

Palestine Secures New Position at UN General Assembly

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – Palestine’s Mission to the UN has announced that it will participate in the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) for the first time with an official seat, Anadolu reports.

“Starting the 79th GA session, and for the first time, you can find the State of Palestine seated between Sri Lanka and Sudan,” the mission wrote on X, adding that the position comes following a resolution being adopted at the General Assembly.

The resolution, ES-10/23, grants Palestine additional rights and privileges for participation at the UN, marking a notable enhancement of its status within the international organization.

In May, the General Assembly endorsed a resolution calling for the reevaluation of Palestine’s UN membership bid and granting ad-



The United Nations (UN) General Assembly, in New York, United States on December 12, 2023

ditional rights.

The resolution was adopted with 143 member states voting in favor. The U.S. was among nine countries to oppose it, while 25 others abstained.

Earlier this year, the Intercept, an

online American news organization revealed that the United States was reported to be secretly pushing members of the UN Security Council into rejecting Palestine’s bid to become a full member of the world body.

The countries being railroaded into rejecting the statehood included Malta, Ecuador and France, according to the report.

On the other side, officials from Spain, Australia and Ireland supported Palestinian statehood and hoped for recognition of the Palestinian statehood in the near-term.

Since 2011, the Security Council has rejected the Palestinian Authority’s request for full member status.

Palestine, recognized as a non-member observer state which is a de facto recognition of statehood, was granted this status by the 193-member UN General Assembly in 2012.

However, in order to become a full UN member, the Palestinian application must first be approved by the Security Council and then by at least two-thirds of the General Assembly.

Ankara Says Has No Unsolvable Problem With Syria

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkish Defense Minister General Yaşar Güler stated on Saturday that Ankara and Damascus do not have any problems that cannot be solved.

General Güler explained about the prospects of relations between Turkey and Syria and said there is no problem between the two countries that cannot be solved.

After solving these problems, “I think we can continue our normal activities as two neighboring countries,” he added.

Earlier, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad stated in his speech in the Syrian Parliament that mediators from Russia, the

Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq have made efforts to establish reconciliation between Syria and Turkey, but no significant progress had been made in this regard.

Assad said, “For any normalization of relations to occur, Turkey must reverse the policies that have led to the current situation, including the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Syrian territory and the cessation of support for terrorist groups.”

Assad emphasized that such issues are not mere conditions but fundamental requirements for successful diplomacy.

The Syrian leader also called for a formal agreement between

Damascus and Ankara, which would outline the principles for future negotiations and ensure that all steps are aligned with international law and the sovereignty of both countries.

A diplomatic source in Ankara told the Russian news agency RIA NOVOSTI it is likely that leaders of Turkey and Syria will meet and talk in a third country, but there are no details about the time and place of this possible meeting up to the present time.

The normalization of relations between Ankara and Damascus commenced on December 28, 2022, marked by a meeting in Moscow involving the defense ministers of Russia, Syria, and

Turkey. The gathering represented the most significant dialogue between the two nations since the onset of the Syrian conflict.

Since 2016, Turkey has undertaken three significant ground operations targeting militants in northern Syria who are supported by the United States.

The Turkish government asserts that the U.S.-backed Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) militants have connections to the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant group.

Syria considers the Turkish presence on its soil to be illegal, saying it reserves the right to defend its sovereignty against the occupying forces.

FIFA Delays Again Review of Palestinian Call to Suspend Zionist Regime

ZURICH (Dispatches) – World soccer’s governing body FIFA has delayed again its decision on a Palestinian bid to have the Zionist regime suspended from international soccer over the war in Gaza.

FIFA said late on Friday it would now consider the Palestine Football Association’s (PFA) proposals against the Israel Football Association (IFA) in October.

The PFA had submitted a proposal to suspend the Zionist regime in May, with FIFA ordering an urgent

legal evaluation and promising to address it at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July.

FIFA said last month the legal assessment would now be shared with its council by Aug. 31.

The Zurich-based body said it had now moved the assessment back to October.

“FIFA has received the independent legal assessment of the Palestine Football Association’s proposals against Israel,” FIFA said.

“This assessment will be sent to

the FIFA Council to review in order that the subject can be discussed at its next meeting which will take place in October.”

