



UNRWA: Only 6% of Gaza's Food Needs Being Met

GAZA (Dispatches) – The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has confirmed that the food supplies entering the Gaza Strip meet only six per cent of people's needs, the Palestinian Information Centre reported.

UNRWA said that the Zionist occupation allows limited quantities of flour and food supplies through the crossings, which cover just six percent of the required needs.

The agency highlighted that this situation has led to a severe crisis in Gaza, particularly in accessing bread, forcing most bakeries in the southern part of the enclave to shut down.

The agency added that over two million displaced people in Gaza suffer from hunger, thirst, disease and fear. Families find it nearly impossible to secure meals, as conditions in displacement camps and shelters remain dire due to hunger, cold and the inability of international organizations to provide adequate humanitarian aid amidst



Palestinians are seen among tents for displaced people in the al-Yarmouk stadium in Gaza City, on Nov. 24, 2024.

severe food shortages. It called for the full reopening of crossings to allow essential supplies to prevent widespread famine, with malnutrition and disease already present.

Northern Gaza is enduring especially harsh conditions, said UNRWA, with a critical shortage of drinking water, medicines and food supplies. The continued blockade on humanitarian aid,

coupled with ongoing airstrikes, artillery shelling, land leveling and demolitions, has deepened the humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, the Civil Defense in the Gaza Strip has warned of a "humanitarian disaster" due to rainwater, which could cause flooding and damage to the tents of displaced people.

The Civil Defense Authority said

in a press statement that "due to the rain, the tents of the displaced people in the Yarmouk Stadium shelter camp, the Gaza Municipality Park, the Beach Camp, and the tents set up in schools in Gaza City were damaged."

"We are facing a catastrophic humanitarian scene if the displaced people in the camps continue in this condition, especially in light of the damage to many of their tents and their unsuitability for shelter," it added.

The authority expressed concern that conditions may deteriorate with the onset of winter.

The Zionist regime's occupation army has continued its aggressive war on Gaza for 415 consecutive days.

At least 44,000 Palestinians have been killed, with 105,000 wounded, mainly women and children. An estimated 11,000 more people are missing, presumed dead, under the rubble of their homes and other civilian infrastructure destroyed by the occupation forces.

Cambridge Students Renew Pro-Palestine Protests, Call for Arms Deals Review



Student protesters gather in an encampment at Cambridge University on May 6, 2024.

LONDON (Dispatches) – Pro-Palestine protesters have claimed a "liberated zone" at Cambridge University's Greenwich House as demonstrations continued over the weekend, with more rallies and protests planned.

Lebanese and Palestinian flags were raised as students occupied the administrative building, which houses key university functions, including its estates, finance and human resources divisions.

The students said the protests are in response to the university "breaking" its agreements regarding an ongoing review of its arms investments that could lead to divestment from companies involved in the Zionist regime's war on Gaza.

In July, Cambridge University reached an agreement with students following months of protests, prompting Cambridge for Palestine (C4P) to end its encampment on campus.

As part of the agreement, the university committed to funding opportunities for Palestinian academics and students to go to Cambridge and said that "a Palestinian scholar has already been accepted to come to Cambridge".

The university also pledged to form a working group, including student representatives, to review investments and propose further

steps.

However, C4P now says that the university has "stalled" on its commitments, removed Palestine from its review of arms ties and "weaponized bureaucracy to reduce student power".

Cambridge has acknowledged delays in its defense investments review and even postponed its initial deadline for findings from the end of the term to the end of the academic year.

"After stalling and manipulating negotiations with Cambridge for Palestine, the University Council will be meeting to discuss representation for the divestment working group," C4P shared on their Instagram page.

Protesters are demanding that the university publicly condemn the genocide in Gaza and conduct a comprehensive analysis of its investments.

C4P says that Cambridge "invests in weapons manufacturing companies involved in genocide" and "takes part in research collaborations aimed at developing the weapons and AI systems used to oppress and ethnically cleanse Palestine".

Failure to meet these demands, C4P said, will result in further escalation from the students, according to Varsity, Cambridge's student newspaper.

Palestinians Suffer From Scabies Outbreak Amid Dire Conditions in Israeli Prisons

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – An investigation by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz has revealed that a quarter of Palestinian prisoners in the Zionist regime's prisons have been infected with scabies in recent months.

The findings contained in the report, which cited prison officials, were the result of a petition filed by human rights organizations.

The Zionist regime's supreme court is set to discuss the conditions under which Palestinian prisoners are being held amidst accusations that prison administrators are not doing enough to prevent the spread of disease, provide adequate healthcare and deal with overcrowding.

Palestinians held by say that their treatment is deliberate rather than

the result of neglect.

One prisoner quoted by Haaretz said: "When we asked for treatment, they told us that we are terrorists and must die."

Those in the Zionist regime's prisons include children like Iyad Idais, who is 15 and is suffering from scabies, as well as ulcers and boils covering his body.

Scabies is caused by mites, which burrow under the skin and lay eggs, which causes rashes, irritation and further complications in those suffering from the illness.

Iyad's father, Ashraf, told Middle East Eye that his son was arrested last March and released on 14 October.

