

KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) – The Kuwait army has denied media claims that a U.S. military aircraft carrying weapons went directly from a Kuwaiti military base to the Israeli-occupied territories. The claims have been circulated widely on social media, amidst condemnation from the Kuwaiti public and demands for official clarification from the relevant authorities.

According to the Kuwaiti army General Staff writing on X, “reports of ammunition-laden aerial dispatches from its bases” are denied. “Military dispatches are operated according to already scheduled flights and are subject to coordination and supervision.”

Social media sites circulated photos and videos of the flight path of an American

If matters get mixed up then scrutinize the cause and you will know what the effects will be.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UNDP: War Knocked Human Development in Gaza Back to 1955

BERLIN (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s aggression has devastated the Palestinian economy and left nearly all of Gaza’s population in poverty, with quality of life indicators such as health and education knocked back 70 years, the United Nations’ development agency said on Tuesday.

Launching a study on the war’s socioeconomic impacts, the UNDP’s Chitose Noguchi said the economy of the Palestinian territories — the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied West Bank — was now 35 percent smaller than it was at the start of the Zionist regime’s invasion of Gaza a year ago.

By some measures the poverty level in Gaza was now approaching 100 percent as a result of the disruption, with unemployment now at 80 percent, Noguchi said.

“The state of Palestine is experiencing unprecedented levels of setbacks,” she told a UN press conference in Geneva over a sometimes crackling line from Deir al-Balah. “For Gaza, reversing development by an estimated 70 years to 1955.”

Even under optimal conditions, with international aid remaining at current levels and flowing into



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Gaza and the West Bank unhindered, it would still take at least a decade for economic output to recover to pre-war levels, she said.

The war, launched by the Zionist regime on Oct. 7 last year has brought immense destruction to the Gaza Strip.

Schools, hospitals and other essential infrastructure have been razed to the ground. Nearly 43,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to health ministry figures.

Some 3.3 million Palestinians, 2.3 million of them in Gaza and 1.5 million of them children, need urgent humanitarian assistance, the report said.

The cost of repairing damaged infrastructure was expected to run to \$18.5 billion, almost the entire annual economic output of the Palestinian territories in 2022.

The war had taken a similarly severe toll on human capital, the report added, with 625,000 students in Gaza having no access to

education at the end of September and 93 percent of school buildings severely damaged.

The situation was similar with regard to healthcare. A total of 986 health workers had been killed by the end of September, and less than half of primary health care centers were even partially functional.

The poverty rate across the Palestinian territories will almost double this year to 74.3 percent after months of fighting in Gaza, according to a UNDP report.

“The immediate consequence of the war, not just in physical infrastructure destruction, but also in terms of poverty, livelihoods and loss of livelihoods, is enormous,” Achim Steiner, head of the UNDP, said.

The poverty rate had been 38.8 percent at the end of 2023 but another 2.61 million Palestinians fell into poverty this year, bringing the total to 4.1 million.

“It’s quite clear from this socio-economic assessment, that the level of destruction has set back the state of Palestine by years, if not decades, in terms of its development pathway,” Steiner said.

Qatar: Zionist Regime Deliberately Obstructing Gaza Ceasefire Efforts



Protesters gather near the U.S. Capitol to demand ceasefire in Gaza.

DOHA (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime deliberately obstructed efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip, Qatar’s Minister of State for International Cooperation, Lolwa Bint Rashid Al-Khater, has revealed.

Al-Khater explained in a statement to Russia Today that “there are ongoing meetings and intensive communication between the Qatari and Egyptian sides to coordinate efforts for ceasefire negotiations and reach an agreement to bring medical and humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, in light of the difficult humanitarian situation that the Strip is suffering as a result of the Israeli aggression.”

Al-Khater said: “Despite the Qatari and Egyptian keenness to reach a ceasefire agreement, the closer the mediators’ efforts get to reaching an agreement, the more Israel is inflexible, obstructing the negotiations and the agreement process as a whole.”

She also stressed that “Qatar and Egypt believe they will not allow Israel’s inflexibility to prevent them from continuing their efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement, with the aim of stopping the bloodshed of our Palestinian brothers and saving them from the tragic deteriorating situation as a result of the occupa-

tion.”

The Qatari minister noted that the Gaza Strip “is witnessing a difficult humanitarian and medical situation, which requires reaching an agreement to bring in medical and humanitarian aid as soon as possible.”

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an alleged U.S. push for ceasefire.

Blinken began his meetings in Israel as Hezbollah launched retaliatory rockets into Tel Aviv and Haifa and Israeli airstrikes pummeled parts of Beirut’s southern suburbs, including an air strike that caused a multi-storey building to entirely collapse and sent a fresh wave of panicked residents fleeing.

Repeated diplomatic efforts have failed to bring an end to both the year-long war in the Palestinian territory of Gaza and to its spillover conflict.