FIFA declined to give further details of the assessment, or when in October the meeting would take place.

The PFA did not respond to requests for comment.

The Palestinian proposal accuses the IFA of complicity in violations of international law by the Zionist regime, discrimination against Arab

players, and inclusion in its league of clubs located in Palestinian territory.

The PFA has said at least 92 Palestinian players have been killed in the war, football infrastructure has been destroyed, its leagues suspended and its national team required to play World Cup qualifiers abroad.

In its proposal, the PFA wanted FIFA to adopt “appropriate sanctions” against Israeli teams, including the so-called ‘national’ side and clubs.

Heroic ... (Continued From Page One)

the start of the raid... We hear from time to time clashes and sometimes there is big bombing,” said the hospital’s director, Wisam Bakr.

Water and electricity were cut off from the hospital during the raid, forcing it to rely on a generator and water tank, he told AFP.

Zionist forces forcibly removed Palestinians from their homes in Jenin on Saturday. Residents said many are trapped in their homes without access to food, water or electricity, as Israeli forces maintain a tight siege on the city.

Dozens of families have been forced out of their homes in raids conducted by Israeli troops.

“We were cut off from the world, with no communication or internet, and we didn’t know anything about what was happening,” Abdul Rahman Abu Raya, a Jenin resident, told Middle East Eye.

Abu Raya said troops stormed his home and forced all family members, including 12 children, into two rooms after the raid began on Wednesday.

The family was denied access to basic needs during this time, he added, including milk, bread and medicine.

The onslaught, involved simultaneous air and ground attacks on Jenin, Tulkarm and Tubas in the northern West Bank.

Palestinian media reported intense fighting on Saturday between Israeli troops and Palestinians, as Israeli military bulldozers caused widespread destruction to the city’s roads and civilian infrastructure.

Among the civilian structures damaged by the Israeli attacks was the Khalid Ibn al-Walid Mosque in Abu Raya’s neighborhood.

Meanwhile, many residents have been arrested from their homes and subjected to field interrogations and harsh treatment.

“We left our homes, but thousands are still suffering there under the strict siege

The United Nations said on Wednesday that at least 637 Palestinians had been martyred in the territory by Israeli troops or settlers since the Gaza war began.

Nineteen Zionists have been killed in Palestinian operations over the same period, according to Israeli official figures.

The dead among Palestinians included an 82-year-old man, according to Wafa news agency, and two teenagers, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent, which said another 55 had been wounded since the launch of the Israeli invasion.

In Gaza, Israel pushed forward with its brutal onslaught. Gaza’s civil defense agency said its rescuers pulled 29 bodies from the rubble since dawn and transported dozens of wounded to hospitals across the devastated Palestinian territory.

On Friday, a medical source at the southern Nasser Hospital said an Israeli strike martyred three people near the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis.

Israeli shelling in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza killed two people on the same day, the civil defense agency said.

World countries expressed concerns Friday about the Israeli operation in the West Bank, denouncing “an outbreak of violence which is clearly unacceptable.”

The World Health Organization said Israel had agreed to at least three days of “humanitarian pauses” in parts of Gaza, starting Sunday, to facilitate a vaccination drive after the territory recorded its first case of polio in a quarter of a century.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the measures were “not a ceasefire.”

Israel’s aggression following the October 7 operation by Hamas has resulted in the martyrdom of at least 40,602 people in Gaza, according to the territory’s health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

The war has devastated Gaza, repeatedly displaced most of its 2.4 million people and triggered a humanitarian crisis.

“In August, the number of humanitarian missions and movements within Gaza that have been denied access by Israeli authorities has almost doubled, compared with July,” the UN humanitarian office said on Friday.

U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

Granberg, the GWU president, announced updated policies in a fall welcome note to students that spelled out what forms of demonstration are and aren’t permissible. Occupying university property after being directed to disperse, refusing to remove masks and stopping traffic would probably be prohibited. Boycotting an establishment, walking out of an event and participating in marches that don’t otherwise disrupt university functions would probably be okay.

At Georgetown, Nader Hashemi, director of the university’s Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, received a call from his dean over the summer to discuss what students could be planning for the fall.

