

'Like Ducks in Shooting Range'

Top Officer Says Zionist Troops Unprepared for War

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's troops are unprepared for the war in Gaza and roam there "like ducks in a shooting range", according to a senior officer.

Israeli media cited the unnamed officer as saying that the Israeli army is not prepared to continue the war in Gaza, saying, "Troops roam on rooftops, near windows and inside homes in Gaza like ducks in a shooting range."

The senior Israeli army officer noted that military convoys in Gaza do not receive any support, arguing that the regime's military units are not ready for combat and battles against Gaza fighters.

Earlier, a member of the Knesset had pointed to the Israeli military's incapability to go on with the Gaza onslaught.

"Poor and failing management (of the Gaza war) has brought about an awkward situation, the gravity of which is unprecedented and unmatched," Oded Forer commented.



Zionist troops during a raid in the Gaza Strip on June 4, 2024

Meanwhile, military sources have told the Israeli Channel 12 television channel that the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement continues to engage in operations across the Gaza Strip and is still capable of inflicting heavy losses on Israeli soldiers.

The sources stated that the Israeli army is struggling to eliminate members of the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, in Gaza's southern city of Rafah,

and may end its aggression without achieving any of its objectives.

In the same context, Israeli journalist Ohad Hemo said Hamas has successfully rebuilt its presence in the Gaza Strip.

He emphasized that Israeli expectations from the invasion of Rafah are misleading the public.

"All eyes are on Rafah, but there's something important that we and the public in Israel need to understand," Hemo said.

He clarified that the real issue was not Rafah but rather the significant reality that "Hamas has managed to rebuild itself in the Gaza Strip."

Additionally, Israeli media outlets reported that an Israeli soldier had committed suicide a day after returning from Gaza.

The unnamed soldier, a resident of Or Yehuda town, shot himself dead while on leave from his combat unit.

Israel waged the atrocious onslaught against the Gaza Strip, targeting hospitals, residences, and houses of worship after Palestinian resistance movements launched a surprise attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the usurping regime on October 7.

At least 37,337 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children, and another 85,299 individuals have sustained injuries. More than 1.7 million people have been internally displaced during the war as well.

UN Agency: Over 600,000 Children in Gaza Denied Education

GAZA (Dispatches) – About 625,000 children have been denied an education in the Gaza Strip as schools have been forced to remain closed due to the Israeli carnage, a UN body says.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East said in a statement on social media platform X that its crews continue to support Palestinian children through activities that help them return to learning, but this is not enough, stressing the necessity of a ceasefire now.

The war robbed the children in Gaza of their childhood, and the survivors are suffering from deep trauma, as their schools were destroyed and they lost an entire academic year without education or play, it added.

Children are the first to suffer the most in conflicts and wars, point-

ing out that a very large number of them have been killed and others injured, and many of them will have scars for life, the statement said.

When Nour fled her home to Rafah early in Israel's continuing war on Gaza, she didn't pack her two daughters' textbooks.

But as the assault dragged on, the Palestinian mother noticed they were beginning to forget what they had learned. Worried for their future, she took matters into her own hands.

"I downloaded their school textbooks online and relied on YouTube channels that explain the Palestinian curriculum," the social media activist, who preferred to be identified by her surname, told Middle East Eye.

"I went to a nearby bookstore and printed out the necessary materials, like reading lessons or ex-

ercises requiring writing, to keep them engaged. I focused on Arabic, English and maths."

A corner in her shelter had been turned into a makeshift classroom, where she gave lessons and monthly exams to her daughters, who have been deprived of a regular education for an entire school year along with all of Gaza's pupils.

The Israeli war, now in its ninth month, has killed more than 15,000 children, many of them students.

It has also destroyed all Gaza's universities and most of its schools in what rights experts say is a deliberate policy to obliterate education in the Palestinian enclave.

Homeschooling wasn't easy at first, Nour said, but her children have now finished the first semester's curriculum and are on to the second one, learning three to four

hours a day.

The 35-year-old mother says the classes are good for the children's education and mental health.

"During the first period of displacement, I was struggling with a bad mental health condition after my sister was martyred and my family remained in the north of Gaza," Nour told MEE.

"Then I felt that I needed to distract myself from overthinking and decided to establish a specific routine for myself and the children. I wanted to fill their time with learning instead of dwelling on displacement or fear."

Before the war, there were 796 schools in the Gaza Strip, including 442 public schools, 70 private schools and 284 run by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees.

There were 12 universities and higher education institutions.

Egypt Detains 250 Football Fans Over Pro-Palestine Chants

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egyptian security forces in Alexandria have detained more than 250 fans of al-Ahly Football Club at Borg El Arab Stadium for raising the Palestinian flag and chanting in solidarity with Gaza, according to a local rights group.

The crackdown is the latest in a series of measures against pro-Palestine activism in Egypt since October, with more than 120 people detained for protesting against the Zionist regime's war on Gaza, including students and two children.

The fans were detained during their team's match against Farco,

according to the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF).

