

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq on Monday exhibited several ancient artifacts that it said had been returned by the United States and other countries, long after they were looted and smuggled out following the 2003 U.S. invasion. Iraqi authorities have been trying to retrieve thousands of archaeological relics missing since the invasion, which was followed by widespread looting in the country that some historians regard as the cradle of civilization. Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein handed the recently recovered relics over to Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ahmed Al-Badrani at a ceremony in Baghdad. Most of the artifacts on display at the foreign ministry headquarters were returned by the U.S.

There are many persons whom constant grants of His Bounties turn them wicked and fit for His punishment and there are many more who have become vain and self-deceptive because the Merciful Allah has not exposed their weaknesses and vices to the world and the people speak highly about them. All this is an opportunity.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hamas: Thousands of New Fighters Recruited During Gaza War

GAZA (Dispatches) – Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, says that they have recruited thousands of new fighters during the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip with the Zionist regime since October 2023, with more ready to join if necessary.

In a recorded video statement, Abu Obaida, spokesperson for Al-Qassam, said the brigades managed to “recruit thousands of new fighters from the support ranks during the war, and thousands more are prepared to join when needed”.

“The human capabilities of the Al-Qassam Brigades are in excellent shape, and our fighters’ ability to fight and endure has become stronger and greater.”

The Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza have enhanced their defensive capabilities and recycled the Zionist regime’s army munitions and rockets, he added.

The spokesman had earlier said nine months into the Zionist regime’s genocidal war on Gaza, the regime’s forces are receiving painful blows everywhere they are invading.

Abu Obaida made the remarks



Hamas says it has recruited thousands of new fighters and boosted its military capabilities amid the Zionist regime’s aggression on the enclave.

in a statement as the Israeli onslaught on the besieged Palestinian territory entered its tenth month.

He said despite nine months of Israel’s incessant airstrikes and artillery fire, “the enemy [has] received and continues to receive a response from our resistance fighters ... [who are] killing its soldiers, destroying its vehicles, and ambushing its forces. In parallel, it is receiving painful blows everywhere it has invaded again.”

“The enemy [forces] will emerge

defeated as they did before, by the power of Allah Almighty,” the Al-Qassam spokesman said.

Slamming the inability of international organizations to force the regime to accept a ceasefire in Gaza, Abu Obaida said nine months after the beginning of the Israeli onslaught “our people are still being subjected to Nazi-Zionist-American aggression and genocide as punishment for their adherence to their land and sanctities and for exercising their natural right to ... expel the oc-

cupiers.”

“This is happening in full view of the world and on live broadcast screens, so that the world can see through Gaza the lies of international organizations, the inability of the alleged human rights laws, and the flaw of selective international justice,” he said.

Abu Obaida added that the world today sees openly that the Zionist regime is “denying even the existence of the Palestinian people, [and is] practicing systematic cleansing and genocide in the West Bank, Al-Quds, and Gaza.”

He emphasized that despite Israel’s aggression against Gaza, “our resistance has not been exhausted, nor has it relented, nor has it subsided, as we are still fighting in Gaza without support or external supply of weapons and [military] equipment.”

The Al-Qassam spokesman said Palestinian resistance fighters “are inflicting casualties on the enemy’s targets and defeating its army, although it is heavily armed and equipped and ... is supported by the United States and Britain, who are the main partners to [the Zionist regime’s] aggression and genocide.”

Lebanese MP: Hezbollah’s Damage to Israel Cannot Be Repaired ‘for Decades’



Smoke billows after rockets fired from southern Lebanon hit the Upper Galilee region.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A senior Lebanese lawmaker says Hezbollah’s damage to the Zionist regime as a result of its pro-Palestinian retaliatory operations cannot be repaired for the next few decades.

“As a result of these attacks, we have dealt major blows to the Zionist enemy, which it cannot recover from within the next few decades,” Mohammad Raad, head of Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc – the political wing of Hezbollah – in the Lebanese parliament, said.

“The Israeli society is collapsing, and we are seeing the last stages of a purported unified society,” Raad stated.

He added that Hezbollah’s operations are aimed at protecting Lebanon’s national dignity and territorial integrity, and that the group’s attempts in the path of confronting the Zionist regime are not in vain.

Raad stressed that the Lebanese resistance movement did not enter the struggle for futile interests and purposes.

Hezbollah’s anti-Israeli strikes will make Lebanon immune to the regime’s aggression and will deter the regime from entertaining the notion of mounting a military attack on the Arab country, he argued.

“We will identify the Zionist regime’s pressure levers and strike

them in order to weaken the enemy and thwart its expansionist objectives. Even though such confrontation requires great patience and persistence as well as hefty costs, it is worth it as the enemy’s aggression leads to massive destruction and brutal occupation of the country,” Raad stressed.

