

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian for pledging support for the resistance movement. In a televised speech on Wednesday, Nasrallah described Pezeshkian's recent message as a "stamp of approval" on the principles of the Islamic Republic in supporting the Axis of Resistance. "I once again thank the elected president of Iran for his message and political positions, as he has reaffirmed Iran's steadfast support for the resistance," the Hezbollah chief said.

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# Kayhan International



TEHRAN -- Iran's Parliament speaker Muhammad Baher Ghalibaf was due to leave Tehran on Wednesday evening for Russia to participate in a BRICS meeting.

Heading a delegation, Ghalibaf will take part in the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg. The forum will take place at Tauride Palace on July 11 and 12, as part of Russia's BRICS Chairmanship. This is the first BRICS Parliamentary Forum since the Islamic Republic of Iran became a member state.

VOL NO: LV 12297 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Thursday, July 11, 2024, Tir 21, 1403, Muharram 5, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

### Viewpoint

## Israel Intensifies Farmland Terrorism in the West Bank

## 'If Necessary, Iran Will Draw the Sword to Support Muslims'



## Iran's Men Junior Handball Team Beats Turkey



## MSF Says Facing 'Critical' Medical Supply Shortage in Gaza



## Zionist Leaflets Urge Everyone in Gaza City to Leave

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- The occupying regime of Israel's military dropped thousands of leaflets over war-torn Gaza City on Wednesday urging all residents to flee a heavy invasion through the main city of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The leaflets, addressed to "everyone in Gaza City", set out designated escape routes and warned that the urban area, which had a pre-war population of over half a million, would "remain a dangerous combat zone".

The warning came as Zionist troops, backed by tanks and aircraft, have faced Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters in the heaviest combat the city has seen in months in the war raging since October 7.

Across Gaza, deadly strikes have hit four schools used as shelters in four days, sparking rebukes from world countries, including the Zionist regime's own allies, which have denounced the attacks "unacceptable".

"We call for these strikes to be fully investigated," said the French foreign ministry, highlighting a deadly strike on Tuesday on a school near the southern city of Khan Yunis.

"It is unacceptable that schools, especially those housing civilians displaced by the fighting, should be targeted."

Heavy fighting also raged in Gaza's far-southern Rafah, where witnesses told AFP that Israeli tanks had rumbled into the city centre and unleashed intense fire on buildings.

The latest fighting in Gaza has newly displaced 350,000 civilians, said UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini, who spoke before the leaflet drop and said "there is absolutely no safe space in Gaza".

One woman carrying her scant belongings through the ruins, Nimr al-Jamal, told AFP on Tuesday that "this is the 12th time" her family has had to flee. "How many times can we endure this? A thousand times? Where will we end up?"

An Israeli delegation led by Mossad chief David Barnea arrived in Doha, a source with knowledge of the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of their sensitivity.

CIA director William Burns was also expected in the Qatari capital after holding talks in Cairo on Tuesday.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu meanwhile met U.S. President Joe Biden's special envoy for the Middle East, Brett McGurk. Netanyahu emphasized that he might commit to a proposed truce plan, "as long as Israel's red lines are preserved," his office said.

The Zionist military claimed it was reviewing the Khan Yunis area attack Tuesday in which hospital sources said at least 29 people were martyred in a school used as a displacement shelter.

Gaza's Hamas government said a "majority" of the dead were women and children.

AFP footage showed the wounded being rushed to the nearby Nasser hospital, many screaming in pain, as relatives wailed in grief for the dead.

One wounded man, Osama Abu Daqqa, recounted that "suddenly the strike hit, people were injured and martyred and there was no one to help them".

Another survivor, Mohamed Sukkar, said those hit in the strike "were not part of the resistance nor were they armed, they were all civilians".

Three previous strikes since Saturday on Gaza schools used by displaced Palestinians have martyred a total of at least 20 people, said Gaza officials and rescue services.

Lazzarini wrote on social media platform X that "schools have gone from safe places of education and hope for children to overcrowded shelters and often ending up a place of death and misery".

Israel's military invasion has martyred at least 38,295 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Israel has also imposed a punishing siege on Gaza's 2.4 million people. Aid group Doctors Without Borders has warned of "critical" shortages of medical supplies in Gaza, with no resupply for more than two months.

Independent UN rights experts on Tuesday accused the Zionist regime of carrying out a "targeted starvation campaign".

# Axis of Resistance Asserts Dominance



Lebanese raise their fists in salute as they listen to a speech by Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah via video link in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, November 11, 2023.

SANAA (Dispatches) -- Yemen's naval forces and missile units have carried out three operations against vessels linked to the U.S. and Israel off the nation's coast, in solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing Israeli onslaught on Gaza, the spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces has said.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree said the country's forces targeted the American Maersk Sentosa container ship in the Arabian Sea

with several ballistic and winged missiles.