One of the primary goals of the Georgetown chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, Hashemi said, is divestment, and its members said they are open to continuing dialogue with the university. Hashemi said he’s organizing teach-ins on Gaza and the Palestinian cause.

Even as Hashemi praised Georgetown administrators for keeping an open line of communication with students and faculty, he said this year could be difficult.

“This could be a very long academic year given the situation in Gaza is getting steadily worse,” he said.

As college administrators began looking ahead to the fall, so too were students.

At VCU, where police arrested 13 protesters while dispersing an encampment on the Richmond campus last spring, demonstrators are holding a weekly “Chalk the Plaza” and organizing other events aimed at attracting first-years.

They are also creating frequent Instagram reels, recapping the spring protests and criticizing Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R), who they accused of “crush[ing] student dissent” by supporting the breakup of the encampment. (The governor had pledged in the spring that his administration would support colleges to keep them safe.)

One Instagram account, called notwelcometvcu, told first-years they should be prepared for action in a post also shared by the university’s SJP chapter.

“VCU admin wants us to forget about last semester,” it wrote, “but there is far too much dirt to be swept under the rug.”

Meanwhile, some students at George Washington University and beyond say they are also hoping to keep attention on that campus. In the spring, student protesters across the region chose to focus on GWU, pointing to its location in the nation’s capital and the university’s record of what they called “silencing opposition” to the Israel-Gaza war. For example, they noted the university had suspended its SJP chapter last fall for projecting pro-Palestinian slogans onto a campus library. “GW was selected not just because of its centrality to other campuses, but because its administration had gone especially far in repressing the SJP and JVP chapters there,” said Hershel Barnstein, a fifth-year student at the University of Maryland and a JVP organizer.

Over the summer, students said they continued to protest in the District and in Richmond. They also said they talked with people involved in past student movements to try to learn new tactics to pressure the university.

Some of the students arrested in the spring spent the summer tied up in the legal system, including several who faced court orders to stay away from the GWU campus.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations has labeled GWU as one of three “institutions of particular concern,” for “targeting” pro-Palestinian protesters. The university did not respond to a request for comment on CAIR’s classification.

Flooding, Landslides Kill 27 in Yemeni Village

AL-MUKALLA (Arab News) – Torrential rains caused a landslide in al-Jaref village in Dhamar province on Friday night, killing at least 27 people and leaving two missing, local media said on Saturday.

This was the second deadly landslide in Yemen in less than a week.

Yemeni media reported that the landslide also damaged or destroyed 23 houses in the hillside village.

Locals said that at least two dozen individuals were trapped inside two homes as a landslide caused by the collapse of a hilltop dam swept them away.

The bodies of at least 10 people were discovered in Dhamar hours after the landslide.

Elsewhere, local authorities in the district of Melhan in the northern province of Mahweet say communities in flood-affected areas remain isolated, putting inhabitants

in danger of starvation if food supplies run out.

According to the UN Population Fund, landslides caused by the collapse of three dams ripped through several highland villages in Melhan on Tuesday night, leaving 41 people missing, affecting 1,020 families, destroying 40 homes, and partially damaging 230 others.

Local authorities say that the floods swept away some roads and obstructed others, making it impossible for even donkeys to access the stranded communities.

Abdul Kareem Adham, a member of Melhan local council, said on Facebook that people were “surviving on biscuits” as food supplies run low in the al-Qibla area.

Since late July, severe rains have affected several areas of Yemen, notably the central highlands and western provinces, causing

massive floods that have swept away houses and their inhabitants, submerged residential areas, and devastated roads, water pipelines, and other infrastructure.

In an update, the UN refugee agency, UN-HCR, said that, over the last month, floods in Yemen have killed 97 people, wounded many more, affected more than 56,000 households in 20 Yemeni districts, and displaced over 1,000 families. The provinces of Hudaydah, Hajjah, and Marib have been most adversely affected.

Local estimates suggest the number of fatalities from floods and lightning strikes since late July stands at more than 120, with 84 in the Red Sea city of Hudaydah alone.

Residents of Hudaydah said that the flooding had altered the path of watercourses and had reached residential areas on the city’s outskirts.