

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israel's Gaza Division commander has announced that he is resigning from his post and retiring from the army.

In a statement, Brig. Gen. Avi Rosenfeld said he "failed in [his] mission to protect the lives of residents of Gaza border communities", referring to the neighborhoods near the frontier with Gaza.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN -- Iran said Sunday the United States and the occupying regime of Israel lost their war on the besieged Gaza Strip and must be held accountable for genocide against the people of Palestine.

"The Zionist regime, with all its military capabilities and political influence, lost on the battlefield against the Palestinian people," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said. "The biggest loser in this battle against the people of Gaza, in addition to this usurping regime, is the U.S."

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Viewpoint

Leader's Words Reverberate at Washington's Anti-Zionist Rally

Iran to Put Zionists in Their Place if Needed



Iran's Women Runners-Up in Asian Kurash Championship



Israel White Phosphorous Attacks on Lebanon Harming People, Ecosystem



Resistance Has Israel on the Ropes With New Arsenal

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemeni naval forces have carried out two separate operations against a British destroyer and two commercial vessels off the nation's coast, the country's military announced in a statement on Sunday.

They targeted the HMS Diamond in the Red Sea with a number of ballistic missiles, the statement said, emphasizing that the strike was "accurate."

Yemeni naval forces also attacked two commercial vessels which the military identified as the Norderney and Tavvishi.

The statement said the Tavvishi - which was in the Arabian Sea - and the Norderney had both been hit, and that a fire broke out on the Norderney.

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7.

Yemen's armed forces have said that they won't stop their attacks until unrelenting Israeli ground and aerial attacks in Gaza come to an end.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah said it attacked Israeli targets in the occupied Golan Heights and Occupied Palestine.

Al-Ahed news website said the Israeli artillery battery in Al-Zaoura came under Katyusha barrage.

Hezbollah fighters also targeted the headquarters of the Zionist artillery battalion in Udem with suicide drones, as well as the gathering of its officers and soldiers with direct hit.

Hezbollah's attack on an Israeli Iron Dome battery earlier this week was the clearest message of deterrence since the start of the clashes on the Lebanese border last year, according to a military analyst.

On Wednesday, the Lebanese group struck the Iron Dome launcher in Ramot Naftali, around 3km from Lebanon's border, and released footage that showed a guided missile flying into the air defense system. The footage has been geolocated and experts have said it looked genuine.

Military analyst Mustafa Asaad told Middle East Eye that Hezbollah has gradually revealed a small sample of the weapons in its possession, conveying to Israel that "they are willing to play the end game when the need arises".

During the current conflict, ongoing since October 7, Hezbollah has deployed three types of new, precision-guided missiles, known as Almas, or Diamond.

The Almas missile family was reverse-engineered based on the Israeli Spike missile captured during the Israel-Lebanon 2006 war and developed by Iran, ac-

ording to Asaad.

The Almas missile can either lock onto its targets from the outset or be guided remotely by an operator with high precision.

According to Israeli research centre Alma, the weapon poses a serious challenge to most stationary and mobile targets in border areas.

Asaad said Hezbollah likely targeted the Iron Dome unit with the Almas 3, which has a better range and optics, and a larger destructive warhead than the 1 and 2 versions.

"Almas 3 is beyond any doubt a serious weapon that the Israelis cannot counter. It is guided by an electro-optical guidance system connected to a fiber optic relay cable, making it impossible to jam or counter," the analyst said.

The occupying regime of Israel has used the Iron Dome to intercept rockets fired by Hamas and Hezbollah since it was introduced in 2011, largely in response to the 2006 war.

It shoots down short-range rockets by using interceptor Tamir missiles and radar technology.

The system has become an integral part of Israel's arsenal and is expensive to operate against incoming threats that are significantly cheaper.

Each Iron Dome battery, which consists of three to four launchers, can cost up to \$100 million.

Hezbollah's use of more advanced weaponry, including the Almas missiles, drones capable of firing missiles, and explosive drones, has raised alarms within the Zionist military.

Asaad said Hezbollah's short-range attacks are much more difficult to detect fast enough or counter effectively.

"Hezbollah and Iran are sending the clearest deterrence message to Israel. This places Israel's extremist regime under a threat that they cannot truly counter," he said.

Hezbollah has recently demonstrated the different types of weapons it carries in its arsenal, estimated to hold 130,000 rockets and missiles.

Over the past two weeks, it shot down a large surveillance drone, a Hermes 900, with a surface-to-air missile and launched for the first time an explosive squadron of drones towards a military headquarters in Galilee.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah claimed a "kamikaze" drone attack on a military position in the town of Hurfeish, 3km from the border, that killed a soldier and wounded 12 others.

The attack followed a visit by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the northern region.

In late May, the group deployed

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Six Candidates Approved to Run for President



Six hopefuls were approved by the Guardian Council to run in Iran's June 28 presidential election.

TEHRAN — Iran's Guardian Council on Sunday approved the country's parliament speaker and five others to run in the country's June 28 presidential election following a helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi and seven others.

