

# Over 50 British MPs Urge UK to Evacuate Injured Children From Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – Over 50 British MPs and peers have signed a letter urging Prime Minister Keir Starmer to implement a medical evacuation program for injured Palestinian children in Gaza.

In May, Middle East Eye reported that the UK had denied medical treatment to critically injured children from Gaza by not issuing them visas - unlike several other wealthy countries.

The letter, organized by Labour MP Kim Johnson and sent to the prime minister on Tuesday, was supported by MPs and peers across several parties.

Johnson told MEE: "It is a moral outrage that the UK has failed to provide any support to a single Gazan child in need of medical attention, when so many other caring countries have provided this assistance."

She added that it is impossible to imagine the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza, although "the ICJ has described it as a plausible genocide".

Gaza has been ranked as the deadliest place in the world for children,



The Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK holds a rally in London, calling for action in Gaza.

with over 14,500 children killed by the Zionist regime's bombardment.

The letter to Starmer, seen by MEE, read: "We have had disturbing reports from medical professionals and humanitarian organization staff that hospitals and medical facilities in Gaza are massively overwhelmed, with critical shortages of medical supplies, staff, and functioning infrastructure."

It added that the UK has evacu-

ated injured children from Ukraine to Britain to ensure they received proper medical treatment.

"There is no reason why we should not extend the same support to the children of Gaza."

"Many other countries, such as Italy and Norway, have accepted Gazan children in need of urgent medical attention, leaving the UK an outlier. Why is the UK not considering implementing a scheme

like this?"

The letter called on the Labour government to work alongside the "relevant NGOs", to create a "short-term medical evacuation program from Gaza to the UK".

Johnson told MEE: "Gaza now has the highest number of child amputees per capita of any country in the world.

"Those suffering from cancer or other chronic and debilitating sicknesses are not able to get the care they need, even if they manage to make it to neighboring countries."

She added, "The UK is a wealthy nation with extensive medical expertise to save children's lives, we just need the political will to make this happen, and to be on the right side of history."

Last week, a report revealed that 96 percent of children in Gaza feel that death is imminent.

The study, conducted by the international NGO War Child and based on interviews with over 500 children, parents and caregivers, found that 49 percent of children in Gaza wish they were dead.

## Lebanese Activists Sued, Arrested for Condemning Television's Pro-Israeli Bias

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Two female Lebanese activists have faced legal proceedings as a result of which they have been arrested for critiquing a Beirut-based television station's bias in favor of the Israeli regime.

Ghina Ghandour and Sahar Ghaddar, both of whom are based in southern Lebanon, faced the lawsuit and were apprehended after refusing to delete posts they had published on X, former Twitter, in condemnation of the discrimination employed by MTV Lebanon at a time when the country was under escalated deadly aggression by the Zionist regime.

Posting on the social media platform on December 11, Ghandour had denounced the station as "a master manipulator of minds [that] has made sowing discord and sectarianism its

mission."

"By silencing dissent and stifling opposing views, it has found a new pastime in gagging free speech," she had noted.

The activist had, meanwhile, said she was "honored to be targeted by such a morally bankrupt organization," adding, "Thank you for this badge of honor."

Less than a week later, Ghaddar took to X, priding herself on standing with Lebanon during the Zionist regime's aggression, and saying "any honorable and free person" would do the same.

"However, MTV took a different stance. Even after the attack ended, the channel continued its attacks on national sentiment," she stated.

The activist said she had been sum-

moned by the country's Cyber Crime Bureau on the back of a lawsuit that had been filed by the channel over her stance.

"Believing in the fundamental right to freedom of speech in my country, I will appear before the authorities," she noted, adding, "The fight for truth and justice will continue, no matter the cost."

MTV Lebanon has been denounced by many Lebanese activists for its stance in favor of the Zionist regime and against the country's Hezbollah resistance movement.

The movement has been defending the Lebanese soil and people in the face of decades-long Israeli aggression, including the escalation that began targeting the country last October and lasted until last month, when a

ceasefire took effect.

Around 4,000 people were killed during the intensified raids before the truce, which keeps being violated by the regime to deadly effects for the Lebanese people.

