

UN Urges Independent Probe Into Gaza Aid Ship Attack

GENEVA (Dispatches) – The UN human rights office on Saturday called for an independent investigation into the drone attack on a Gaza-bound aid ship in international waters off Malta and renewed its call for the Zionist regime to lift its blockade on Gaza, which it says constitutes “collective punishment.”

“We have seen the worrying reports on the incident. We are unable to independently confirm them. However, it is crucial that there be independent, impartial, and effective investigation by competent authorities into the incident leading to apparent fire on board the vessel and a distress call in international waters, with a view to ensuring accountability,” human rights spokesperson Thameen al-Kheetan told Anadolu in a statement.

The vessel Conscience, organized by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, caught fire after being bombed by drones early Friday while carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza. The Maltese government confirmed the fire was contained with the help of a nearby tugboat



Gaza Freedom Flotilla was hit by Israeli drone on 1 May 2025.

and that all 12 crew members and four civilians aboard were safe, although they refused to abandon the ship.

The vessel remains in international waters under monitoring.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition blamed the Zionist regime for the attack, calling for the regime’s ambassadors to be summoned over what it described as violations of international law, including the blockade and the bombing of the

civilian ship.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for Palestine, also condemned the attack and urged EU leaders to denounce it and demand an urgent investigation.

The Palestinian resistance group Hamas similarly accused the occupying regime and appealed to the UN Security Council to act against Israeli “violations.”

Al-Kheetan also pointed to the deepening humanitarian crisis

in Gaza, saying restrictions on movement and the flow of goods have severely affected the population for more than 17 years. “It amounts to the collective punishment of Gaza residents,” he said.

He added that conditions have worsened recently, with Israel blocking all goods from entering Gaza since March 2, which has only intensified the already dire situation. “Collective punishment is prohibited by international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime,” he stressed.

“As the occupying power, Israel has the obligation -- under international humanitarian law -- to ensure food and medical supplies for the population to the fullest extent of the means available to it, or to agree to and facilitate by all means at its disposal humanitarian relief schemes by other States or impartial humanitarian organizations,” the spokesperson added.

“We call on Israel to urgently lift the blockade on Gaza and allow the entry of life-saving material,” he concluded.

Yemen... (Continued From Page One)

movement, said in a post on X that participating in any transactions with the listed companies carries the risk of being subject to sanctions.

“Sanctions may also extend to entities in which these companies are shareholders, senior managers or actual owners of listed companies, spouses and first-degree relatives of listed natural persons, entities in which listed natural persons hold senior management positions, and entities controlled by or involved in the establishment and management of listed natural persons, as well as those who deal with them,” he added.

Amer quoted the HOCC chief as saying that the sanctions are “part of the legitimate right of the Republic of Yemen to respond to the war crimes committed by the American enemy against the Yemeni people, their infrastructure, and their resources.”

Since the onset of Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza, Yemeni forces have carried out scores of operations in support of the war-hit Gazans, striking targets throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, in addition to targeting Israeli ships or vessels heading towards ports in the occupied territories.

On Saturday, Yemeni forces carried out a fourth missile strike within a 24-hour period against Israeli-occupied territories, leading to the activation of air raid sirens across multiple locations.

In a statement, military spokesman Yahya Saree confirmed that Sanaa targeted an Israeli military position south of Tel Aviv in a retaliatory operation early Saturday morning.

The operation, the statement said, aimed to demonstrate support for the oppressed Palestinian people and condemn the ongoing genocide perpetrated by the Israeli regime with the backing of the United States.

The advanced “Palestine 2” hypersonic ballistic missile was used in the operation, which successfully reached its target as the enemy’s interception attempts failed, it added.

Saree asserted that Yemen will persist in providing support and backing for Gaza until the aggression and siege on the region come to an end.

According to Israeli sources, air raid sirens sounded across Al-Quds, Modi’in, and southern occupied territories in anticipation of incoming projectiles.

Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency service, reported a 26-year-old man sustained injuries while seeking shelter during the incident.

On Friday, the Yemeni forces “carried out a military operation targeting the Israeli enemy’s Ramat David Airbase”, near the occupied Haifa area, using a “Palestine-2” hypersonic ballistic missile.

