

# Zionist Regime Demolishes Dozens of Palestinian Structures in West Bank

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Zionist regime authorities demolished dozens of Palestinian structures, including residential apartments, in the occupied West Bank on Monday, a local official and witnesses said.

“Israeli forces razed 40 shops and a 400-square-meter house in al-Ramadin town” in the southern West Bank, municipal chief Anis al-Zaghah told Anadolu.

He said the occupying regime authorities cited the lack of building permits for demolishing the structures.

“The structures were built on private land and were vital for local families’ livelihoods,” he added.

Isa al-Rwashdeh, the owner of one of the demolished businesses, said the targeted shops sold produce, building materials, and agricultural tools. He added that the demolition was followed by the burning of remnants on-site.

The Zionist troops also razed 11 other structures, including nine residential apartments, in al-Bustan neighborhood in occupied East Al-Quds, witnesses said.



Demolished structures included 11 residential apartments, 40 shops.

According to the witnesses, the apartments were inhabited by 31 families, including children, with the regime troops citing lack of a building permit for the demolitions.

Al-Bustan is home to 116 Palestinian houses with approximately 1,550 residents.

In recent months, Zionist regime authorities have intensified demolitions in the neighborhood where the Al-Quds Municipality plans to build a “biblical park,” according to Palestinians.

Silwan remains one of the most

targeted areas in East Al-Quds for demolitions and land confiscations by the regime authorities.

Since the beginning of 2024, the occupying regime has escalated discriminatory practices in East Al-Quds, demolishing dozens of Palestinian homes and structures.

Human rights organizations accuse the regime of deliberately restricting building permits for Palestinians in East Al-Quds as part of a broader effort to limit the Palestinian population in the city.

Zionist regime authorities prohibit construction or land rec-

lamation in Area C of the West Bank without permits, which Palestinians say are nearly impossible to obtain.

The Oslo II Accord of 1995 divided the West Bank into three zones: Area A under full Palestinian control, Area B under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control, and Area C under full the control by the Zionist regime.

Tension has been running high across the occupied West Bank over the regime’s genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, where more than 45,000 people, mostly women and children, have been killed.

At least 812 Palestinians have since been killed and over 6,450 others injured by the regime in the occupied territory, according to the Health Ministry.

The escalation follows a landmark opinion in July by the International Court of Justice that declared Israel’s decades-long occupation of Palestinian land “illegal” and demanded the evacuation of all existing settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

## Assad... (Continued From Page One)

army and nation to which he belongs”, Assad said.

“When the state falls into the hands of terrorism and the ability to make a meaningful contribution is lost, any position becomes void of purpose, rendering its occupation meaningless,” he said.

“This does not, in any way, diminish my profound sense of belonging to Syria and her people - a bond that remains unshaken by any position or circumstance. It is a belonging filled with hope that Syria will once again be free and independent.”

Since Assad’s ouster, Israel has been pounding what it says are military sites in Syria, wiping out the country’s infrastructure and deterrent capabilities.

Zionist troops have also occupied a border buffer zone and advanced to areas within 25 km of Damascus, sparking condemnation, with critics accusing Israel of violating the 1974 ceasefire and exploiting the chaos in Syria for a land grab.

On Monday, Israeli strikes targeted military sites in Syria’s coastal Tartus region overnight, a war monitor said, calling them “the heaviest strikes” there in years.

“Israeli warplanes launched strikes” targeting a series of sites including air defense units and “surface-to-surface missile depots”, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

It said 18 raids “targeted strategic locations on the Syrian coast”, added the Britain-based Observatory. It called the raids “the heaviest strikes in Syria’s coastal region since the start of strikes in 2012”.

Tartus province also has a naval base belonging to Russia.

Residents told AFP that explosions began shortly after midnight and continued until almost 6:00 am (0300 GMT).

“It was like an earthquake. All the windows in my house were blown out,” said 28-year-old Ibrahim Ahmed, an employee in a legal office.

“The village did not sleep last night. The kids were crying,” said one middle-aged man in a blue sweatshirt who refused to give his name. “Most of the people had already left their homes towards the city, now they have lost their houses,” he added.

According to the Observatory, 473 Israeli strikes have targeted military sites in Syria since the militant alliance toppled Assad on December 8.

## Gazans... (Continued From Page One)

The civil defense is Gaza’s main rescue agency and operates under the Hamas-run government.

Al Jazeera said Ahmad Baker Al-Louh, 39, had been covering rescue operations of a family wounded in an earlier bombing when he was killed.