Instances of the channel's bias have been widely cited in its reports and accusations against Hezbollah.

On July 30, MTV Lebanon reporter Nawal Berry and camera operator Dany Taniou were reportedly beaten by a group of men in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, while allegedly reporting on reactions to an Israeli strike that had targeted a senior Hezbollah official in the area.

A day later, the channel published a post on its website, accusing the movement's supporters of conducting the alleged attack.

### Family of U.S. Activist Killed in West Bank:

## Blinken Offers No Prospect of Inquiry

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The family of a Turkish-born American human rights activist killed by the Zionist regime in the Occupied West Bank pleaded with Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, for a U.S. probe into her killing but got no promises, the woman's husband said, Reuters reports.

Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, 26, was shot dead on 6 September as she took part in a protest march in the town of Beita against illegal Zionist

settlement expansion in the West Bank.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the top U.S. diplomat, Hamid Ali said Blinken gave no assurances that Washington would carry out its own investigation but urged Eygi's relatives to wait for the Zionist regime to finish its inquiry.

"He was very deferential to the Israelis," Ali said. "It felt like he was saying his hands were tied and they weren't able to really do

much."

Neither the U.S. nor the Zionist regime has said when the Israeli investigation might be completed, Ali added.

The regime has acknowledged its troops shot Eygi, but says it was an unintentional act during a demonstration that turned violent. Her family believes she was targeted as an activist.

Although Washington has criticized Eygi's killing and a surge of

attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank as the Zionist regime wages war on Palestinians in Gaza, the U.S. has announced no major policy change toward the regime.

The International Court of Justice and most countries say the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestinian Territories and expansion of settlements in the West Bank are illegal. The occupying regime denies this, citing historical and biblical ties to the area.

### Leader...

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Ayatollah Khamenei also emphasized Iran's steadfastness in standing with the Palestinian resistance fighters and Hezbollah combatants, reaffirming the nation's dedication to providing support and assistance.

The Leader expressed hope that the day will come when the fighters will see the evil enemy getting trampled under their feet.

The Leader made the remarks during a meeting with a group of women from different walks of life in Tehran on the eve of celebrations commemorating the birth anniversary of Sayyida Fatimah al-Zahra (SA), the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

Ayatollah Khamenei hailed her a remarkable phenomenon in creation.

"It is remarkable and extraordinary that a young woman can attain such a spiritual and celestial identity, to the extent that, as narrated by both Shias and Sunnis, her anger represents the anger of God, and her satisfaction reflects the pleasure of the Almighty," the Leader said.

He described some of her unique qualities, including her role in "comforting the Prophet during difficult times", "accompanying the Commander of the Faithful [Imam Ali (AS) in jihad]", "engaging in worship in such a way that captivated the angels", "delivering eloquent, articulate, and fiery sermons", and "raising Imam Hassan (AS), Imam Hussein (AS) and Sayyida Zaynab (SA)."

Sayyida Fatimah al-Zahra (SA)'s childhood, youth, marriage, and life, the Leader said, all serve as the highest, most beautiful models that represent the pinnacle of a Muslim woman.

The Leader addressed diverse perspectives surrounding the issue of women globally.

He said, "Capitalism and the politicians aligned with it, by controlling the world's influential media and through dishonesty and lies, conceal their criminal and corrupt motives for interfering in and manipulating women's affairs worldwide, all for gaining illegitimate profits, under the guise of a philosophical and humanitarian theory."

Dishonesty and hypocrisy are perennial tactics employed by Western imperialists and capitalists, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He cited on the exploitation of women in factories to fulfill demand for cheap labor in industries all under the guise of promoting women's freedom and independence as a prime example of this hypocrisy.

Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the role played by Iranian women in the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, as well as during Iraq's imposed war in the 1980s and the defense of holy shrines in Syria and Iraq.

He also praised women's activities in political, international, and scientific arenas.

The enemy, the Leader said, resorted to soft methods such as propaganda, and insincere and tempting slogans, after they came to realize that Iran's Revolution cannot be defeated via hard methods such as war, bombing, sectarianism, and sedition.

