

8 Killed, 25 Injured in Traffic Collision in Egypt

CAIRO (Xinhua) – At least eight people were killed and 25 others wounded in a traffic collision in southern Egypt's Minya province, provincial media office said in a statement. A lorry hit a pickup truck which was carrying workers and children on the desert road of Tuna El-Gebel village, the office said. The statement urged residents to use safe means of transport, as pickup trucks are designed to transport goods, not people.

According to the statement, Minya province has been addressing its transportation problems over the past few months, banning pickup trucks from commuting people inside cities or on highways, and issuing licenses to minibuses.

# Thousands Rally in Tel Aviv to Demand Return of Captives

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) – Thousands of people demonstrated Saturday in central Tel Aviv to demand the return of captives held in the Gaza Strip, even at the cost of ending the war in the besieged enclave.

The Yedioth Ahronoth reported that thousands gathered in Hostages Square, including hundreds of family members of the captives.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, reaffirmed Saturday that he would not end the 19-month war until “Hamas’s civil and military capabilities are fully eliminated.”

In a pre-recorded video message, Netanyahu also referenced the establishment of so-called “security zones” in Lebanon and Syria, in violation of the sovereignty of both countries.



People, carrying flags, stage a protest, demanding the return of Israeli captives in Gaza, on April 19, 2025 in Tel Aviv.

“Hamas rejected a proposal to release half of the living captives and many of the bodies of the deceased, demanding an end to the war – this

is unacceptable,” he claimed.

Hamas leader in Gaza, Khalil al-Hayya, announced late Thursday the group’s readiness to immedi-

ately begin “comprehensive package negotiations” with Tel Aviv to release all of the captives in exchange for an agreed number of Palestinian prisoners, a cessation of the war, full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the start of reconstruction and the lifting of the blockade.

More than 51,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in a brutal onslaught by the Zionist regime since October 2023, most of them women and children.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants last November for Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

The occupying regime also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

## Report: U.S. Arms Convoys Enter Iraq’s Ain al-Asad Base From Syria



U.S. troops stand at the site of a retaliatory missile strike by Iran at Ain al-Asad Air Base in Anbar, western Iraq, on January 13, 2020.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – The U.S. military has reportedly sent multiple convoys of trucks carrying troops, military and logistical equipment from deep inside Syria to a major airbase in Iraq’s Anbar province, where American military forces and trainers are based.

An Iraqi security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Iraq’s Arabic-language al-Maalomah news agency that the convoys entered the Iraqi territory on Saturday, and headed towards al-Asad airbase, located about 160 kilometers west of the capital Baghdad.

The source did not provide any further details about the reasons behind the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Syria, and their deployment in Ain al-Asad base.

He noted that the U.S. military convoys included armored vehicles, logistical equipment, troops, small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as heavy munitions.

The source emphasized that U.S. military aircraft flew overhead and protected the military convoys as they came into Iraq.

Additionally, unprecedented security measures were implemented on the main and secondary roads leading to Ain al-Asad base.

Pentagon officials confirmed on Friday that the U.S. military was

reducing the number of troops it has deployed in Syria by about half over the coming weeks and months.

The Pentagon did not specify in the release how many troops will be pulled out, but The New York Times reported on Thursday that the number is 600.

The release also did not provide a specific timeline for the withdrawal.

The U.S. military has about 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria across a number of bases, mostly in the energy-rich northeastern flank of the country.

The U.S. military has since 2014 deployed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria with no authorization from the Arab country’s government, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintained the deployment was meant to plunder the country’s natural resources.

Over the past years, multiple footage has emerged revealing that the U.S. occupation forces have used tankers to smuggle Syrian crude oil from the country’s northern provinces to their bases in northern Iraq, as part of Washington’s systematic plundering of Syria’s basic commodities.

## ACLU Sues Trump for Targeting Pro-Palestine International Students

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is suing U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration in federal court for targeting international pro-Palestine students who had their legal status revoked.

“The consequences of Defendants’ unilateral and unlawful termination are dire. The termination puts students out of lawful student status. Plaintiffs and the class face immigration detention and deportation. Plaintiffs and the class face severe financial and academic hardship. Further, Plaintiffs and the class are not able to obtain their degrees and work pursuant to the Optional Practical Train-

ing (OPT) program after graduation,” ACLU’s lawyers wrote in the class action lawsuit filed in New Hampshire, according to The Hill.

“Indeed, Defendants’ unilateral and unlawful terminations have severely disrupted the educational opportunities of students who are in the middle of their studies (and in the middle of a semester) and who are simply trying to obtain, often at considerable expense, an education in the United States while following all the rules required of them,” the attorneys said in the lawsuit filed by several ACLU affiliates.