Children aged 13 and 15 were among those detained, according to ECRF. The group said that authorities had yet to confirm the detention of the fans, and that many were released a day later.

Videos posted online showed Al Ahly fans withdrawing from stands during their team's premier league match against Farco five minutes after kick-off, amid chants such as "Forget about the match... Palestine is more important".

Al Ahly won the game 2-1.

The chants were in response to the expulsion of one fan for raising the Palestinian flag, according to al-Mawkef al-Masry activist group on Facebook. "We saw scenes of another group trying to raise the Palestinian flag in expression of their solidarity," the group said.

Cairo has banned the use of any banners or chants unrelated to sports during games since May. Fans have largely complied with the rules, but al-Ahly supporters last month turned their backs to the pitch when Mohamed Ramadan, an Egyptian singer and actor,

started performing before the African Champions League final.

The fans mimicked the pose of Handala, an iconic cartoon character created by Palestinian artist Naji al-Ali, and chanted: "With our soul, with our blood, we sacrifice for you, Palestine."

The crackdown contradicts Egypt's public statements opposing the Zionist regime's war on Gaza, including saying it will join South Africa's genocide case against the occupying regime at the International Court of Justice.

Al-Ahly has a big fan base in Gaza.

Their ...

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office in Putrajaya, south of the capital Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile at a wholesale market in Selayang, just outside the capital, Muslim workers there knelt on mats placed on a large piece of white cloth laid outside the market to perform their prayers.

In his message, Anwar said the opportunity to go on the hajj pilgrimage to Mecca is one of God's great gifts and should make one more ascetic and simpler.

"I invite Muslims to live the message of simplicity that is preached in Hajj, to always be humble and not be mesmerized by the attraction of temporary worldly riches," Anwar said, "Let's not deviate from this goal. The world should be a bridge to the eternal land."

Muslims in India, where they comprise 14% of the population, celebrated Eid al-Adha on Monday across the country.

In New Delhi, thousands offered prayers at the historic Jama Masjid, a 17th century mosque. Families assembled early in the morning and many people shared hugs and wishes after the prayers. Numerous merchants with goats gathered on the streets leading to the mosque where people bargained with them for the best price.

Devotees across Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority nation of over 170 million people, on Monday marked the festival in open fields and mosques where many prayed for a better world free from war.

More than 400,000 devotees, the country's largest congregation, offered their prayers at a field in Kishoreganj district in the morning.

In the capital, Dhaka, a prominent imam led a gathering on the Supreme Court grounds where 35,000 men and women participated.

Millions of cattle were slaughtered across the country to celebrate the day.

U.S. ...

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\$51.5 billion, "is more than all the other nuclear-armed countries put together", said ICAN.

The next biggest spender was China, at \$11.8 billion, followed by Russia, spending \$8.3 billion.

Britain's spending meanwhile rose significantly for the second year in a row, swelling 17 percent to \$8.1 billion.

Spending for 2023 by the nuclear-armed sides -- which also include France, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea -- jumped more than 33 percent from the \$68.2 billion spent in 2018, when ICAN first began collecting this data, it said.

Since then, the nuclear armed states have spent an estimated total of \$387 billion in the deadly weapons, the report showed.

'Investing in Armageddon'

Parke slammed "the billions of dollars being squandered on nuclear weapons" as "a profound and unacceptable misallocation of public funds".

She highlighted that that money was more than what the World Food Program estimates is needed to end world hunger.

"And you could plant a million trees for every minute of nuclear weapons spending," she said.

"These numbers are obscene, and it is money that the state says is going towards weapons that... will never be used," she said, pointing to the nuclear deterrence doctrine.

The investments are not only wasteful but also extremely dangerous, she warned.

Geneva-based ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its key role in drafting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which took effect in 2021.

Seventy countries have ratified it to date and more have signed it, although none of the nuclear weapons states have come on board.

"Instead of investing in Armageddon, the nine nuclear-armed sides should follow the example of almost half the world's countries and join the treaty... and make a real contribution to global security," said Alicia Sanders-Zakre, a co-author of Monday's ICAN report.

Fourteen Jordanians Die During Haj, Some Succumb to Heat

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Fourteen Jordanians have been reported dead during the annual Muslim haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, some of them due to heat stroke, while 17 others were reported missing, the Jordanian foreign ministry said in a statement.

At least six of the fatalities were heat related, the ministry said, with temperatures reaching 47 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit) in Mecca on Monday.

It didn't specify whether the higher death toll was also due to the heat.

The haj is one of the largest mass gatherings in the world, with more than 1.8 million pilgrims taking part this year, according to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics.

Stampedes, tent fires, heat and other factors have caused hundreds of deaths at the event over the past 30 years.

The Saudi health ministry issued an

advisory on Thursday warning of soaring temperatures and advising pilgrims to stay hydrated and avoid being outdoors during the hottest hours of the day between 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) and 3 p.m.

The Jordanian foreign ministry was coordinating with Saudi authorities on procedures to bury or transport the bodies of the deceased according to their family's wishes, it said on Sunday.