

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Palestinian resistance movements have condoled with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah over the passing of the leader of the Lebanese resistance movement's mother. Hezbollah announced Umm Hassan's demise in a statement on Saturday, noting that she passed away after a drawn-out struggle with illness. Shortly afterwards, Ismail Haniyeh, chief of the Political Bureau of the Gaza Strip-based Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, extended his condolences to the Hezbollah leader over his loss. The Islamic Jihad, Hamas' fellow Gaza-based resistance group, and The Popular Resistance Committees also expressed "sincere condolences and sympathy" towards the Hezbollah chief.

No deal is more profitable than good deeds; no profit is greater than Divine Reward; no abstinence is better than to restrain one's mind from doubts (about religion).

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Norway Hands Over Papers for Diplomatic Recognition of Palestine

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – Norway on Sunday handed over diplomatic papers to the Palestinian prime minister in the latest step toward recognizing a Palestinian state, a move that has infuriated Israel.

Ireland and Spain made a concerted pledge with Norway to recognize a Palestinian state, a historic move that increases Israel's isolation more than seven months into its grinding war against Hamas in Gaza.

The handover of papers by Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide to the prime minister was made in Brussels, where Mohammed Mustafa is also meeting with foreign ministers of European Union nations and high-level EU officials on Monday to drum up support for the Palestinians. Norway itself is not part of the EU.

The diplomatic move by the three nations was a welcome boost of support for Palestinian officials who have sought for decades to establish a statehood in east Al-Quds, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war and still controls.

"Recognition means a lot for us.



Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Mohammed Mustafa, left, speaks after receiving a document handed over by Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, right, prior to a meeting for talks on the Middle East in Brussels, Sunday, May 26, 2024.

It is the most important thing that anybody can do for the Palestinian people," said Mustafa. "It is a great deal for us."

### 'Justice' for Palestinians

Recognizing the State of Palestine "is justice for the Palestinian people (and) the best guarantee of security for Israel," Spain's foreign minister Jose Manuel Albares said Sunday alongside Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Mustafa.

Welcoming Spain's move, with Norway and Ireland, to recognize

the Palestinian state on Tuesday, Mustafa said, "We want to have every country in Europe to do the same."

Albares and Mustafa spoke side-by-side in Brussels, where the Palestinian leader was also meeting EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide.

Later Sunday, Mustafa was to have further talks with Borrell, Barth Eide and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

On Monday he will have another meeting in Brussels with the Spanish, Norwegian and Irish ministers.

And on Wednesday he will be in Spain.

Israel has warned Spain, Norway and Ireland that ties with them will face "serious consequences" for their announced recognition of a Palestinian state.

German Vice Chancellor and Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection, Robert Habeck, said Saturday that Israel has crossed the line by violating international law with its actions in the Gaza Strip.

Habeck responded to questions by Germans at the "Democracy Festival" in Berlin, organized to mark the 75th anniversary of the German Constitution.

When asked about the government's red lines regarding its military support to Israel, Habeck said Germany has repeatedly said the attack on Rafah was wrong and Israel should not have carried out the assault.

Emphasizing that Israel must comply with international law, Habeck said, "The famine, the suffering of the Palestinian population, the attacks in the Gaza Strip are -- as we are now seeing in court -- incompatible with international law."

## Scuffles Erupt Between Zionist Police, Protesters Demanding Return of Israeli Captives



Israeli police detain a protester during a demonstration by relatives and supporters of Israelis taken captive by Palestinian militants in Gaza.

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Scuffles between the Zionist regime's police and protesters erupted in Tel Aviv on Saturday after thousands gathered to demonstrate against the regime and demand that it bring back the captives being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Some protesters in Tel Aviv carried photos of the female soldiers who appeared in a video earlier in the week showing them soon after they were held captive during the Hamas operation on Israeli-occupied territories on Oct. 7. Some held banners reading "Stop the war" and "Help." They called on the regime to reach a deal to release the dozens of captives still in captivity.

The protesters also called for the resignation of Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and demanded new elections.

"We all saw the video, we could not stay at home after the regime abandoned all these people," said Hilit Sagi, from the group "Women Protest for the Return of All Captives."

Divisions among Israelis have deepened over how Netanyahu has handled the aggression against Palestinians. Israel says around 100 captives are still be-

ing held in Gaza, along with the bodies of around 30 more.