The council again barred former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from running. It also blocked former speaker of parliament speaker Ali Larjani. It was the second election in a row in which

Larinjani was barred from running.

The council's decision represents the starting gun for a shortened, two-week campaign to replace President Raisi. The campaign will likely include live, televised debates on Iran's national broadcaster. Candidates also advertise on billboards and offer stump speeches to back their bids.

So far, none of them has offered any specifics, though all have

promised a better economic situation for the country as it suffers from illegal sanctions by the U.S. and other Western nations.

The most prominent candidate remains Muhammad Bagher Qalibaf, 62, a former Tehran mayor. He ran unsuccessfully for president in 2005 and 2013 and withdrew from the 2017 presidential campaign to support Raisi in his first failed presidential bid. Raisi won the 2021 election.

Other candidates include Saeed

Jalili, former senior nuclear negotiator, who ran in 2013, and registered in 2021 before withdrawing to back President Raisi. Tehran mayor Ali Reza Zakani also withdrew in 2021 to back Raisi. Mostafa Pourmohammadi is a former minister of justice. Amirhussein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, President Raisi's vice president, ran in the 2021 presidential elections and came in last with just under 1 million votes.

Masoud Pezeshkian is a reformist candidate and is not seen as having much chance.

Former Iranian Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati, who ran in 2021, and Eshaq Jahangiri, who served as vice president under President Hassan Rouhani, were also disqualified.

President Raisi, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian and others lost their lives in the May 19 helicopter crash in the far northwest of Iran. Investigations are continuing, though authorities say there's no immediate sign of foul play in the crash on a cloud-covered mountainside.

President Raisi was the second Iranian president to die in office. In 1981, a bomb blast martyred President Muhammad Ali Rajai in the chaotic days after the country's Islamic Revolution.

A total of 80 Iranians had applied to become candidates for the presidential election later this month.

West Celebrates Israeli Raid That Killed 274 Gazans

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — At least 274 Palestinians, including dozens of children, were martyred, and hundreds more were wounded, in the Israeli raid on the Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday.

The killing of so many Palestinians, in a raid that Zionists celebrated as a success because four captives were released came on top of the already soaring toll of the 8-month-old war on Gaza.

The aggression in Nuseirat, a built-up refugee camp dating to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, was the largest since Oct. 7.

Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, said in a video posted on its Telegram channel on Sunday that three captives were killed, including a U.S. citizen, during Israel's military aggression in central Gaza.

Scores of captives are believed to be held in densely populated areas or inside labyrinth of tunnels, making operations extremely complex and risky. A raid in February freed two captives while leaving 74 Palestinians dead.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken welcomed the release of the four Zionists in a statement without mentioning more than 270 Palestinians killed.

The American cell that assisted with Israel's slaughter in Nuseirat is a team that's been in place supporting the occupying regime since October 7 with information gathering about the captives, a U.S. official told CNN.

One eyewitness told Middle East Eye that the attack on Nuseirat refugee camp left "dead children and body parts strewn all over", while health officials said the sheer number of casualties was at risk of overwhelming the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital.

A number of Arab states cited the deaths, with Egypt's foreign ministry saying the raid's death toll constituted "a blatant violation of all provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, as well as all values of humanity and human rights".

The Zionist regime's war had martyred at least 37,084 by Sunday

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Thousands Surround White House to Protest War on Gaza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Thousands of Gaza war protesters held a "red line" rally near the White House, voicing anger at what they said is U.S. President Joe Biden's tolerance of Israel's slaughter in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Chanting "From DC to Palestine, we are the red line," the demonstrators held a long banner scribbled with the names of Palestinians martyred by Zionist forces, as the invasion entered its ninth month.

Biden has faced criticism for playing a balancing act on key ally Israel's actions in the aggression.

The White House said in May that a deadly Israeli strike on Rafah did not cross a "red line" that Biden had seemingly set two months earlier when asked about a potential invasion of the southern Gazan city.

"I no longer believe any of the words that Joe Biden says," said protester 25-year-old Zaid Mahdawi from Virginia, whose parents are Palestinian.

"This 'red line' in his rhetoric

is rubbish ... it shows his hypocrisy and his cowardice," Mahdawi told AFP.

Nursing assistant Tala McKinney, 25, said: "I think we all hope it's going to stop soon but clearly our president is not living up to the words he is speaking to our country. It's outrageous".

The protesters - almost all wearing red clothing - held Palestinian flags and signs saying "Biden's red line was a lie" and "Bombing children is not self-defense".

The White House stepped up security with an additional anti-scale perimeter fence ahead of the demonstration, which saw chartered buses ferrying in people from as far afield as Maine and Florida.

Five months from his election battle with Republican candidate Donald Trump, Biden is facing pressure to hang onto Muslim and young voters, blocs seen as crucial to his reelection bid.

"It's very disappointing to have a president who doesn't follow through with their word ... I will be voting for a third party," said McKinney.