

WFP: Calls for Gaza Action 'Going to Deaf Ears'

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The UN World Food Program (WFP) Country Director in Palestine, Matthew Hollingworth, has emphasized the urgent need for a ceasefire, saying that their calls for action in Gaza are not being heeded, Anadolu Agency reports.

Speaking in a virtual news conference, Hollingworth said: "Calls to action (for Gaza) have predominantly been going to deaf ears. But fundamentally what we need, of course, is an immediate ceasefire."

Saying that the "exodus we have seen in the past 20 days or so out of Rafah has been a horrific experience for many people", Hollingworth noted that there is a severe shortage of water, medical supplies, fuel and food in places people have fled to.

Hollingworth said that the public health situation in these areas is "beyond crisis level. The everyday life is terrific and apocalyptic. People sleep to the sounds of bombing, they sleep to the sounds of drones, they sleep to the sounds of war."

On claims of Hamas looting UN



Abdul Qader al-Sarhi, Palestinian teenager, starves to death in the central Gaza Strip on June 1, 2024

aid, Hollingworth said, "We have not seen Hamas or the de-facto authority taking assistance from the World Food Program or other UN organizations."

Responding to Anadolu's question on the non-functionality of U.S.'s floating dock in Gaza, Hollingworth recalled that the UN had voiced numerous concerns even before the floating dock became operational, and during its operational

period, they managed to distribute less than a thousand tons of aid.

He emphasized that the floating dock could be "worth the investment" if it could supplement the physical delivery from land corridors.

Hollingworth mentioned that the World Food Program alone delivered 20,000 tons of aid in April and that approximately 45,000 tons of aid is needed monthly in Gaza.

The remarks come as a 13-year-old Palestinian has lost his life due to starvation in the central Gaza Strip following the Israeli closure of the Rafah border crossing to humanitarian aid.

Palestine's official news agency Wafa reported on Saturday that the teenager, identified as Abdul Qader al-Sarhi, succumbed to death in al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah.

Local medical sources were cited by Wafa as saying that the death toll from malnutrition and dehydration has risen to 37 in the Gaza Strip as Israel presses ahead with its brutal aggression on the southern city of Rafah.

"The health situation in the Gaza Strip has gone from bad to worse, with the [Israeli] military offensive expanding in the city of Rafah and all its hospitals being out of service," the sources said.

"The announced toll reflects only what reaches hospitals while dozens are dying silently as a result of famine, without being able to reach hospitals."

Islamic Jihad: Any Truce Must Involve Complete Zionist Withdrawal From Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement has expressed doubts about the ceasefire offer announced by U.S. President Joe Biden, saying the "cessation of aggression" must involve "complete withdrawal" of Zionist troops from the besieged Gaza Strip.

The resistance group made the remarks in a statement on Saturday, a day after Biden said the regime has offered a "roadmap" to end its nearly eight-month genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza.

"We are skeptical about what the US president said. These statements are as if the U.S. government

has changed its position; While the White House's full support of the Zionist regime and covering up its crimes and participating in Tel Aviv's aggression against our nation by providing arms and all means of destruction is still clear," it said.

The Islamic Jihad further emphasized it will evaluate any proposal that guarantees the cessation of genocide against the Palestinian nation and meets the interests of Palestinians as well as the demands of the resistance forces.

In a speech from the White House on Friday, Biden announced that Israel has offered a roadmap to end the war in Gaza which includes a

full and complete ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza, release of a number of hostages, including women, the elderly, the wounded, in exchange for (the) release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

He also called on the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas to accept the ceasefire offer.

Meanwhile, in a televised speech, Abu Hamza, a spokesman for the al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad, warned the occupying enemy that "the only way to return the Israeli prisoners is to withdraw from Gaza, stop the aggression and accept the terms of

the resistance for the exchange of prisoners."

Hamza went on to say that "the criminal Israeli regime" has committed genocide against a defenseless nation, stressing that the Israeli prisoners will not return to the settlements unless the regime stops the war.

"We tell the enemy that negotiation is the only solution to return its prisoners from the Gaza Strip," he said.

"We reassure the enemy that we are still in excellent condition. The forthcoming terror of attrition will force the enemy to leave Gaza in disgrace," he added.

France Bans Israeli Companies From Weapons Exhibition

PARIS (Dispatches) – France has banned the Zionist regime's companies from participating in this year's annual Eurosatory arms and military industry exhibition in Villepinte near Paris next month, the event's organizers and French authorities have said.

"By decision of the government authorities, there will be no stand for the Israeli war industry at the Eurosatory 2024 fair," organizers Coges Events said.