The International Federation of Journalists said last week that 104 journalists and media workers have been killed so far in 2024, with more than half of them perishing during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The group said that since the Oct. 7, 2023, start of the war, at least 138 had been killed, including 55 Palestinian media professionals in the calendar year.

## Canada’s ... (Continued From Page One)

post after the two had argued for weeks over spending.

Her resignation came just hours before she was due to present a fall economic update to parliament, a document widely expected to show the minority Liberal government had run up a much larger 2023/24 budget deficit than predicted. Officials said the document would be unveiled on Monday as planned.

The resignation by Freeland, 56, who also served as deputy prime minister, leaves Trudeau without a key ally when his government is already in trouble.

“This will likely trigger a leadership crisis within the Liberal caucus ... (it) is politically and personally devastating for Trudeau,” said Nik Nanos, founder of the Nanos Research polling firm.

Polls show the ruling Liberals, who have been in power since November 2015, are set to be crushed in an election that must be held by late October 2025.

Trudeau has been under pressure for months from Liberal legislators alarmed by the party’s poor polling numbers. But he is safe for now, since Canadian political leaders are chosen by special conventions.

“This is quite a bombshell,” said Nelson Wiseman, political science professor at University of Toronto. “I think the problem the Liberals have is that they have no mechanism to remove Trudeau. Only a full blown caucus revolt could do that.”

Domestic media reports said Freeland and Trudeau had clashed over a government

proposal for temporary tax breaks and other spending measures.

“For the last number of weeks, you and I have found ourselves at odds over the best path forward for Canada,” Freeland said in a letter to Trudeau posted on X.

Freeland said the threat of new U.S. tariffs represented a grave threat.

“That means keeping our fiscal powder dry today, so we have the reserves we may need for a tariff war. That means eschewing costly political gimmicks, which we can ill afford,” she wrote.

When Trump came to power in 2017 he vowed to tear up the trilateral free trade treaty with Canada and Mexico. Freeland played a large role in helping renegotiate the pact and saving Canada’s economy, which is heavily reliant on the United States.

Although tensions between prime ministers and first ministers are not unusual - Trudeau’s first finance minister quit in 2020 in a clash over spending - the level of invective in Freeland’s letter was remarkable by Canadian standards.

“On Friday, you told me you no longer want me to serve as your Finance Minister and offered me another position in the Cabinet... you made clear that I no longer credibly enjoy that confidence and possess the authority that comes with it,” Freeland said.

“Upon reflection, I have concluded that the only honest and viable path is for me to resign from the Cabinet.”

## IRGC... (Continued From Page 2)

This shows the power and resolve of the Islamic Republic to not just safeguard its security but also promote peace and stability around the globe, in sharp contrast to the mischief-mongering and war-mongering policies of Washington.

The maritime activities of Iran also play a vital role in the trade and commercial sector, with vessels equipped with the latest technology to escort merchant ships through troubled waters and ward off pirates that prey on unprotected vessels.

## Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

He emphasized the need for the international community to take necessary measures to have the regime pay dearly for its ongoing violations and to compel it to implement the rulings of the judicial arm of the United Nations.

Baghaei said the Zionist regime is guilty of two more crimes under the jurisdiction of the court, namely the crime of genocide and the crime of aggression.

## Envoy... (Continued From Page 2)

“This regime does not want a powerful government to be formed in Syria that would be a threat to it,” he stated.

“The interests of the Zionist regime also shape US policies. These factors are serious challenges that Syria is currently facing,” he explained.

Foreign-backed militants, led by HTS, took control of Damascus on December 8 and declared an end to President Assad’s rule in a surprise offensive that was launched from their stronghold in northwestern Syria, reaching the capital in less than two weeks.

## Japan... (Continued From Page 2)

its genocidal war in occupied Palestine and has expanded its aggression against Syria.

The international community shoulders a collective responsibility to confront Israel’s heinous crimes, especially war crimes and genocide, he added.

In an interview with Khamenei.ir published on Sunday, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said it is “not impossible” to issue a death sentence for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu over war crimes he committed against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

## Biometric... (Continued From Page 2)

Iravani said over six million Afghans have sought shelter in Iran, placing immense strain on the country’s resources, which spends over \$10 billion annually to meet their needs.

He said all efforts must focus on enabling refugees’ return by strengthening Afghanistan’s capacity to provide housing, jobs, and essential services.