"Basically they are not doing enough in order for the captives to come back, either with military force, with (a) captives' deal, negotiating. Nothing is being done," said Snir Dahan, uncle of hostage Carmel Gat, still in captivity in Gaza.

Earlier in the week, the bodies of three captives killed were recovered from Gaza, Israel's army said Friday. The army said they were killed on the day of the operation and their bodies were taken to Gaza. The announcement came less than a week after the army said it found the bodies of three other Israeli captives killed on Oct. 7.

Around half of the 250 captives taken by Hamas and other fighters have been freed, most in swaps for Palestinian prisoners held by the Zionist regime during a week-long ceasefire in November.

Netanyahu's cabinet has faced increasing pressure, both at home and abroad, to stop the war and allow humanitarian aid into the enclave that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians, almost 80 percent of whom have been displaced.

## FT: U.S. Expected to Lift Ban on Sale of Offensive Weapons to Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Dispatches) – The United States is expected to lift a ban on the sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, potentially in the coming weeks, the Financial Times reported on Sunday.

Washington has already signaled to Saudi Arabia that it was prepared to lift the ban, the newspaper reported, citing a person familiar with the matter. Soon after taking office in 2021, Biden adopted a tougher stance over Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen, which has inflicted heavy civilian casualties, and

over Riyadh's human rights record, in particular the 2018 killing of Washington Post journalist and political opponent Jamal Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest U.S. arms customer, has chafed under those restrictions, which froze the kind of weapons sales that previous U.S. administrations had provided for decades.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday said the U.S. and Saudi Arabia were very close to concluding a set of agreements on nuclear energy,

security and military cooperation, the bilateral component of a wider normalization deal with Riyadh and the Zionist regime.

However, lifting the ban on offensive weapons sales were not directly linked to these talks, FT said.

The White House and Saudi Arabia's government communication office did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and its allies launched the war on Yemen to restore power to

the impoverished country's Western- and Riyadh-allied government.

The war has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entire country into the site of what the United Nations has described as the one of world's worst humanitarian crises.

The Western governments further extended their political and logistical support to Riyadh in their failed bid to restore power in Yemen to the former Saudi-installed government.

## Red Cross: Yemen's Ansarullah Freed Over 100 War Prisoners

CAIRO (Dispatches) – The Ansarullah movement in Yemen on Sunday released more than 100 war prisoners linked to the country's long-running conflict with the Saudi- and Yemen-backed mercenaries, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

The unilateral release came more than a year after Yemen's warring sides freed more than 800 prisoners in a major exchange in the country in April last year.

The release of 113 prisoners took place Sunday morning in Yemen's capital of Sana'a, the Red Cross said in a statement, adding that the released detainees were among those the ICRC visited and assisted regularly in their detention in the Yemeni capital.

"We hope this paves the way for further re-

leases, bringing comfort to families eagerly anticipating reunification with their loved ones," said Daphnee Maret, the ICRC's head of delegation in Yemen.

One of the released detainees with health issues was transferred in an ambulance to his hometown inside Yemen, the ICRC said without elaborating.

The release was delayed by a day because of apparent logistical reasons, said Abdul-Qader al-Murtaza, an Ansarullah official in charge of prisoner exchange talks.

Thousands of people are still believed to be held as prisoners of war since the conflict erupted in 2014, with others missing. The Red Cross viewed Sunday's releases as a "positive step" to revive prisoner exchange negotia-

tions.

"We are ready to play our role as a neutral intermediary in facilitating the release, transfer, and repatriation of detainees," it said.

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## Scores of Zionist Settlers Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Scores of illegal Israeli settlers forced their way into the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque complex in occupied East Al-Quds on Sunday, according to Palestinian media.

The state news agency Wafa said at least 115 illegal settlers had stormed the site from its Al-Mugharbah Gate area, west of the mosque.

Many Palestinian worshippers were barred entry into the site by Israeli police, Wafa said.

The settler intrusion came as Israeli police continued to lock down the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Al-Quds.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is the world's third-holiest site for Muslims. Jews call the area the "Temple Mount".

Israel occupied East Al-Quds, where Al-Aqsa is located, during

the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. It annexed the entire city in 1980 in a move never recognized by the international community.

Tensions have been high across the West Bank since the Zionist regime launched a deadly military aggression against the Gaza Strip after an operation by Hamas on Oct. 7.

At least 518 Palestinians have since been killed and nearly 5,000 others injured by Israeli army fire in the occupied territory, according to the health ministry.

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.