

**Rights Group: Israel Using Booby-Trapped Robots in Northern Gaza**

**Gaza (Dispatches)** – Zionist troops are using booby-trapped robots loaded with explosives in the widespread destruction and killing operations carried out in the northern Gaza Strip, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has revealed.

In a statement, the rights watchdog said Zionist troops have completely separated the northern Gaza Governorate from Gaza City through the deployment of military vehicles, sand barriers and the rubble of destroyed homes, in parallel with ongoing drone strikes.

More than 200,000 people are believed to have stayed in the remains of their destroyed homes and shelters in northern Gaza, rejecting Israeli plans to forcibly displace them.

To refrain from unlawful and impious source of pleasures is an ornament to the poor and to be thankful for the riches granted is the adornment of wealth.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# UNICEF: War Tearing Apart Children's Lives in Gaza, Lebanon

**BEIRUT (Dispatches)** – The lives of thousands of children in West Asia are being torn apart by the Zionist regime's genocide in Gaza and war on Lebanon, a senior United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) official says.

"As every day passes, the lives of children across the State of Palestine, and Lebanon are torn apart in unimaginable ways," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director, in a statement.

"Children do not start wars and they have no power to end them, yet their lives are devastated by conflict. Tens of thousands of children have died. Thousands more are in captivity, displaced, orphaned, out of school, and suffer trauma from violence and war," she added.

She slammed the death and suffering of children as shameful, explaining that "the daily bloodshed and horror for children are an affront to the most fundamental values of humanity."

"The violence against children, the most vulnerable among us,



*Wounded Palestinians, including children, are brought to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the city for treatment after Israeli army attacked the Rafida school, in Deir al-Balah, Gaza on October 10, 2024.*

must end."

Russell stressed the need for all parties to protect civilians, including children, humanitarian workers and civilian infrastructure, including schools and health facilities.

She also called on them to allow unfettered access to life-saving aid, noting that those obligations have

been "flagrantly disregarded".

Earlier, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Palestine, Jamie McGoldrick, said children in the Gaza Strip are at high risks of disease and bombs.

McGoldrick added that 625,000 children in Gaza have been deprived of a full year of education,

indicating that the Palestinians in Gaza face the threat of hunger, unsanitary conditions and lack of care.

He called for ensuring the safe reception, dispatch and distribution of aid in the besieged enclave, noting that attacks on UNRWA are unacceptable and put UN humanitarian efforts at risk.

McGoldrick called for providing protection to civilians and humanitarian workers, and stressed the need to open all crossings in order to deliver aid, including the Rafah Crossing.

Earlier this month, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report: "The Israeli regime's attacks and unlawful blockade against Gaza have inflicted profound trauma and suffering on Palestinian children, especially those with disabilities."

"The Israeli military's extensive use of explosive weapons has caused serious injuries resulting in permanent disabilities and lifelong scarring for children in Gaza," it added.

## U.S. Deploying THAAD Missile System, Troops to Israel



*A U.S. soldier looks inside his tool bag during a routine maintenance inspection of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) weapon system at Andersen Air Force Base, in Guam, October 26, 2017.*

**WASHINGTON (Dispatches)** – The United States is sending an advanced anti-missile system to the Zionist regime, the Pentagon has announced, as President Joe Biden's administration continues to provide "ironclad" support for one of its top allies amid the regime's ongoing genocide in Gaza and Lebanon.

The U.S. Department of Defense said that Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin had authorized the deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) "battery and associated crew of U.S. military personnel to Israel" to help boost the regime.

The announcement comes less than two weeks after Iran fired a barrage of retaliatory missiles at the Israeli-occupied territories on October 1 in retaliation for the assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and an Iranian general.

The regime's leaders, including prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have vowed to retaliate — spurring fears that West Asia could be dragged into an all-out regional war.

Earlier this month, Biden suggested that the occupying regime should refrain from striking Iran's nuclear facilities or oilfields, but the Zionist regime has repeatedly defied the U.S. president's public warnings in the past.

It is unclear when exactly the U.S.'s THAAD system will be deployed to the regime. An unnamed U.S. official told CBS News that "around 100 troops" will go to the occupied territories.

While the U.S. has said it favors diplo-

macy and a de-escalation in the region, critics have noted that Washington offers the Zionist regime unwavering military and diplomatic support.

The U.S. provides the regime with at least \$3.8bn in military aid annually, and the Biden administration has authorized \$14bn in further assistance to its ally since the Israeli military began its war on the Gaza Strip in October of last year.

The regime also recently expanded its bombing campaign in Lebanon, after exchanging fire with Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah across the Lebanon border for months.

Yet despite growing concerns over a widening war, the Biden administration has rebuffed calls to suspend weapons transfers to Israel to pressure the regime to end the wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

Marwan Bishara, Al Jazeera's senior political analyst, said "there is no doubt" that Washington's THAAD system announcement on Sunday would further escalate regional tensions.

"I am not sure if President Biden is sleep-walking his way into another regional war ... or [if] he has his eyes wide open as he escalates the war," Bishara said.

The occupying regime already uses three integrated missile systems to intercept incoming rockets and missiles fired towards the regime.

But the THAAD system that the U.S. will deploy to Israel has a greater range than other systems and marks a "step up", Al Jazeera's Mike Hanna reported from Washington, DC.

## Israeli Academics Lead Way in Advocating 'Extermination' of Palestinians

**WEST BANK (Dispatches)** – Uzy Raby, a history professor, has been one of the most sought-after West Asia experts in Israeli media.

The senior lecturer at the department of Middle Eastern and African history at Tel Aviv University has unapologetically advocated the starvation of civilians in northern Gaza who do not follow the Zionist regime army's order to evacuate south.