Foreign students studying at U.S. universities and colleges

have had their legal statuses terminated or their F-1 student visas revoked. As part of Trump’s immigration crackdown, around 1,100 students at more than 170 schools have been impacted since late last month, The Associated Press’ tally has found.

International students have countered, filing lawsuits in states such as Wisconsin, Montana and New Hampshire and have secured temporary restraining orders that bar them, for now, from being deported from the country.

“The American Civil Liberties Union appears far more interested in protecting foreign students than the civil liberties

and safety of Americans. They should consider changing their name,” Department of Homeland Security’s Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to The Hill.

McLaughlin added that for “case-specific inquiries related to visa revocation or individual revocation status, DHS defers to the Department of State”.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters last month that over 300 student visas have been terminated and the figures climbed up daily.

International students who have participated in on-campus demonstrations protesting the Zionist regime’s war in Gaza have had their visas pulled.

## Israel Blocks Palestinian PM’s Field Visit in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s authorities have denied Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa permission to visit Palestinian towns and villages in the occupied West Bank that have been repeatedly targeted by illegal settlers, a Palestinian official said.

Mouayed Shaban, head of the Colonization and Wall and Resistance Commission, told Anadolu that the Zionist regime refused to coordinate Mustafa’s planned visit to the villages of Burqa and Deir Dibwan, east of Ramallah, and Duma and Qusra, south of Nablus.

These areas have faced continual attacks by illegal settlers, exacerbated by the regime’s military involvement.

Shaban explained that, under agreements between the Palestinian Authority and the occupying

regime, the movement of Palestinian officials requires coordination due to the presence of protective security forces accompanying them. However, this coordination was rejected by Zionist regime authorities, marking a “dangerous precedent,” Shaban said.

The refusal came after illegal settlers reportedly launched a campaign of incitement against the premier, pressuring the Israeli regime to block the visit, a move which the Israeli government subsequently adopted.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers kidnapped two Palestinian children on Saturday and tied them to a tree near the city of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank.

The incident occurred in the afternoon, as a group of children were playing near their homes on

the outskirts of Beit Furik, east of Nablus. A group of settlers approached and abducted the two children.

Local residents managed to catch up with the settlers and rescue the children. However, the boys remain in a distressed psychological state.

Mohammed Hanani, the children’s uncle, told Middle East Eye that his two daughters and their cousins were playing outside their home when a group of settlers arrived from a newly established outpost built on the town’s land.

The settlers kidnapped 13-year-old Maryam and her three-year-old brother Ahmed, taking them to a remote area where they tied them to an olive tree. One of their cousins tried to intervene but settlers attacked him with stones.

## Rights Group: Famine in Gaza ‘No Longer A Risk, But A Reality’

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has condemned the Zionist regime’s complete blockade on humanitarian aid entering Gaza, warning that famine is no longer a risk but a reality.

The Geneva-based rights group said on Saturday that the imminent threat of famine in the Gaza Strip is deeply alarming, particularly considering the ongoing illegal and comprehensive blockade imposed by the Zionist regime for the past 45 days.

“After 45 days of total Israeli blockade, famine is no longer a risk, it’s becoming a reality,” it said.

“This marks the longest uninterrupted restriction on humanitarian aid and essential goods since the beginning of Israel’s genocide in the Strip over 18 months ago.”

Euro-Med noted that its field team in the Gaza Strip had

observed alarming indicators pointing to a severe food crisis that may soon reach the level of famine.

“The ongoing Israeli blockade has caused a severe and persistent shortage of essential food items necessary for survival, including grains, proteins, and fats,” it said.

According to the Euro-Med, much of Gaza’s remaining agricultural and food infrastructure has either been bombed or otherwise destroyed, and/or is currently under Israeli military control.

“As a result, people have been forced to sell their most basic belongings just to secure food, signaling the onset of a breakdown in their ability to endure the hunger,” it warned.

The rights group went on to highlight that families in the Gaza Strip have been forced to cut the number of their daily meals, resulting in noticeable

weight loss among residents.

Zionist troops have deliberately targeted over 37 aid distribution centers and 28 food banks, as part of a systematic policy to starve civilians and exacerbate their suffering, it noted.

“The starvation imposed by Israel on civilians in the Gaza Strip represents one of the most severe and inhumane forms of genocide, as well as a grave violation of human dignity.

“It extends beyond the mere denial of food, as it also seeks to dismantle the population’s ability to survive by destroying livelihoods, obstructing humanitarian aid, targeting sources of food production, and deliberately disrupting essential supply chains,” it said.

The statement stressed that the most devastating impacts of such policy fall on women and, tragically, on children who make up over two-thirds of the Gaza Strip’s population.