The Leader advised women to watch out "temptations, malicious methods, and the soft war of ill-wishers" aimed at deviating them from values.

### UK...

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It has raised speculation in some quarters that the Labor government may remove HTS from its list of designated terrorist organizations.

HTS has been a proscribed terrorist organization in Britain since 2017 and is listed by the Home Office as an "alternative name" for Al-Qaeda, the armed group that the West says carried out the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.

While Prime Minister Keir Starmer said last Monday that it was "far too early" to make a decision on HTS' status, Cabinet Office minister Pat McFadden said there would be a "relatively swift decision" and the issue "would have to be considered quite quickly".

Speaking to the BBC, Lammy said: "Al-Qaeda is responsible for a tremendous loss of life on British soil.

"We will judge them [HTS] on their actions. I won't comment on future proscription, but of course, we recognize that this is an important moment for Syria," he added.

It remains unlikely that the British government will delist HTS unless Washington takes similar steps first.

### Yemen's...

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The Magen David Adom ambulance service said its medics treated five people who were injured while running for cover during the sirens in Tel Aviv, Petah Tikvah, Kfar Saba, Holon and at the Em Hamoshavot junction.

The injured were taken to hospital for treatment, MDA said in a statement.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement said it struck a "military target" near Tel Aviv on Monday with the hypersonic ballistic missile.

Military spokesman Yahya Saree declared in a televised address that the operation was a success.

Earlier Monday morning, a drone was launched from Yemen. Since November, Yemeni forces have launched six ballistic missiles and at least five drones.

The Israeli public broadcasting corporation Kan reported that the Israeli army recognized the escalating attacks from Yemen.

"They are trying to promote significant damage to Israeli assets such as the seaports of Ashdod and Haifa, the power plants of the Israel Electric Corporation, and the gas rigs off the coast of Israel," the broadcaster reported.

"The IDF (Israeli army) and the Air Force claim that it is necessary to act against the threat from Yemen, and this requires diverting intelligence attention and preparing operational arrays for this purpose," it added.

Yemeni operations against Israeli targets began on October 19, 2023 and a month later they seized the Galaxy Leader carrier in the Red Sea off the coast of Hudaydah.

Galaxy Leader is owned by Tel Aviv-based Ray Shipping, and is registered in the UK's Isle of Man, according to Lloyd's List. Twenty-five of the vessel's crew members have been detained on board since then.

## Russian Law Paves Way to Recognize Taliban, Potentially HTS

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Russia's parliament passed a law on Tuesday that would allow courts to suspend bans on groups designated by Moscow as terrorist organizations - paving the way for it to normalize ties with the Afghan Taliban and potentially with the new leadership of Syria.

No country currently recognizes the Taliban government in Afghanistan, which seized power in August 2021 as U.S.-led forces staged a chaotic withdrawal after 20 years of war.

But Russia has been gradually building ties with the movement, which President Vladimir Putin said in July was now an ally in fighting terrorism.

The leader of Russia's region of Chechnya,

Ramzan Kadyrov, called on Monday for the removal of Syrian group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) from Moscow's list of banned terrorist groups. HTS spearheaded the toppling of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad this month.

Kadyrov, a close Putin ally, said Russia needed ties to the new Syrian authorities to ensure stability and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. The Kremlin said this week that Russia was in contact with the new leadership in Syria, where it hopes to retain the use of an airfield and a naval base that give it an important military foothold in the Mediterranean.

The new law, passed by parliament's lower house, the State Duma, allows for a group to be removed from Russia's banned list by

order of a court if it ceases terrorist-related activity.

The Taliban were in the first batch of groups to be listed, in February 2003, and Syria's HTS was added in 2020.

Moscow sees a major security threat from militant groups based in a string of countries from Afghanistan to West Asia, where Russia lost a major ally with the fall of Assad.

In March, gunmen killed 145 people at a concert hall outside Moscow in an attack claimed by Daesh. U.S. officials said they had intelligence indicating it was the Afghan branch of the group, Daesh Khorasan, that was responsible.

The Taliban say they are working to wipe out the presence of Daesh in Afghanistan.