

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that U.S. President Joe Biden is undergoing “a test of sincerity” in his handling of the Gaza war.

In an interview with reporters on his way back from the G7 Summit in Italy, Erdogan said Biden is expected to demonstrate that the Gaza ceasefire plan is not a calculated electoral tactic but a sincere effort to end the war.

Thought for Today
The world is a place of acquiring knowledge and wisdom for those who want to acquire them, a place of worship for the friends of Allah and for Angels. It is the place where prophets received revelations of Allah.
Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN: Israel ‘Eroding Foundation for Societal Growth’ With School Strikes

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – More than 76 percent of schools in Gaza require “full reconstruction or major rehabilitation” to be functional following the Zionist regime’s months-long onslaught, according to a new assessment shared by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Based on satellite imagery collected in May, the new Education Cluster assessment highlights a “continuous spike in the direct targeting of schools” in the besieged and bombarded territory, Al Jazeera reported.

Of the school buildings used as shelters for displaced people in Gaza, 69 percent have been directly hit or damaged in attacks and more than 96 percent of the schools directly attacked – 296 in total – were located in areas subject to Israeli military evacuation orders, it added.

Israeli attacks on educational institutes in Gaza have not only “disrupted immediate educational activities but also eroded the foundation for sustained societal growth and development”, Talal al-Hathal, director of the al-Fakhour Programme at Education Above



More than 76 percent of schools in Gaza require “full reconstruction or major rehabilitation” to be functional following the Zionist regime’s months-long onslaught, according to a new assessment shared by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

All Foundation in Qatar, told Al Jazeera.

“Targeting critical educational infrastructure dismantles hope for many Palestinians in Gaza where education is an important and critical tool for survivability and equality, contributing to better outcomes for Palestinians in their future life,” al-Hathal said.

“Education serves as a critical tool for survival, empowerment, and long-term development in

the region, offering a pathway to a more stable and prosperous future,” he said.

“By targeting educational facilities, the aggressors strip away the prospects of enlightenment, opportunity and progress, deepening the cycle of despair and deprivation in the region,” he added.

In April, the UN children’s agency UNICEF said eight out of 10 schools in Gaza are damaged or destroyed with an estimated 620,000

students out of school. Nearly half of Gaza’s population is under 18, and its education system was already struggling after several wars and escalations since 2008.

“To be able to learn, you need to be in a safe space. Most kids in Gaza at the moment have brains that are functioning under trauma,” said child psychiatrist Audrey McMahon of Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres, or MSF). Younger children could develop lifelong cognitive disabilities from malnutrition, while teenagers are likely to feel anger at the injustice they have suffered, she said.

“The challenges they will have to face are immense and will take a long time to heal,” she added.

Al-Hathal called the targeting of educational institutes across Gaza “shameful as we consider the global education crisis where we see that more than 250 million children are out of school globally”.

In addition to the destruction of the buildings, students and teachers have also been killed in the attacks that have ravaged educational infrastructure and caused mental trauma to thousands of beleaguered students.

Yemenis, Bahrainis Rally to Support Resistance Against Israel

SANAA (Dispatches) – Yemenis have rallied across the country, voicing support for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who are enduring a genocidal Israeli war, and endorsing the regional resistance factions’ pro-Palestinian operations.

The rallies were held in the capital Sana’a, the northwestern city of Sa’ada, and several other locations throughout the Arab Peninsula nation on Friday under the slogan, “[Standing] steadfastly alongside Gaza, we confront

whatever plot.”

The participants condemned the brutal Israeli military onslaught that has claimed the lives of at least 37,232 Palestinians, mostly women and children, since its onset on October 7.

They reasserted their approval of the pro-Palestinian military operations that the Yemeni Armed Forces have been staging against the occupied territories and Israeli-linked vessels.

“We salute the epic steadfastness of the Palestinian nation, and

the [Palestinian] fighters’ qualitative [anti-Israeli] operations in the Gaza Strip,” the demonstrators, meanwhile, said in a statement.

The participants hailed the standing level of unity among the resistance factions in the coastal sliver as opposed to the differences and resignations that had plagued the Israeli regime’s political ranks, “which bespeaks the defeat of the regime.”

“We tell the Israeli enemy that ‘you are on the verge of destruc-

tion,’” the statement read.

The protesters condemned the attacks that the United States and the UK have been staging against their country with the aim of stopping its pro-Palestinian operations.

Elsewhere across the region, Bahrain’s opposition group al-Wefaq Society reported in a post on X, former Twitter, that Bahrainis had come out in protest after Friday prayers in the northwestern village of Diraz in solidarity with Gaza.

2,000 German Scholars Call for Anti-Palestine Education Minister to Resign

BERLIN (Dispatches) – More than 2,000 German academics have signed a letter demanding the resignation of the country’s education minister over her attempt to punish scholars who supported pro-Palestinian students.

“Academics in Germany are experiencing an unprecedented attack on their fundamental rights, on the 75th anniversary of the Basic Law,” the scholars said in a statement on Friday.

They underlined that recent actions carried out by Germany’s education ministry have rendered Bettina Stark-Watzinger’s position as minister untenable.

“The withdrawal of funding and personam on the basis of political statements made by researchers is contrary to the Basic Law: teaching and research are free. The internal order to examine such political sanctions is a sign of constitutional ignorance and political abuse of power,” the scholars said.

“It illustrates an increasing rift between decision-makers in the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and those who support the academic system through their research and teaching. Through its intimidating effect alone, the Minister’s actions risk permanently damaging the hard-won right of academic freedom against political and state interference,” they added.