Scores... (Continued From Page One)

In an attack on a tent for displaced people in the Asdaa area in the north, the Israeli regime killed a four-month-old child, Hassan Abd Toman.

It also took the life of a pregnant woman, Nadine Abu Lahia, during a drone attack that targeted the Abu Hajiras family home in Khan Younis.

The report said the death toll from a previous attack on the Zarab family home in the Batn al-Sameen area had climbed to four, while rescue teams were still searching the rubble.

In Rafah, rescue teams recovered a decomposing body from the beach.

In eastern Gaza City, emergency workers tried to recover bodies stuck under the rubble after a strike targeted the Shujaiya neighborhood.

Nine members of a family were confirmed dead, with the death toll expected to rise as more bodies were being dug from under the rubble.

Reports said an infant girl died of malnutrition and dehydration at Rantisi Hospital, west of Gaza City.

The child, identified as Janan Saleh al-Sakafi, was among at least 51 Palestinians who have died of malnutrition in Gaza, according to the Gaza Media Office.

Israel has imposed a total blockade on the strip since March 2, and halted the entry of all humanitarian aid, including food, medical supplies, and water.

UNICEF has warned that around 335,000 children under the age of five are at risk of dying from acute malnutrition.

Iran... (Continued From Page 2)

“A credible and durable agreement is within reach. All it takes is firm political will and a fair attitude.”

An adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Saturday negotiations not fulfilling Iran’s interests are futile.

Addressing a cultural event at the Shahed University of Tehran, Ali Larjani stressed the need for a realistic prospect for the talks between Iran and the U.S.

“Holding or not holding negotiations per se has no value, and the main criterion is the fulfillment of the national interests. If the talks do not result in the fulfillment of the interests, there will be no justification for proceeding with them,” he said.

“For instance, when the negotiations on the nuclear issue are beneficial, they must be carried out. But if they do not resolve any problem, it won’t be necessary to continue with the talks,” Larjani, a member of Iran’s Expediency Council, said.

Larjani said it is imperative to assess the situation and timing of the negotiations to analyze the situation and make a rational decision without insisting on accepting or rejecting the talks.

Decrying sanctions imposed on Iran, he said the Islamic Republic has never caved in to pressures, which is why the Western governments are attempting to force Iran to change its behavior through sanctions and pressures.

End... (Continued From Page 2)

residential areas and vital infrastructure in Yemen.

The spokesman expressed regret over the inaction of the United Nations and the UN Security Council in response to the U.S.’s blatant violation of international law.

He condemned Washington’s continued aggression against Yemen, along with the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the West Bank and the Zionist regime’s terrorist actions against Lebanon.

Baghaei said that the attacks are contributing to the increasing insecurity in the West Asian region.

They, he added, remind all countries in the region of the shared responsibility to confront the Zionist regime and the U.S.

Yemen’s Ansarullah movement also denounced the strike as a “brutal crime,” saying Washington is deliberately targeting civilians under the guise of military operations.

France’s... (Continued From Page 2)

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that Tehran and the European troika – the UK, France and Germany, the three European signatories to the JCPOA – will hold a meeting before a fourth round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States.

On Thursday, Araghchi said Tehran, together with Omani and U.S. interlocutors, had decided to postpone the fourth round of talks for logistical and technical reasons.

Murderer of Palestinian-American Boy Sentenced to 53 Years

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – An Illinois man was sentenced to 53 years in prison on Friday for the murder of a six-year-old Palestinian-American boy in an attack deemed an anti-Muslim hate crime linked to the Zionist regime’s aggression on Gaza.

Czuba was the family’s landlord and the attack took place a week after the start of the Zionist regime’s genocidal war in October 2023.

Wadea was stabbed 26 times and a serrated military knife with a 15-cm (six-inch) blade

was removed from the child’s abdomen during the autopsy.

Shaheen and Czuba’s now ex-wife, Mary, testified that he targeted the Muslim family after becoming agitated about the conflict in Gaza, media reported.

