

Gazans Subject to Harshest Torture in Secret Israeli Prisons



Palestinian authorities say Israel is imposing the harshest tortures on Gazans kidnapped during the invasion.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Israel is imposing some of harshest tortures on Palestinians it has kidnapped during its ongoing invasion of Gaza, Palestinian authorities say.

Palestine's Ministry of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs said in a statement that Palestinians arrested in Gaza since the start of Israel's invasion of the territory on October 7 have been subject to various forms of torture

inside the regime's secret prisons and detention centers.

The ministry said that the Israeli regime has refused to cooperate with international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, that are seeking to obtain more information about the Palestinians.

It said that the Israelis have finished the interrogation of many of those arrested in Gaza but

still refuse to release them.

The statement called on international organizations to put more pressure on Israel to force it to allow rights groups and lawyers to visit its prisons.

It comes after the U.S.-based news channel CNN published a report earlier this month showing that Palestinians kidnapped during Israel's invasion of Gaza have been subject to torture in the regime's Sde Teiman prison.

The report cited information from sources inside then prison, located in the Negev desert near Gaza in south of the occupied Palestine, showing that Palestinians have been systematically abused there as they have been restrained, blindfolded, and forced to wear diapers during their detention time.

That comes as Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir recently called for execution of all Palestinians arrested in Gaza instead of keeping in the regime's prisons.

Israel has continued its aggression on Gaza despite relentless regional and international efforts aimed at reaching a ceasefire in the territory.

Nearly 36,000 people, most of them women and children, have been killed by Israel in Gaza in more than eight months of war.

The war started after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out an unprecedented military operation in the Israeli-controlled areas near Gaza, killing some 1,200 settlers and military forces.

Saudi Arabia Appoints First Envoy to Syria in Over a Decade

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia appointed a new ambassador to Syria on Sunday, state news agency SPA said, the kingdom's first envoy to Damascus since the closure of the Saudi embassy there in 2012 during the Syrian foreign-backed war.

Riyadh's new ambassador to Syria will be Faisal al-Mujfer, SPA said.

Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Syria earlier this year after the two countries

cut diplomatic ties more than a decade ago.

Syria reopened its embassy in Riyadh last year and appointed a new ambassador in December.

The re-establishment of ties between Riyadh and Damascus marked the most significant development so far in moves by Arab states to normalize ties with Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

Saudi Arabia and its allies cut their relations with Syria

following the 2011 outbreak of a huge wave of foreign-backed violence across the Arab nation.

The eruption of the violence was followed by numerous reports and official accounts pointing to the provision of support on the part of the allied states to the Takfiri outfits that had begun a campaign of bloodshed and destruction throughout Syria.

The terrorist groups soon overran huge swaths of the

Syrian territory, causing Damascus to seek out the assistance of its own allies, including Iran and Russia, in its bid to reverse the terrorists' gains.

Over the past couple of years, Syria's successful anti-terror drive and return of calm to the biggest part of the country, has prompted many regional states to make overtures to Damascus towards the restoration of their ties with the Arab state.

Flash Floods Kill at Least 15 People in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP) – Renewed heavy rains have triggered more flash floods in Afghanistan, killing at least 15 people, including 10 members of the same family in the northeast, officials said Sunday.

The unusually heavy seasonal rains have been wreaking havoc on multiple parts of the country, killing hundreds of people and destroying property and crops. The UN food agency warned that survivors were unable to make a living.

The floods Saturday night hit northeastern Badakhshan and northern Baghlan provinces, with the latter already having

suffered the brunt of the rains earlier this month.

The family — a set of parents and their eight children — was reported dead in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan, said Mohammad Akram Akbari, director of the provincial natural disaster management department in the province, adding that rescue teams were only able to recover the mother's body.

In Baghlan province, Edayatullah Hamdard, provincial director of Natural Disaster Management, said at least 40 houses were destroyed in Doshi district, and several people have died but

was unable to provide further details.

However, a local official, speaking on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to talk to the press, reported that five bodies have so far been found in the province and rescue teams were looking for more.

Earlier, the World Food Program said the exceptionally heavy rains in Afghanistan had killed more than 300 people and destroyed thousands of houses, mostly in the northern province of Baghlan on May 10 and May 11. Survivors have been left with no home, no land, and no source

of livelihood, WFP said.

In the western province of Ghor, 50 people were reported dead due to floods on May 18.

On May 19, at least 84 people were killed in northern Faryab, and around 1,500 houses were either completely or partially destroyed while hundreds of hectares of farmlands.

The latest disaster came on the heels of devastating floods that killed at least 70 people in April. The waters also destroyed about 2,000 homes, three mosques and four schools in western Farah and Herat, and southern Zabul and Kandahar provinces.