"Anyone who stays there will be judged by law as a terrorist and will go through either a process of starvation or a process of extermination," he said during a TV interview last month.

Then, addressing a possible attack on Beirut, he reiterated the same reasoning.

"You have to inflict it [the war] on the population," Raby said.

According to Assaf David, co-founder of the Forum for Regional Thinking and head of the Israel in the Middle East Cluster at the Van Leer Al-Quds Institute, Raby and others like him "are more militant even than the military-security establishment currently leading Israel's war".

Evidence for that can be found in the support some of them gave to the plan of former senior Israeli officer Giora Eiland.

The plan called for forcibly displacing all civilians from the northern part of the enclave, or subjecting them to starvation and military force, which in the view of critics may amount to ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Israeli scholars on West Asia have always been rather conservative on Israeli-Palestinian and

regional issues, said David.

But since the war began in October 2023, some of them have espoused far-right discourse, similar to the extremist views of Israel's most far-right ministers, Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

Dr Harel Chorev is another West Asia lecturer at Tel Aviv University who advocated the Eilan plan. He told Channel 13 that he would "sign with both hands" on the plan, as it is consistent with his own plan for Gaza.

In March, Chorev called for a military operation in Rafah despite U.S. objections. "Rafah must be conquered," he told Maariv newspaper.

Professor Eyal Zisser, Tel Aviv University vice rector and member of the Middle East depart-

ment, has called on the Israeli military to "occupy Gaza now."

In June, Professor Benny Morris, one of the leading scholars of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and member at the Middle East department at Ben-Gurion University, shockingly called for Israel to drop a nuclear bomb on Iran.

Apart from urging for more potential war crimes and for the occupation of the Gaza Strip, these academics are additionally advancing a seemingly dehumanization campaign against Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.

According to Yonatan Mendel, a lecturer at the Middle East department of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israeli academics have uncritically sought to mobilize the public behind the army's devastating campaign in Gaza.

## Palestinians Lose Fervent Scottish Advocate Alex Salmond

**EDINBURGH (Dispatches)** – The former Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, who died unexpectedly during a conference in North Macedonia at the weekend, was one of the most vocally pro-Palestinian western leaders of his generation and a vociferous opponent of the Iraq war.

Salmond, who died at 69, on 12 October, was one of the UK's most significant and influential politicians in the last 20 years. He led the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) from 1990 to 2000, and from 2004 to 2014, winning the party an outright majority in Scotland's devolved parliament for the first time in 2011.

Labeled "Mad Alex" by Donald Trump, he came close to breaking the United Kingdom up in 2014 by securing a referendum on Scottish independence, although Scotland ultimately voted against leaving the UK.

He collapsed in his chair during lunch at the conference, suffering what is thought to have

been a heart attack.

Tributes poured in from all quarters, including from King Charles, who said he was "greatly saddened" by the news.

Known for being a man of many hats, Salmond played a ghost in a Pakistani soap opera in 2001, having been trained for the role by James Bond star Sean Connery.

The former SNP leader was a longtime supporter of the Palestinian cause. In 2004, he opposed Britain's abstention on a UN resolution condemning the Zionist regime's assassination of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Then in 2010, as SNP leader, Salmond slammed Israel's assassination of Hamas member Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai.

As first minister, he called for an embargo on arms sales to the Zionist regime in August 2014, amid the regime's bombardment of Gaza.

His pro-Palestinian stance continued after his departure from the SNP in 2018, and when he became leader of a new pro-independence party

called the Alba Party from 2021 onwards.

Earlier this month Salmond slammed Britain's Labour government on social media platform X, asking: "Is the UK to 'stand with Israel' in Gaza, in Lebanon, in flagrant breaches of international law, in tens of thousands of civilian deaths over the last year?"

Salmond added: "Britain is the former colonial power and West Asia is one of the few areas where what is said by the PM actually matters.

"Would a better policy not be to simply say 'we stand to uphold international law and unequivocally back the UN's pursuit of peace'?"

In August he strongly criticized the current SNP first minister, John Swinney, after it emerged a minister had met Israeli deputy ambassador Daniela Grudsky.

"This is not a time for business as usual with a regime whose leadership is under ICC investigation for war crimes," he said, accusing the minister of "cosying up to Israeli officials" and suggesting he should be sacked.

## Borrell Slams EU for Taking Too Long to Rap Israel's Raids on UNIFIL

**BRUSSELS (Dispatches)** – The European Union member states have taken too long to condemn the Zionist regime's attacks on the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, the EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says, as he slammed the attacks as "completely unacceptable."

"We should be against Israeli attacks against UNIFIL. Our soldiers are there, many soldiers are there," Borrell said at an EU ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.

Sixteen EU countries, led by Italy, France and Spain, are contributing to the UN peacekeeping force, which is made up of about 10,000 peacekeeping troops and other personnel, in southern Lebanon.

Five peacekeepers have so far been injured in a series of attacks by Zionist troops that have hit the mission in recent days.

"Such attacks against UN peacekeepers constitute a grave viola-

tion of international law and are totally unacceptable. These attacks must stop immediately," Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the EU published Sunday night.

The bloc expresses "particularly grave concern" regarding the attacks by the Zionist troops against UNIFIL, which left several peacekeepers wounded, he added.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that the UN peacekeepers were providing "human shields" for Hezbollah.

In his statement, Borrell said the Zionist regime has the obligation to ensure the safety and security of UN missions.

"We urgently await explanations and a thorough investigation from the Israeli authorities about the attacks against UNIFIL, which plays a fundamental role in the stability of south Lebanon," he said.

Israel has been targeting Lebanon since October 2023, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.