The French Defense Ministry suggested that the decision was linked to Paris's opposition to the continuing Israeli assault on Rafah in southern Gaza.

"Conditions are no longer met to host Israeli companies at the show at a time when the president is calling for Israel to cease operations in Rafah," the ministry told the Reuters news agency.

Seventy-four Israeli firms were set to attend the event from June 17 to 21 at fairgrounds close to Paris's main international airport, with Coges previously saying about 10 of them were to exhibit weapons.

Last week, a group of activists issued a legal warning and urged Coges to take measures to avoid buying and selling weapons that could be used in "crimes" committed in Gaza

or other parts of the occupied Palestinian territory.

ASER, Stop Arming Israel, Urgency Palestine and the France-Palestine Solidarity Association also warned against profits from the fair "reinforcing the economic power of firms likely to participate in these crimes".

Coges told the AFP news agency that it was "a fair solely for the presentation of defense and security equipment ... and in no means a place for deals."

France's announcement came just days after Israel bombed a camp for displaced people in Rafah in south-

ern Gaza, setting off international outrage and widespread protests in France.

President Emmanuel Macron also said he was "outraged" over the Israeli air raid that killed 45 people in the encampment.

In previous weeks, France joined other Western nations in urging Israel against invading Rafah, which had become home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians forcibly displaced from other parts of Gaza.

Israel has ignored those warnings and pushed on with a major aggression against Rafah, displacing about one million people from the city.

Report: Zionist Military to Step Up Arming Settlers in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's army will give more machine guns to the illegal settlers in the West Bank, an Israeli media outlet reported.

The Israeli army announced that it will distribute additional long guns (machine guns) in the West Bank, Israeli Channel 7 reported.

The plan follows reports of firing at illegal settlements near Tulkarm in the Northern West Bank and the killing of two Zionist troops who were run over near Nablus in the Northern West Bank.

"A representative of the Central Command in the Israeli army (not named) announced

in a meeting of the Knesset's Judea and Samaria (West Bank) Committee that long guns will also be distributed to residents who are not members of the reserve unit to enhance security," added the channel.

At the end of last year, Zionist far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir launched a campaign to arm Israelis, including illegal settlers in the West Bank, claiming it was to provide protection against Palestinian attacks.

Weapons were distributed among illegal settlers and reserve soldiers in the Israeli army, without specifying the quantity of weapons distributed.

The chairman of the Judea and Samaria Committee and Knesset member from the far-right Religious Zionism Party, Tzvi Sukkot, stated, "The decision to distribute more weapons in the settlements of Judea and Samaria is significant and will strengthen the sense of security."

In a statement to Channel 7, he called on settlers who wish to participate in the defense of their place of residence to submit applications for carrying weapons, according to the channel.

It is estimated that there are about 720,000 illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Al-Quds.

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stopped for a single moment," AFP quoted a resident from Rafah telling the news agency.

"There are a number of occupation snipers in high-rise buildings overseeing all areas of Tal al-Sultan... making the situation very dangerous," the resident added.

The news agency also reported shelling and gunfire from Israeli troops in Gaza City, in the north of the Palestinian territory.

Before the Rafah invasion began, the United Nations said up to 1.4 million people were sheltering in the city. Since then, one million have fled the area, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, has said.

The Israeli invasion of the Rafah crossing has further slowed sporadic deliveries of aid for Gaza's 2.4 million people and effectively shuttered the territory's main exit point.

The World Food Program says daily life has become "apocalyptic" in parts of southern Gaza since the occupying regime of Israel began its assault on Rafah.

In northern Gaza, witnesses said Saturday that after carrying out a three-week invasion of the town of Jabalia and its neighboring refugee camp, Zionist troops had ordered residents of nearby Beit Hanun to leave ahead of an imminent onslaught.

The Israeli military said troops "completed their mission in eastern Jabalia and began preparation for continued operations in the Gaza Strip".

Jabalia shopkeeper Belal al-Kahlot said there was nothing left of his store after the Israeli invasion. "Everything is ashes."

The Zionist regime's invasion of the Gaza Strip since early October has martyred at least 36,379 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the territory's health ministry.

The ministry said that 95 people had been martyred in Israeli attacks on the Palestinian enclave in the last 24 hours. Additionally, 82,407 people had been wounded since the start of the war.

The Israeli military announced the deaths of two soldiers in Gaza, taking to 294 the number of Zionist troops killed since the start of ground invasion in late October. Palestinian sources say the Israeli regime maintains a systematic secrecy over its losses and that the real death toll is much higher.

Hezbollah...

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Selm wounded two people, state-run National News Agency said. The agency reported another drone strike Saturday afternoon in a village near the southern city of Nabatiyeh.