Prosecutors said Shaheen called police in 2023 after Czuba forced his way into her bedroom and stabbed her repeatedly. She was able to lock herself in a bathroom to call for help, during which time Czuba attacked her child.

“The cruelty of this morally

reprehensible killer and the impact of his violent conduct on this innocent child and mother is truly unfathomable,” prosecutor James Glasgow said in a statement.

Jurors deliberated for just over an hour before finding Czuba guilty of first-degree murder, attempted murder and two counts of a hate crime.

Judge Amy Bertani-Tomczak sentenced Czuba to 30 years in prison for Wadea’s murder, 20 years for the attack on his mother and three years for the hate crimes, to be served con-

secutively, the Chicago Sun Times reported.

During sentencing, the boy’s great-uncle Mahmoud Yousef asked Czuba why he did it but received no response, the newspaper said.

“We want to know what made him do this,” Yousef told the judge.

According to the Will County Sheriff’s Office, the victims were targeted “due to them being Muslim and the ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis.”

U.S. House Set to Vote on Bill of Fines, Prison for Boycott of Israel

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote on a controversial bill that proposes fines or prison terms for Americans participating in boycotts of Israel or Israeli settlements, promoted by international governmental organizations such as the UN or EU.

The House is scheduled to vote Monday on the contentious anti-boycott act, which seeks to penalize American citizens with fines up to \$1 million or prison terms as long as 20 years for boycotting the Israeli regime.

Sponsored by pro-Israel congressmen Mike Lawler and Josh Gottheimer, the bill will broaden the

U.S. anti-boycott law by targeting voluntary, values-based political actions undertaken by American citizens.

The underlying objective is to shield the Zionist regime from non-violent international pressure campaigns, notably the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS).

Rights groups warned that the legislation will criminalize constitutionally protected political expression.

The move, according to rights groups, is part of a broader push by the U.S. government to suppress opposition to Israeli genocide, apartheid, and illegal settlement ex-

pansion, under the guise of fighting anti-Semitism.

The original act was introduced in 2024. Back then the Republican-controlled Congress passed this bill with broad bipartisan support, but the Senate Democrats blocked the legislation.

Now that Republicans control the Senate as well, there is a significant chance that the act will pass both Congress and Senate.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the most powerful Israeli lobby group in the U.S., said it “strongly supports” the act.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) Action has al-

ready supported the legislation and broader congressional campaigns to push back against anti-Israeli boycotts.

The majority of anti-Israeli boycotts aim to force the regime to end its genocidal war on Gaza that has taken the lives of more than 52,500 Palestinians and injured at least 118,000, most of whom are children and women.

The Israeli regime has put Gaza on a total blockade for 2 months and barred the entry of all humanitarian aid, including food, which according to the UN’s Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), has driven the territory’s 2.3 million population toward famine.

Journalist Group Demands End to Zionist Crimes Against Media Workers in Gaza, West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate has demanded ending the Zionist regime’s systematic targeting of journalists in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, urging immediate international action to protect media freedom, Anadolu reports.

The group accused the occupying regime of carrying out “the most horrific media genocide in history” against Palestinian journalists in a statement to mark World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on May 3.

The syndicate reported that 210 Palestinian journalists have been killed in the last 17 months of the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza, with hundreds wounded or losing fam-

ily members, along with the destruction of media facilities and thousands of violations against media workers in the West Bank.

“Currently, 55 journalists remain detained in Israeli prisons out of 177 arrested since Oct. 7, 2023,” according to the statement.

The journalist body demanded the immediate release of all imprisoned journalists and international action to hold Zionist regime officials accountable for crimes against media personnel.

“The world celebrates press freedom while Palestine endures unprecedented attacks on journalism,” it read.

World Press Freedom Day was established by a UN General Assembly resolution in De-

cember 1993 to defend media independence worldwide.

This year’s commemoration comes amid what media freedom organizations describe as the deadliest period for journalists in modern history, with Palestinian reporters bearing the brunt of the casualties.

The occupying regime army renewed its assault on Gaza on March 18, shattering a Jan. 19 ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement with the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas.

More than 52,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in a brutal Israeli onslaught since October 2023, most of them women and children.