

UNICEF: Thousands of Kids Remain Buried Under Rubble in Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The United Nations children’s agency (UNICEF) has reported that thousands of Palestinian children remain buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings in the Gaza Strip.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban made the remarks during a UN Security Council meeting on children and armed conflict.

He said that Palestinian children continue to endure “incomprehensible suffering”, particularly those in the Gaza Strip amid a “staggering” scale of death and destruction there.

Chaiban noted that more than 23,000 cases of children killed or maimed in 2023 have yet to be verified due to insecurity, movement restrictions and significant risks to humanitarian personnel operating in Gaza.

“The bodies of thousands of missing children remain buried under rubble, and none of this includes the



Palestinians recover the bodies of the al-Meghari family including children killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in the al-Bureij refugee camp, Gaza Strip.

thousands of violations reported so far in 2024,” he added.

The UNICEF official also highlighted the obstacles that are impeding aid deliveries to Gaza and thus increasing the number of acutely malnourished children, stating, “After nearly nine months of horrible

conflict, UNICEF and other humanitarian actors are still struggling to reach those in need.”

He further called for “a complete ceasefire” in Gaza, where many children are losing their lives due to Israel’s starvation imposed on the besieged territory.

Israel unleashed its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7. So far, the Tel Aviv regime has killed more than 37,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured over 86,400 others in Gaza.

Also speaking at the Security Council meeting was Palestine’s UN Ambassador Riyad Mansour who recalled that Israel has killed more children in recent months than in all armed conflict globally over the past 4 years.

He estimated that nearly 16,000 Palestinian children were killed in Israel’s aggression against Gaza while another 21,000 are missing.

The Gaza Strip, once a vibrant place where children set world records in sports, has now been reduced to a graveyard, Mansour continued, calling for “collective resolve and responsibility to pressure Israel to stop the madness”.

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and people will be satisfied with their choice.” Interim President Muhammad Mokhber said reports from polling stations showed the voter turnout was robust.

“My observations from visits to different stations confirm that there is robust participation in the electoral process,” he said.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said, “We assure people that the elections will be conducted in a fair and safe environment.”

More than 61 million people were eligible to vote. Voting was underway at 58,640 polling stations across the country, mostly in schools and mosques. Early projections of the results are expected by Saturday morning and official results by Sunday.

If there is no clear majority after Friday’s vote, the top two candidates face a second round of voting on July 5. The winner will serve for four years.

While there was no clear frontrunner leading up to the vote, two candidates withdrew, leaving four others in the race.

Amirhussein Ghazizadeh Hashemi dropped his candidacy and urged other candidates to do the same “so that the front of the revolution will be strengthened”. On Thursday, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani also withdrew, as he did previously in the 2021 election in which Raisi was voted into office.

Former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and parliamentary speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf remain in the race, so do Massoud Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon by profession and a member of parliament from the northwestern city of Tabriz, and Mostafa Pourmohammadi, a former interior minister.

Interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani said Canada had refused to allow Iranian expatriates to cast their votes despite all its claims to defend democracy.

“Unfortunately, Canada was the only country that prevented the advancement of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s process of democracy in the world,” he told reporters.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan’ani also categorically dismissed “worthless the meddling” claims by U.S. State Department’s Abram Paley that the vote was not “free and fair”.

“The American authorities will not benefit from such worthless statements and the Iranian people will strongly respond to such interventionist remarks with their effective and enthusiastic participation at the polls, just like in the past,” he said.

Kan’ani underlined that the soundness and fairness of elections in Iran has been proven in previous cases of voting.

“The establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and election organizers consider the people’s vote as a trust and a right of the people, and protecting it an obligation, the comprehension of which is probably difficult for the totalitarian mentality of American officials,” he said.

Nasrallah... (Continued From Page One)

and the way they dealt with the incident with general peace and stability.”

Nasrallah said, “Enemies who were lying in wait and talking about riots happening here and there saw with their own eyes that despite all the difficult conditions it faced due to this incident, Iran was calm, stable, unified and united.”

He touched on millions of mourners who took to the streets in Iranian cities to pay their respects to the president and his companions and take part in their funeral processions, saying their huge presence carried a strong message for both friends and foes.

“The friends who were worried when they saw the presence of millions gained confidence and trust, and the enemies who were happy realized that they were facing a nation that was aware and present, that had great insight and loyalty. The funeral was an expression of this great and enormous loyalty.”

Nasrallah said in any similar incident, there is always the possibility of unrest and dangerous political, economic and psychological threats, but “thank God, with the blessing of the Leadership and officials and the people of Iran, the Islamic Republic came out of this trepidation proud and honorable”.

Today, Nasrallah said, “the Islamic Republic and its holy system do not only determine the path of the Iranian nation, but they also decide the destiny of nations and governments and the future of the developments and other events with all honesty, openness and transparency”.