An Israeli airstrike on a house in the coastal village of Adloun martyred one woman and wounded several others on Friday evening, the agency reported.

Hezbollah began attacking Israeli military posts along the Lebanon border a day after the Palestinian war with the Zionist regime broke out on Oct. 7.

The movement has vowed to keep up its retaliatory operations as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues its onslaught on Gaza.

On Friday, Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah called for global efforts to eradicate the Zionist regime, saying it's a "cancerous gland" that must be removed.

In televised remarks, Nasrallah said it's their doctrinal, ethical, and religious responsibility to make every effort to get rid of Israel, which has committed countless atrocities against Palestinians.

Nasrallah said the ongoing fight for Gaza is a battle of existence, and the defeat of the Zionist regime in this battle will have significant effects across various fields in the entire region.

He emphasized that whoever can be part of the Gaza battle must join it.

The Lebanese leader said Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's insistence on continuing the war has worsened matters for the Zionist entity.

Although some governments have remained silent in the face of the atrocities, the bloodshed in Gaza has been awakening global public opinion and isolating the regime, Nasrallah added.

Nasrallah cited warnings from the head of Israel's central bank and military commanders about the disasters occurring inside the Israeli-occupied territories and the Israeli military's failure to defeat Hamas in Gaza.

He also discussed the ongoing exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Zionist regime, saying the battle of Gaza shapes the future of Lebanon and the whole region at the strategic, security, and national levels.

Nasrallah said the people of Lebanon support resistance against Israel and that the front is vigorously fighting the Zionist regime. He said their attacks have made Israeli officials and settlers desperate.

The Hezbollah leader hailed Yemen's anti-Israel operations, expressing solidarity with the Yemeni people and army in the face of the American-British aggression against

their country.

Nasrallah also commented on the pro-Palestine student protests in the U.S., saying they've expanded the resistance front to Western society.

"For the first time, we feel that the resistance front is expanding to this extent through the movement of students in American and Western universities as part of the honorable, humanitarian, and moral stance against the Israeli crimes in Gaza."

Pro-Palestine...

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government and have called the prime minister an accomplice of the

criminal Zionist regime. Every week, thousands of supporters of Palestine rally in various cities in Britain, shouting anti-Israel slogans. Every two weeks, demonstrators gather in the capital for the "National Day of Action" demonstrations.

The Zionist regime has been waging a genocidal war on the besieged Gaza since October 7.

Israel has imposed a complete siege on the densely-populated territory, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to more than two million Palestinians living there.

Arab...

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"The Zionists must know that the continuation and intensification of crimes in Gaza will not be without cost," Bagheri Kani said.

The top Iranian diplomat also pointed to the advice of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in a recent meeting with the emir of Qatar who emphasized the promotion of brotherly ties between the two countries.

Bagheri Kani also said that Iran would follow up on all the agreements made during the visits of the martyred president to Doha and the Emir of Qatar will be in Tehran.

Bagheri Kani also explained the latest developments in Palestine and the unending brutal crimes of Israel against women, children and innocent people in Gaza and Rafah.

He said that interaction and cooperation between the two countries and other Islamic countries have been strengthened to defend the Palestinian nation.

The Qatari prime minister emphasized the special efforts of the emir of Qatar to strengthen the relations between the two countries in various fields.

He explained Qatar's efforts to stop the war and establish a ceasefire and send urgent aid to the besieged Palestinian people.

In their conversation, the both officials discussed the idea of holding an extraordinary meeting of the OIC to review the latest developments in Palestine.

King...

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aimed at promoting peace and stability in West Asia, as well as attempts alongside other relevant parties to promptly deal with the repercussions of the situation in Palestine.

Back in March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement in the Chinese capital of Beijing to restore their diplomatic relations and re-open embassies and missions.

Bahrain followed Saudi Arabia to sever diplomatic relations with Iran on January 4, 2016, after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its diplomatic mission in Iran.

Last week, the first deputy speaker of Bahrain's Council of Representatives said his country intends to take measures soon to revive diplomatic relations with Iran.

"Resumption of political and commercial relations between the two countries is of great importance, because Iran is a neighboring country and Bahrain supports stable ties with all regional states," Abdulnabi Salman said.

He said the desire to resume relations between Manama and Tehran has been met with a positive response from the Bahraini government and the Council of Representatives, and the legislature has even put out a positive statement in this regard.

During a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on May 23, Bahrain's King Hamad said Manama looked forward to improving its relations with Iran.

He added that there was no reason to postpone the restoration of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and Iran, according to the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA).

Last week, Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani visited Tehran to offer condolences on the passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life alongside seven others in a helicopter crash in northwest Iran on May 19.