions if the body moves forward with an arrest warrant against Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu or other Israeli leaders over the war in the Gaza Strip.

The ICC has reportedly considered a warrant for Netanyahu’s arrest for weeks as accusations rise of war crimes in the occupying regime’s onslaught in Gaza.

“Target Israel and we will target you,” the senators, led by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), wrote in a letter late last month, threatening to “sanction your employees and associates, and bar you and your families from the United States”.

“You have been warned,” it concludes. The letter, first reported by Zeteo, warns the ICC that the U.S. could invoke the American Service-Members’ Protection Act

(ASPA) in any response to arrest warrants. The ASPA, signed into law in 2002, prohibits U.S. cooperation with the ICC and authorizes the president to take any action to prevent Americans or allies from being detained by the court.

Neither Israel nor the U.S. is a member of the ICC, though the Palestinian territories were given member status in 2015.

The Joe Biden administration has stated it does not support an ICC war crimes investigation into Israel, but it has not commented on whether it would pursue sanctions against the court if Netanyahu or others are ordered arrested.

The letter says any attempt to issue warrants against Israeli leaders would be “illegitimate and lack legal basis”, adding that issuing warrants “would align the ICC with the largest state sponsor of terrorism and its proxy”.