The German education minister has faced increasing criticism following media reports that revealed her ministry’s decision to conduct a legal review last month. The review aimed to examine the open letter released by the scholars and assess the potential withdrawal of funding for their studies.

Back on May 8, more than 300 academics from Berlin universities showed their solidarity with pro-Palestine protest camps at the Free University of Berlin campus, advocating for the students’ right to demonstrate.

“Regardless of whether we agree with the

specific demands of the protest camp, we stand up for our students, and defend their right to peaceful protest, which also includes the occupation of university grounds,” they said.

The academics lambasted the university’s management for subjecting the demonstrators to “police violence.”

Israel unleashed the Gaza onslaught on October 7 after Hamas-led Palestinian resistance groups carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The Tel Aviv regime has so far killed about 37,300 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 85,102 others, according to the Gaza-based health ministry.

The occupying entity has also imposed a “complete siege” on the territory, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

Muslim Pilgrims Pray on Mount Arafat in Hajj Climax



More than 1.5 million Muslims braved extreme heat to reach Mount Arafat on Saturday for the high point of the annual hajj pilgrimage, praying for hours, especially for Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza.

MOUNT ARAFAT (Dispatches) – More than 1.5 million Muslims braved extreme heat to reach Mount Arafat on Saturday for the high point of the annual hajj pilgrimage, praying for hours, especially for Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza.

Clad in white, worshippers began arriving at dawn for the most grueling day of the annual rites, ascending the rocky, 70-metre (230-foot) hill where the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have given his last sermon. “This is the most important day,” said 46-year-old Egyptian Mohammed Asser, who came prepared with a list of prayers. “I pray also for the Palestinians. May God help them.”

This year’s hajj is unfolding in the shadow of the Zionist genocidal campaign in Gaza, which was launched on October 7.

Israel’s onslaught has killed at least 37,266 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the territory’s health ministry.

Saudi Arabia’s minister in charge of religious pilgrimages, Tawfiq al-Rabiah, warned last week that “no political activity” would be tolerated during the hajj.

But that did not stop at least one pilgrim from chanting in support of the Palestinians who have endured more than eight months of incessant bombardment.

“Pray for our brothers in Palestine, in Gaza... may God give victory to the Muslims,” he shouted.

Some 2,000 Palestinians are performing the hajj at the special invitation of Saudi King Salman, official media said.

The hajj, one of the world’s biggest religious gatherings, is increasingly affected by climate change, according to a Saudi study published last month that said regional temperatures were rising 0.4 degrees Celsius each decade.

The rituals, which take at least five days to complete and are mostly outdoors, are “not easy because it is very hot”, said Abramam Hawa, 26, from Ghana.

“We have sun... but it is not as hot. But I will pray to Allah at Arafat, because I need his support,” she added.

The temperature was expected to hit 43 degrees Celsius (109.4 degrees Fahrenheit), creating challenges for pilgrims who arrived at Mount Arafat after spending the night in a giant tented city in Mina, a valley outside Mecca, Islam’s holiest city.

“It’s a chance that only comes once in a lifetime, I couldn’t not come,” said Abdulrahman Siyam, a 55-year-old Iraqi pilgrim who was performing the rituals on a prosthetic leg.

After Mount Arafat, the pilgrims will head to Muzdalifah, where they will collect pebbles to carry out the symbolic “stoning of the devil” ritual in Mina on Sunday.

The hajj is said to follow the path of the Prophet Mohammed’s final pilgrimage, about 1,400 years ago.

WHO Voices Alarm at Swelling West Bank Health Crisis

GENEVA (Dispatches) – The World Health Organization has decried an escalating health crisis in the occupied West Bank, where growing restrictions, violence and attacks on health infrastructure are increasingly obstructing access to care.

In a statement, the UN health agency said it was calling “for the immediate and active protection of civilians and health care in the West Bank.”

It noted that a spike in violence in the West Bank, including in East Al-Quds, since the war in Gaza erupted on October 7 had by June 10 left 521 Palestinians dead, including 126 children.

Palestinian officials have put the West Bank death toll even higher, saying at least 545 Palestinians have been killed by Zionist troops or settlers since the Gaza war broke out.

In addition to the deaths, more than 5,200 people — 800 of them children — have been injured, the WHO said, stressing that this only added to “the growing burden of trauma and emergency care at already strained health facilities.”

The West Bank, which the Zionist regime has occupied since 1967, has experienced a surge in violence for more than a year, but especially since the occupying regime’s war in Gaza erupted more than eight months ago.

The Zionist regime’s genocidal campaign has killed at least 37,266 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the territory’s

health ministry.

The war has repeatedly seen health facilities in the Gaza Strip come under attack.

And the WHO said Friday that health care in the West Bank was also facing increasing attacks.

Between October 7 and May 28, it said it had documented a full 480 such attacks in the West Bank, including on health facilities and ambulances, and the detention of health workers and patients.

Those attacks had left 16 people dead and 95 injured, it said.

At the same time, checkpoint closures, growing insecurity, and sieges and closures of entire communities were making movement within the West Bank increasingly restricted, making access to care ever more difficult.

The WHO warned that a long-standing fiscal crisis — made worse since October 7 as Israel increased its withholding of tax revenue meant for the Palestinian territory — was also taking its toll on health care.

This, it said, had resulted in “health workers receiving only half of their salary for nearly a year and 45 percent of essential medications being out of stock.”

And hospitals were operating at only around 70 percent capacity, it said.

It had also become more difficult for patients to seek medical care outside the West Bank, with 44 percent of requests to go to facilities in East Al-Quds denied or pending since October 7.