Saree said Yemeni naval units targeted the Marathopolis ship in the Arabian Sea, and the MSC Patnaree ship in the Gulf of Aden with a number of drones.

He stressed that the three operations achieved their goals successfully, and the hits were direct and accurate.

Saree noted that his country's forces will continue their anti-Is-

rael operations until a permanent ceasefire is enforced in Gaza, and all restrictions on supplies of humanitarian aid for its residents are lifted.

He also said Yemeni military forces are fully prepared for action against any party that would support Israel, and would supply the United States and the Tel Aviv regime with munitions for strikes against the Arab nation.

Yemenis have declared their

open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7.

Yemeni armed forces have said that they won't stop their attacks until the Israeli invasion of Gaza comes to an end.

Other resistance groups in the region, including in Iraq and Lebanon, have joined the battle to target Zionist interests in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the resistance movements in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq will not back down and will not "abandon our responsibility".

Speaking in Beirut, Nasrallah said: "The fronts of support in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq, and the political support such as Syria and Iran, are an image that brings joy contrasted with a sad image of the positions of the Arab and Islamic world towards Gaza."

"For weeks, aid has not entered Gaza and it is at risk of the spread of famine, epidemics and diseases. Can this reality continue in Gaza?"

"The occupation army is the most immoral army, and its true nature is beginning to appear,"

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## New British PM Faces Crisis of Overflowing Prisons

LONDON (Reuters) -- The scale of the challenge facing Prime Minister Keir Starmer's new government is writ large in Britain's prisons, which are within weeks of being too full to accept new inmates, leaving the government with unpalatable and costly choices.

Britain has western Europe's highest rate of incarceration, according to the World Prison Brief database and faces a crisis after a new building program failed to keep track with tougher sentencing laws that have fuelled a growing prison population.

Already many prisons are housing two inmates in cells built for one, and emergency measures triggered by the previous Conservative government mean some offenders have been released early and court cases delayed to avoid new arrivals.

The head of the body representing prison governors has warned that unless a solution can be found, offenders will soon have to be held in police cells - constraining officers and disrupting the wider judicial system.

Labour leader Starmer has described the state of Britain's prisons as a "monumental failure"

of the last government, but like other challenges - from sewage in rivers to strikes at the National Health Service - that stance may only hold for so long.

He also has little financial room to maneuver. According to the Institute for Government (IfG) think tank, spending on prisons is set to fall by 5.9% each year relative to demand over the coming years.

Tom Wheatley, president of the Prison Governors Association, said the new government had no time to waste.

"I think they can (act quickly enough), but only just. It's going to be touch and go," he told Reuters. "We're nearing the line on what can be safely accommodated, even in overcrowded conditions."

As of July 5, England and Wales had 87,453 prisoners - up from 86,035 a year earlier and within a whisker of what prison governors see as a maximum capacity of 88,864.

That equates to around 144 prisoners per 100,000 in the population. Imprisonment rates are around 25% lower in France, Spain and Italy and less than half

in Germany and the Netherlands. The United States, however, has a far higher rate at 531 prisoners per 100,000.

Options to tackle overcrowding include releasing more offenders with electronic tags or giving people suspended sentences, meaning they would only be jailed if they were to reoffend again within a certain timeframe.

Starmer has promised to get to grips with the problem but warned it would take time. "We can't fix it overnight. Therefore, it is impossible to say we will stop the early release of prisoners," he said in his first press conference after his party won a landslide victory in last week's election.

Starmer was previously the chief prosecutor for England and Wales and his longer-term thinking may be detected by his choice of new prisons minister: businessman James Timpson, whose shoe-repair and key-cutting firm employs ex-offenders and who is known for his belief in rehabilitation.

Britain's Ministry of Justice said a third of former prisoners were proven to have committed another offence within 12 months of re-

lease, rising to more than half of those who had served less than a year behind bars.

Any attempt to improve that would take time, and money.

It is a crisis that has had a slow and steady build-up. Britain's parties have long fought election campaigns on tackling crime with harsher sentences, tapping into the demands of some of the country's newspapers and voters' fears.

Starmer's Labour was no different, promising "tough new penalties for offenders".

And that has had an impact on prisons.

Government data shows that average sentence length, excluding life sentences, increased from 14.5 to 20.9 months between 2012 and 2023.

In 2020 and 2022 the Conservative government also moved to make those convicted of more serious crimes serve at least two thirds rather than half their sentences behind bars.

As a result the IfG says the prison population has doubled over the last 30 years, even as crime rates have fallen substantially.

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