“The system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only the path and future of the Iranian nation; it is also the future and path of all the nations of the region and a strong fortress against the oppressors, robbers, colonialists and domination seekers who have filled our land and region with cruelty, oppression and corruption.

“After God, we have great hope in this blessed Islamic country, its leadership, nation, authorities, religious sources to follow, scientists and seminaries, and we ask God Almighty to protect them all,” he added.

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campaign in the Gaza Strip spills into Lebanon. “We are worried about the potential for further tragedy and deaths,” he said. “It’s potentially apocalyptic.”

A war involving Lebanon, Griffiths said, “will draw in Syria... it will draw in others. It’s very alarming.”

Thousands of Anti-Regime Protesters March on Netanyahu’s Home

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Anti-regime protesters gathered in Al-Quds and converged on prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s home, lighting a bonfire on the street outside and calling for his resignation.

“We’ve been abandoned — Elections now!” read one sign that rose above the crowd. Demonstrators yelled through megaphones, waved flags and banged on snare drums while police officers stood at barricades.

Such demonstrations have grown more frequent as the war in Gaza rages on and fighting in Lebanon threatens to escalate, but they have not reached the fever pitch of a year ago

when Netanyahu’s regime tried to overhaul the occupying regime’s judiciary system.

Many in the crowd, which appeared to number in the thousands, also chanted their support for reaching a deal to free some 120 Israeli captives being held by Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Gaza.

As the sun began to set, protesters blocked traffic and lit a large bonfire on the central Al-Quds street. The protest movement has yet to change the political landscape, and Netanyahu still controls a stable majority in parliament.

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Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon threatens to escalate.

Some 250 Israelis were taken captive on October 7 last year during a historic retaliatory operation by Gaza’s resistance movements against the usurping entity. The regime responded by launching the war that has so far killed at least 37,765 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

A week-long truce deal agreed in November saw Hamas releasing 105 of the captives in return for some 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The movement has ever since agreed to two more truce proposals. Tel Aviv has, however,

rejected one proposal and refused to respond to another, while escalating the war, something which has led to the death of some of the remaining captives.

Israel believes over 100 of the captives are still held in the Gaza Strip and that more than 70 of them are alive.

The Israeli opposition says Netanyahu is prolonging the war because he believes his “political future” will end when it stops, potentially leading to trials regarding past corruption charges.

Netanyahu faces charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in three cases filed in 2019.

Lieberman: Israel Losing War in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The head of the opposition Yisrael Beiteinu Party, Avigdor Lieberman, has said “Israel is losing the war in Gaza,” and warned that “Israeli deterrence has declined to zero”, according to a report by Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper.

Lieberman also described war minister Yoav Gallant’s management of the war as a “failure”, adding that he bears direct responsibility after prime min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu. He added that in the absence of a clear plan for the war, Zionist troops and officers in Rafah are frustrated, and the regime is unable to make a decision or to achieve victory in the south or north.

Israel’s Walla website reported earlier this week that the occupying regime’s army is suffering from a shortage of soldiers and is seeking to form a new

division to carry out various tasks.

The decision comes as polls revealed that troops are critical of the state of uncertainty regarding the continuation of their military service, their bearing a heavy burden and suffering fatigue.

There is also great anxiety among reserve soldiers due to fear of the repercussions that the continued fighting would

have on their personal, family and work lives, it added.

While Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that dozens of reserve soldiers announced that they would not return to military service in Gaza, even if they were to be punished.

Media reports also claim that reservists have been leaving the occupied territories and traveling abroad in order not to be called back to service in Gaza.

Report: U.S. Provided \$6.5bn in ‘Security Aide’ to Zionist Regime Since Oct. 7 Genocide

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Washington has reportedly provided \$6.5 billion in security assistance to the Zionist regime since it launched its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip in early October last year.

Citing an unnamed senior official of U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration, The Washington Post reported that almost half of the amount was provided last month alone.

“This is a massive, massive undertaking,” the official said, adding that the figure was announced during discussions between senior White House officials and Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant in Washington this week.

The report said the U.S. official had disclosed the amount “as an indication of the depth and complexity of U.S. support for Israel.”

It further said that the remarks counter claims by Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Washington had placed “bottlenecks” in its arms flow.

In a video posted to X, Netanyahu alleged that the Biden administration was “withholding” weapons and ammunition bound for Tel Aviv.

The occupying regime waged its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7 following a historic operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group against the

usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

However, almost nine months into the aggression, the Tel Aviv regime has failed to achieve its objectives in Gaza despite killing at least 37,700 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injuring over 86,400 others.

The U.S. remains the regime’s most important ally and biggest supplier of arms. It has provided Israel with weapons and intelligence support during the Gaza war, and blocked UN resolutions calling for a humanitarian ceasefire in the besieged Palestinian territory.