"He was very thin and covered in bloody, festering blisters. We didn't recognize him at first, but

then we realized that he had returned from the dead," Ashraf said.

Iyad was held in the children's section of Megiddo Prison, where in June he became infected with scabies, which he believes was the result of overcrowding and poor sanitation.

The teenager told his family that irritation from scabies infection was so severe that some prisoners were breaking tiles to relieve themselves by scratching.

Even a month after his release, Iyad continues to suffer from the effects of his illness, which has resulted in further psychological trauma.

"My son was cheerful and loved life, but now I see him depressed and isolated and doesn't want to talk," his father said.

According to Haaretz, several meetings with lawyers for prisoners in Nafha and Remon prisons were postponed due to the outbreak of scabies, and many court sessions were postponed.

The Israeli Prisons Administration said in response to the petition that there are currently a total of 1,704 prisoners infected with scabies.

Rights group Physicians for Human Rights said that prisoners are deprived of washing machines in detention, and that they were not given enough clothes.

Ameena Altaweel, a researcher at the Palestine Center for Prisoner Studies, told MEE that Palestinian human rights institutions have persistently raised the alarm about disease in prisons.

Starmer Urged to Raise Human Rights on Saudi Investment Trip

RIYADH (Middle East Eye) – Prominent left-wing members of the Labour Party have called on British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to challenge Saudi Arabia on its human rights record, as he prepares to visit the kingdom next month in a push for fresh investment.

Starmer is reportedly set to seek investment from sovereign wealth funds in the Persian Gulf, including Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), linked to a series of human rights abuses – including the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

Labour MP Clive Lewis told the Guardian: "There should be a couple of items on the agenda. One will be their human rights record domestically. The second will be the issue of Yemen. Third will be oil production, and where they're investing their sovereign wealth fund around the world."

John McDonnell, the former shadow chancellor, who now sits as an independent MP after being suspended from Labour for voting to scrap the two-child benefit cap, said: "Of course

we want economic relations with a whole range of countries, but at the same time we have to be prime advocates across the world in standing up for human rights.

"Trips to pander to governments that have such a level of abuse of human rights, and particularly with regard to what's happening in Yemen, we have to be extremely wary."

Starmer's position on Saudi Arabia has evolved considerably over the past decade. As an opposition MP in 2016, he voted in parliament to withdraw Britain's military support to Saudi Arabia for its war on Yemen.

Then in 2020, while running to be leader of the Labour Party, Starmer called for a halt to arms sales to Saudi Arabia. "I want us to go further and review all arms sales, as well as halting the sales to Saudi Arabia that are creating the horrifying humanitarian suffering in Yemen," he said.

For a while, as leader of the opposition, this approach continued.

Starmer accused then-Conservative Prime

Minister Boris Johnson of going "cap in hand from dictator to dictator" for oil when he visited Saudi Arabia in 2022.

But the Labour leader was accused of retreating from this position earlier this year, when he said of arms sales to the oil-rich state: "We will do a review to look at the sales, look at the countries and the relationships we have."

Now as prime minister, he is understood to be trying to bolster Britain's diplomatic relations with Persian Gulf states and seek fresh investment from their sovereign wealth funds.

Last week, Human Rights Watch (HRW) launched a report that alleged that the PIF, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, which is controlled by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, "facilitated and benefited from human rights abuses".

It also says the PIF has "facilitated serious human rights violations" linked to Mohammed bin Salman "through companies it owns and controls, such as the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi".

Egypt Tourist Boat Sinks Off Red Sea, 17 Missing

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egyptian authorities have rescued 28 people after a tourist yacht capsized off the country's Red Sea coast on Monday, as search operations continued for at least 17 others, including foreigners.

The boat, Sea Story, was carrying 45 people, including 31 tourists of varying nationalities and 14 crew, on a multi-day diving trip when it went down near the coastal town of Marsa Alam, according to a statement by the Red Sea Governorate on Monday.

Governor Amr Hanafi said some survivors were rescued using a helicopter and have been taken to medical care.

Efforts to locate more survivors were ongoing in coordination with the Egyptian navy and army, officials told Reuters news agency.

The governorate said a distress call was received at 5:30am (03:30 GMT) and that the boat had departed from Port Ghalib in Marsa Alam on Sunday, with plans to return to

Hurghada Marina on November 29.

According to Ahrum Online, the Egyptian Meteorological Authority had forecast turbulent seas in the Mediterranean and Red Seas, and advised the suspension of all maritime activities on Sunday and Monday.

It also said that wave heights were predicted to reach 4-6 meters (13-20 feet) in the Mediterranean and 3-4 meters (10-13 feet) in the Red Sea.

It was unclear how the vessel got permission to sail amid the inclement weather.

The Red Sea is a popular diving destination renowned for its coral reefs and marine life, key to Egypt's vital tourism industry.

In 2023, three British tourists went missing and 12 were rescued after a motor boat caught fire off Marsa Alam.

The year 2016 saw one of the worst sea disasters in Egypt, when a boat carrying about 600 migrants sank in the Mediterranean, killing at least 170 people.