Switzerland Returns Looted Artefacts to Iraq

BAGHDAD (Anadolu) – Switzerland has returned three prominent Mesopotamian artefacts to Iraq, in Baghdad's latest recovery of historical items stolen from it over the decades.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the culture ministry in the Swiss capital Bern, Switzerland's Interior Minister Elisabeth Baume-Schneider formally handed over to Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein two Mesopotamian reliefs and a partial statue, returning them to Iraqi control.

Having been discovered and documented during official excavations in Iraq in 1846/47, 1959, and 1976, the artefacts are dated to being from 1,700 to 2,800 years old. According to the culture ministry, they "were subsequently removed from Iraq at an unknown date and possibly illegally".

The items were then seized during a criminal procedure in the province of Geneva last year, with authorities handing the main suspect in that case a prison sentence on charges of forging documents and violating the Cul-

tural Property Transfer Act, which bans the transfer of stolen or looted cultural goods.

The return of the three artefacts to Iraq was Switzerland's fifth such restitution to the country and reportedly the most significant since 2005.

It is particularly a result of the fact that both Baghdad and Bern are parties to a UNESCO convention aimed at protecting cultural heritage by banning and preventing illegal imports, exports, and transfers of cultural property.

Hamas...

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The heavy fighting has coincided with an increase in carpet bombing by Israeli jets, flattening neighborhoods in Jabalia and Rafah.

Palestinian Health Ministry said Sunday 35,984 Palestinians have been martyred and 80,643 injured in Israeli strikes since October 7 in Gaza, after 81 Gazans were martyred over the past 24 hours.

Palestinians have killed more than 1,500 Zionists in the same period, the majority of them during the Hamas-led attack in southern occupied territories on October 7.

Later Sunday, Hamas said it launched fresh rocket attacks against the occupied territories. The resistance group fired at least eight rockets at Tel Aviv and its surroundings, where rocket sirens were sounded in other cities and towns.

The Zionist military said the rockets were launched from Rafah, claiming that several of them were intercepted.

The Qassam Brigades said the attack "was in response to the Israeli massacres against civilians."

Sunday's rocket fire was the first in four months on the occupied city since Jan. 29.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters conducted an operation against an Israeli military outpost after the Zionist regime launched two separate deadly strikes in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's Al-Manar television channel said the resistance group targeted the Al-Abbad outpost in the northern part of the occupied lands on Sunday afternoon, and destroyed technical equipment there.

Hezbollah said it had shelled an Israeli military outpost and soldiers stationed in the area "in response to the assassination carried out by the Zionist enemy in the town of Naqoura and the injury of civilians."

According to the Israeli military, a total of 15 rockets crossed the Lebanese border in the attack.

Sirens had sounded in the Israeli border communities of Betzet, Hanita, Rosh Hanikra, and Shlomi.

Earlier, a Hezbollah fighter was martyred in an Israeli drone strike on a motorcycle in southern Lebanon.

A separate strike targeted two more Hezbollah members in southern Lebanon's Ayta ash-Shab, the military added.

The occupying regime of Israel has continued its brutal invasion of the Gaza Strip despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

Nearly eight months into the Israeli war, vast swathes of Gaza lay in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel is accused of "genocide" at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which in its latest ruling has ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its operation in Rafah, a city in southern Gaza where more than a million displaced Palestinians had sought refuge.

Fresh...

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placards that read, "Stop Gaza Genocide," and "Palestinians martyred, Israel expels."

Symbolizing the Palestinian children affected by the months-long Zionist onslaught, some participants held effigies of dead children wrapped in sheets and covered in fake blood with the aim of drawing attention to the civilian casualties in Gaza.

Protesters in the Swedish capital of Stockholm marched to the Israeli embassy during a demonstration.

The demonstrators gathered after the call of numerous civil society organizations, and chanted slogans including, "Freedom for Palestine."

Protesters demanded that Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip be recognized as war crimes and called for the arrest of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a war criminal.

Pro-Palestine protests by students at the University College Dublin (UCD) continued in Ireland's capital, with demonstrators gathering on a bridge near campus on the 15th day of an encampment set up to support Palestine on UCD's grounds.

The latest pro-Palestine demonstrations are part of a broader wave of global protests calling for an end to the Israeli genocide and greater international intervention to protect civilians in Gaza.

The mass protests come amid international pressure on the Zionist regime as the occupying entity forges ahead with a large-scale ground invasion in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah.

The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Saturday ordered Tel Aviv to swiftly stop its military aggression against the densely-populated area, where more than one million Palestinians have taken refuge.