He noted that Western countries, whose prolonged occupation and abrupt withdrawal plunged Afghanistan into crisis, are morally and politically obliged to contribute meaningfully to the country’s rebuilding efforts.

# Settler Leaders Urge Gaza-Style Genocide in Palestine Refugee Camps

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Senior Zionist settlers’ leaders have urged the regime’s cabinet to evacuate residents of Palestinian refugee camps and other areas that they decide are strongholds of armed groups, the Times of Israel has reported.

The settlers’ demands include large-scale demolitions and aggression similar to those carried out in Gaza, which they described as a strategy to combat armed Palestinian groups “exactly as we have done in the Gaza Strip.”

In a letter addressed to the Zionist regime’s cabinet, Yisrael Ganz, the head of the Yesha Council, along with 14 mayors of settlement authorities and regional councils, also proposed limiting Palestinian movement on major

West Bank roads due to security concerns.

This appeal comes after Zionist war minister, Israel Katz, directed the regime’s military to increase defenses for West Bank settlements and main roads. Katz cited potential threats from “extremist Islamic terror agents,” suggesting that they could be inspired by the recent success of Syrians in overthrowing the Assad government.

In August, while serving as foreign minister, Katz advocated for the “temporary relocation” of Palestinians in the West Bank during a large-scale aggression in the northern part of the occupied territory.

The regime has faced allegations of forcibly displacing Palestinians in Gaza, with extensive

destruction of civilian infrastructure and the ongoing refusal to allow most displaced residents to return to their homes. Far-right Israeli politicians, including finance minister Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, have similarly pushed for policies aimed at “encouraging” Palestinians to emigrate from Gaza.

Moreover, in their letter, settlers’ leaders claimed that increasing violence in the West Bank requires decisive and aggressive measures. “The population living in zones identified with terrorism, with a focus on ‘refugee’ camps and known terror complexes, should be moved,” they said. “After moving the population, the terrorism [sic] infrastructure should be dismantled exactly as

we have done in the Gaza Strip, meaning: any incriminated building to be destroyed, every terrorist to be taken out. The form of battle, from the incursion to the ground operation, will exert effective pressure and extract a significant price from the terrorist [sic] organizations.”

The letter did not specify where displaced Palestinians would be relocated to or what measures would follow the proposed aggression. “This is the time to abandon a defensive posture and adopt an aggressive, effective, and lethal offensive in Judea and Samaria,” said the fanatical settlers, whose very presence in the occupied Palestinian territories is illegal under international law.

# Ireland Hits Back at Israel Over ‘Anti-Semitism’ Accusation

DUBLIN (Dispatches) – The Irish government has hit back after the Zionist regime accused it of anti-Semitism and closed its embassy in Dublin.

On Sunday Gideon Saar, the occupying regime’s foreign minister, announced the closure of the regime’s embassy in Dublin.

The move came after Ireland recognized a Palestinian state in May, and announced last week it would formally intervene at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to support South Africa’s genocide case against the regime.

In his announcement, Saar claimed that the “actions, double

standards, and anti-Semitic rhetoric of the Irish government against Israel are rooted in efforts to delegitimize and demonize the Jewish state.”

Irish Taoiseach (prime minister) Simon Harris hit back, writing on social media platform X: “This is a deeply regrettable decision from the Netanyahu regime.

“Ireland is pro-peace, pro-human rights and pro-international law.”

He added that Ireland supports a Palestinian solution.

Criticizing Ireland, Saar said that its recognition of a Palestinian state was “praised by Hamas”, and also accused Ireland of “redefining”

genocide to support South Africa’s case.

On 11 December, Ireland’s foreign ministry announced that the country will intervene at the ICJ, saying there has been “a collective punishment of the Palestinian people through the intent and impact of military actions of Israel in Gaza”.

“Ireland will be asking the ICJ to broaden its interpretation of what constitutes the commission of genocide by.

“We are concerned that a narrow interpretation... leads to a culture of impunity in which the protection of civilians is minimized.”

# Turkey ‘Neutralizes’ PKK Militants in Northern Iraq

ISTANBUL (Anadolu) – Turkish security forces neutralized at least 9 PKK militants in northern Iraq, the Defense Ministry said on Monday.

Terrorists were targeted in the Gara, Metina and Hakurk regions on Dec. 3-9, the ministry said on X.

Turkish authorities use the term “neutralize” to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured.

The PKK is known for using northern Iraq, near the Turkish border, as a hide-out to plot terror attacks against Turkey.

In its 40-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK -- listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S., and the EU -- has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 people, including women, children, infants and the elderly.