He went on to say that Hezbollah’s struggle against the Zionist regime is not confined to the present time.

The resistance group is laying foundations that will be useful in future stages, the Lebanese legislator said, adding, “One must get prepared to weather any potential act of aggression from the Israeli enemy.”

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October last year, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal aggression against the Gaza Strip following a surprise operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group.

The Lebanese resistance movement has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Zionist regime continues its Gaza war, which has so far killed at least 38,514 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in Gaza.

Hezbollah officials have repeatedly said they do not want a war with Israel, while stressing that they are prepared in case it occurs.

Australian University Under Probe Over Surveillance of Pro-Palestinian Protesters

SYDNEY (Dispatches) – The University of Melbourne in Australia is being investigated for violating privacy laws by using surveillance to identify students participating in a sit-in protest against the genocide in Gaza, local media reported on Monday.

Twenty-one pro-Palestine student protesters at the university were previously served with “general misconduct” notices, which included CCTV footage and detailed records of their WiFi usage, as evidence of alleged misconduct.

The Australian Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner has confirmed it had launched an

investigation and indicated that a compliance notice may be issued in case of a significant breach, according to the Australian daily The Age.

A compliance notice mandates an organization to address any breaches within a set timeframe to adhere to the Privacy and Data Protection Act in this instance.

As of 8.00 a.m. on Monday, there has been no response from the University of Melbourne.

Earlier, the university in Australia faced backlash for serving “general misconduct” notices to pro-Palestinian students, with several organizations voic-

ing support for students.

In another development, the University of Leicester’s Palestine Society has criticized the Global South Network’s invitation to the Zionist regime’s top court justice Ruth Ronnen to address an online event hosted at the university.

Ronen is one of 15 justices in the regime’s court and has been involved in a number of rulings that entrench the illegal occupation of Palestinian land, as well as human rights violations against Palestinians.

Last year, Palestinian farmers in the occupied West Bank village of Anin requested that the gate in the Israeli-built separation

wall between their farmland and their village be opened daily instead of twice a week. Ronnen rejected their petition.

She also ruled along with other judges this January in support of the regime’s military barring foreign journalists from entering the Gaza Strip.

In February, the families of 62 Palestinians from Gaza detained in Israel filed a petition requesting information about where they were being detained and that they be given legal representation. Ronnen and two other judges dismissed the petition out of hand, citing technical arguments.

Mossad Chief Visits Qatar for Talks With Hamas

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The head of the Zionist regime’s Mossad spy agency, David Barnea, is scheduled to fly to Qatar for talks on a possible Gaza ceasefire and captive deal with Hamas, according to Israeli media on Monday.

Barnea will meet with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, CIA Director William Burns, and Egypt’s intelligence chief Abbas Kamel, the Israeli public broadcaster KAN reported.

A four-party meeting between Qatar, Egypt, the U.S., and Israel is expected to take place in Doha amid hopes of advancing the Gaza ceasefire talks.

The Mossad chief had visited Doha on Friday

for discussions on resuming the indirect negotiations for a ceasefire deal with Hamas.

Meanwhile, the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, arrived in Egypt on Monday to take part in talks to resolve disputed points in the ceasefire talks, KAN said.

For months, efforts by the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt to mediate an agreement between the Zionist regime and Hamas resistance group for a deal on captives and ceasefire have been hampered by Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s rejection of Hamas’ call to halt hostilities.

The regime, flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire,

has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal carnage on Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023.

Over 38,500 Palestinians have since been killed, mostly women and children, and over 87,900 others injured, according to local health authorities.

Vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

The regime stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

UK PM Makes U-Turn, Calls for Gaza Ceasefire

LONDON (Dispatches) – The United Kingdom’s new prime minister has emphasized the need for a ceasefire in Gaza, as the Zionist regime has shown no inclination to stop its devastating war that has killed more than 38,000 people.

Keir Starmer told Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu of a “clear and urgent need for a ceasefire, the return of captives and an immediate increase in the volume of humanitarian aid reaching civilians”.

As the opposition leader, Starmer had been accused of not calling for a ceasefire, taking the same line as Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. He called for a ceasefire in February after intense public pressure months after opposing a ceasefire resolution in the UK Parlia-

ment. He was also accused of denying tickets to some pro-Palestinian members of the Labour Party, including former party chief Jeremy Corbyn.

At least five pro-Palestinian candidates, including Corbyn, won the elections as independents.

Starmer was widely criticized for saying the Zionist regime “has the right” to cut water and electricity supplies to Gaza on an LBC podcast last October. A Labour Party spokesperson denied Starmer justified water and power blockade.

More than 38,500 Palestinians have been killed, mostly children and women, in the occupying regime’s carnage launched on October 7. More than 87,000 people have been injured and thousands are missing.