

Gaza Declared ‘Famine-Stricken Area’ as Israel Blocks Entry of Food, Aid

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa declared the Gaza Strip a “famine-stricken zone” on Wednesday, as the Zionist regime continued to block the entry of food and aid into the blockaded enclave. “We declare Gaza a famine-stricken area,” Mustafa told a press conference in the West Bank city of Ramallah. “We demand all UN member states take urgent action according to their obligations under international humanitarian law, and recognize this disaster and famine,” he said.

The Palestinian premier called on the international community to “implement UN resolutions that prohibit using starvation as a weapon of war.”

Mustafa also appealed to the entire UN system to “immediately activate its mechanisms and treat Gaza as a famine zone.”

Since March 2, the Zionist regime has kept Gaza’s crossings closed to



food, medical, and humanitarian aid, deepening an already humanitarian crisis in the enclave, according to government, human rights, and international reports.

Nearly 2.4 million people in Gaza live completely dependent on humanitarian aid, according to World Bank data.

Figures released by Gaza’s government media office showed that at least 57 Palestinians have died of

starvation since October 2023. More than 52,600 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza in a brutal Israeli onslaught since October 2023, most of them women and children.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants in November for Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against human-

ity in Gaza.

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

The UN human rights chief also on Wednesday warned Israel that the use of starvation of the civilians as a tool of war in Gaza is a “war crime.”

Commenting on the Israeli plans to expand its attacks on Gaza, Volker Turk said in a statement: “Expanding the offensive on Gaza will almost certainly cause further mass displacement, more deaths and injuries of innocent civilians, and the destruction of Gaza’s little remaining infrastructure.”

Underlining that people in Gaza have already been deprived of even the most basic necessities, including food, because of Israeli blockades and attacks on community kitchens, among other things, he warned: “Any use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of war constitutes a war crime.”

Hamas Commander Martyred in Zionist Strike on Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Dispatches) – Hamas said one of its commanders was martyred in an strike by the Zionist regime on the south Lebanon city of Sidon on Wednesday, the latest attack despite a ceasefire between the occupying regime and Hezbollah.

Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency said the dawn strike killed one person.

Hamas named him as Khaled Ahmed Al-Ahmed and said

he was on his way to pray. “As we mourn our heroic martyr, we pledge to God Almighty, and then to our people and our nation, to continue on the path of resistance,” the Palestinian resistance movement said in a statement.

The Israeli military confirmed that it killed Ahmed, adding that he was “the head of operations in Hamas’s Western Brigade in Leba-

non.”

It alleged he had been engaged in weapons smuggling and advancing “numerous” attacks against Israel.

The occupying regime has continued to launch regular strikes in Lebanon despite the November 27 truce which sought to halt more than a year of hostilities with Hezbollah including two months of full-blown war.

Under the deal, Hezbollah was to pull back its fighters north of Lebanon’s Litani River, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Israeli border, and dismantle any remaining military infrastructure to its south.

The occupying regime was to withdraw all its forces from Lebanon, but it has kept troops in five positions that it deems “strategic.”

Senior Tories Urge Palestinian Recognition in Letter to UK PM

LONDON (Dispatches) – A group of senior Conservative MPs and peers in the UK have broken ranks with their own party and called on the government to immediately recognize Palestine as a state.

In a letter to Prime Minister Keir Starmer drafted in late March, seven MPs and six House of Lords peers urged the government to give formal recognition to Palestine, The Guardian reported.

It comes ahead of critical UN talks on the issue next month.

The letter, seen by The Guardian, was authored just after the Zionist regime broke its tenuous peace agreement with Hamas in March.

The breakdown in negotiations and peace efforts worsened this week after the Israeli cabinet approved plans to “conquer” and oc-

cupy almost all of the Gaza Strip.

Former government minister Kit Malthouse, from the moderate wing of the opposition Conservative Party, organized the letter.

It said: “For decades, the Palestinian people have endured occupation, displacement and systemic restrictions on their basic freedoms.

“Recognizing Palestine would affirm our nation’s commitment to upholding the principles of justice, self-determination and equal rights. It would send a clear message that Britain stands against indefinite occupation and supports the Palestinian people’s legitimate aspirations.”

The letter was also signed by Conservatives associated with the right of the party, including John

Hayes and Desmond Swayne.

Most countries with UN membership formally recognize Palestine as a state, but the U.S. and the majority of European countries do not.

Saudi Arabia and France next month will host a conference to rally support for a solution to the conflict.

French President Emmanuel Macron has suggested that France could grant formal recognition to Palestine at the conference.

David Lammy, the British foreign secretary, said last week that the government was discussing its plans with France for the event in June.

Starmer is understood to not have replied to the Conservative letter.

Last year, David Cameron, the

former prime minister, said that he wanted Palestinian recognition as part of peace negotiations with the Zionist regime, and not as a reward for the reaching of a two-state solution.

The letter sent to Starmer added: “Recognition should not be treated as a distant bargaining chip but as a necessary step to reinforce international law and diplomacy. Prime minister, we stand ready to offer our public support for this decision.

“This is an opportunity for Britain to show leadership, to be on the right side of history and to uphold the principles we claim to champion. More than 140 UN member states have already recognized Palestine — it is time for the United Kingdom to do the same.”

Six European Nations Reject ‘Any Demographic or Territorial Change’ in Gaza

MADRID (Dispatches) – Six European countries said Wednesday that they “firmly reject any demographic or territorial change in Gaza” after the Zionist regime announced plans to expand its military aggression in the Palestinian territory.

The Zionist regime’s plan “would mark a new and dangerous escalation” in the war, the foreign ministers of Spain, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway and Slovenia said in a joint statement.