Blinken, on his 11th trip to the region since the Gaza war erupted, faces a daunting mission.

Hezbollah said on Tuesday there would be no negotiations while fighting continues and it claimed responsibility for a drone attack on Netanyahu’s holiday home on Saturday.

Reports: Capital Flight From Israel Soaring

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s media outlets have reported a significant jump in capital flight from the occupying regime for investment abroad, rising 62 percent since October 7, 2023.

The Israeli newspaper Calcalist, which specializes in economic affairs, stated on Monday that “the economic

term ‘capital flight’ has far-reaching implications for the economy and must be prevented at all costs, as it could lead to economic collapse or crisis.”

The newspaper added that since the formation of the far-right regime led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar

Ben Gvir, there have been increasing signs that the Zionist regime’s economy is already suffering from an outflow of capital abroad, a phenomenon that has only worsened since October last year.

It explained that capital flight occurs in a large, rapid and sometimes undocumented manner, driven by financial

instability, uncertainty, or increasing political, geopolitical, economic, or social risks, which typically result in a loss of confidence in the Zionist regime and push investors to seek opportunities abroad.

A report published last month by the Economist also revealed that “Israeli banks are suffering from capital flight.”

Britain Under Fire

Poll: Majority of Germans Oppose Arms Sales to Israel

BERLIN (Dispatches) – A new survey has revealed that 60 percent of Germans oppose arms exports to the Zionist regime, with a majority of voters from the country’s three ruling coalition partners supporting restrictions.

According to a poll by Forsa, 50 percent of Green Party voters opposed weapons sales, while 60 percent of Social Democratic Party supporters and 52 percent of Free Democratic Party voters also rejected continued arms exports.

Opposition was particularly high in the former East Germany, where 75 percent of respondents rejected arms sales to the Zionist regime.

Last week, German media reported that several German leaders blocked the sale of weapons to Israel, despite Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s insistence that arms sales would continue.

According to a report by German tabloid Bild, Green politicians, Vice

Chancellor Robert Habeck and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who are in the governing coalition with the Social Democrats, withheld approval for weapons exports, demanding assurance that they would not be used on civilians.

The War Weapons Control Act stipulates that German arms should not be used against civilians.

The German government is facing a number of lawsuits over its arms sales to the Zionist regime.

Reuters reported in September that Germany had put new licenses for the export of “weapons of war” to Israel on hold pending legal challenges.

In a related development, the UK government claims there is “no legal requirement” to assess the Zionist regime’s compliance with international humanitarian law in its military conduct in Lebanon as part of its decision-making on licensing UK arms exports to the

occupying regime.

Middle East minister Hamish Falconer said on Monday that the suspension of 30 arms export licenses to Israel last month means there are “no existing UK arms licenses to Israel for use in Lebanon” apart from UK-made F-35 fighter jet components.

Arms control experts and human rights advocates were surprised by the admission which several said appeared to show that the government had decided to forgo international law.

“Under its legal obligations, the UK government cannot refuse to do IHL assessments for any of its arms export licenses,” Martin Butcher, policy adviser on arms and conflict for Oxfam told Middle East Eye.

Butcher said all exports are subject to risk assessment without exception, unless already prohibited under an article of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Israel Considering U.S. Firm for Biometric Screening in Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is considering a plan to deploy private U.S. logistics and security companies to create a “gated community” in Gaza where Palestinians would be subjected to biometric screenings to receive aid, according to media reports.

Drop Site News reported on Monday, citing Israeli media, that the Zionist regime’s war cabinet discussed the proposals on Sunday, and was set to approve a “pilot” program within the next two months.

According to Israeli news outlet Ynet, Global Delivery Company (GDC), which is run by Israeli-American businessman Mordechai Kahana, is in talks with the Zionist regime to run the program.

Large parts of northern Gaza, in particular the Jabalia refugee camp, have been under a total siege over the past 17 days, with Zionist troops not allowing any food, clean water and medical supplies to enter.

In January, the International Court of Justice delivered an interim ruling ordering the regime to take immediate measures to enable urgent basic services and humanitarian assistance into Gaza.

The Zionist regime has been accused of repeatedly violating the order since then.

It is not clear if the occupying regime is considering other private security firms, or only GDC’s proposal.

A U.S. private security firm would need approval from the Senate to offer armed services to the Israeli regime.

Kahana has described his for-profit business as “Uber for war zones”, and said that it has operated in five wars in the past 14 years, in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and Gaza.

Stuart Seldowitz, a former U.S. official who was charged with a hate crime after abusing a street food vendor, was a senior diplomacy consultant for GDC.

Kahana himself has made several inflammatory comments, including in November calling Palestinian-American lawmaker Rashida Tlaib Hamas’s “ambassador to the US”.

He has also joked about ethnically cleansing Palestinians in Gaza and moving them to Jordan.

GDC’s operatives include former high ranking Israeli military officers and former American military and intelligence operatives.