The regime has called up tens of thousands of reservists for the planned aggression, which comes after resumed Israeli attacks against Palestinians in March ended a two-month truce.

A military official with the Zionist regime has said the aggression would include the

“conquest” of Gaza, holding territory and moving the strip’s population south “for their protection.”

The foreign ministers, who apart from Luxembourg represent countries that have recognized a Palestinian state, said the plans would “cross another line” and “endanger any perspective of a viable solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

A military escalation would “worsen an already catastrophic situation” for Palestinian civilians and endanger the lives of captives held in Gaza, they added.

The ministers also asked the Zionist regime to “immediately lift the blockade” it has imposed on Gaza-bound humanitarian aid that has caused shortages of food, fuel and medicine and increased fears of famine.

“What is needed more urgently than ever is the resumption of the ceasefire and the unconditional release of all the captives,” they said.

The war started after Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel from Gaza on October 7, 2023 which resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Palestinian militants also abducted 251 people that day, of whom 58 are still held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel’s retaliatory military campaign has killed 52,653 people, mainly civilians, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

U.S. ... (Continued From Page One)

continue to target Israeli positions.

The agreement with the U.S. has “no connection with our stance on supporting Gaza”, Abdul-Salam said, adding “the support of Yemeni nation for Gaza will expand in a better way”.

The Ansarullah spokesman emphasized that the U.S. proposal showed its incompetence and failure, as the country was unable to protect Israeli ships.

Abdul-Salam said Yemen is still evaluating the U.S. position in a bid to ensure that it was not just a statement. “If the U.S. resumes its attacks, we will resume operations against Washington,” he said.

Washington had been waging a war against Yemen without congressional approval since January 2023, hoping to stop the pro-Palestine operations of the YAF.

Despite bombing the country thousands of times and deploying multiple carrier strike groups to West Asian waters, the U.S. was unable to deter YAF attacks and lost approximately two dozen advanced MQ-9 Reaper drones over the Arab world’s poorest country.

A Navy fighter jet failed to land on an aircraft carrier and plummeted into the Red Sea on Tuesday, marking the fourth major mishap involving the vessel and the third loss of a fighter jet deployed with it since the warship left home last year.

The F/A-18F Super Hornet jet, worth about \$67 million, went overboard after an unsuccessful attempt to slow it down upon landing on the USS Harry S. Truman, the Navy said in a statement.

A Pentagon spokesman, Sean Parnell, said in a statement late Tuesday that the Pentagon is monitoring the situation, and that the jet was not struck by Yemeni forces. An investigation is underway, and more information will be disclosed when the cause of the accident is identified, he said.

The latest incident, reported earlier by CNN, followed the loss of another jet, an F/A-18E, in an accident aboard the Truman last week in which the aircraft tumbled overboard after sailors aboard lost control of it while towing it in the ship’s hangar bay amid a missile strike on the warship by Yemen. A third fighter jet from the Truman was shot down accidentally over the Red Sea in December by another Navy warship, the USS Gettysburg, in an incident that triggered concerns about communication among warships and fighter jets in the region.

The Truman also was involved in a collision in the Mediterranean Sea in February, prompting the service to fire its commanding officer, Navy Capt. Dave Snowden. He was replaced by Navy Capt. Christopher Hill, who had just completed the deployment of another carrier, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The incidents have raised questions about the strain placed on the aircraft carrier’s crew and its ability to carry out a grueling deployment in which troops have clashed for months with Yemeni forces.

“We favor a diplomatic solution. We know that there is no military solution,” U.S. Special Envoy for Yemen Timothy Lenderking said last year.

Pentagon officials in recent months also raised concerns about the ballooning cost of the war and the rapid depletion of Washington’s long-range precision munitions.

On Tuesday, Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi said, “In the future, neither side will target the other, including American vessels, in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait, ensuring freedom of navigation and the smooth flow of international commercial shipping.”

Tehran welcomed the cessation of U.S. attacks against Yemen, urging the international community to take effective measures to halt Israel’s as-

saults on Yemen’s civilian infrastructure and the killing of innocent people.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said despite the halt in U.S. strikes, Washington remains complicit in crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the people of Yemen.

Baghaei praised the steadfastness of the Yemeni people in supporting Palestinians. He said the people of the region will never forget the legendary resistance of Yemenis against foreign intervention.

Dozens... (Continued From Page One)

in 1947 over Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both sides claim in full and control in part.

The Pakistan prime minister’s office said five Indian fighter jets and drones had been shot down, although this was not confirmed by India.

Local government sources in Indian Kashmir told Reuters three fighter jets had crashed in separate areas of the Himalayan region overnight and their pilots had been hospitalized.

The neighbors also exchanged intense shelling and heavy gunfire across the “line of control”, their de facto border in Kashmir, with 13 civilians killed and 43 wounded on the Indian side and at least six killed on the Pakistani side, officials there said.

The scale of the strikes went far beyond New Delhi’s response to previous attacks in Kashmir it has blamed on Pakistan.

“Given the scale of the Indian strike, which was far greater than what we saw in 2019, we can expect a sizable Pakistani response,” said Michael Kugelman, a Washington-based South Asia analyst and writer for the Foreign Policy magazine.

There were calls for restraint from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, China, which neighbors both India and Pakistan, and Russia and Iran as well as Britain, which agreed a free trade deal with India on Tuesday.

Several airlines cancelled flights in areas of India and Pakistan due to closures of airports and airspace. Pakistan later said its airspace was available and safe.

Nearly... (Continued From Page One)

showed the aftermath with men found dead, including one still seated in a chair inside a Thai restaurant, used by locals as a gathering spot, and several children lying motionless on the ground, covered in blood.

Journalist Yahya Sobeih, who freelanced for several local outlets, was among those killed, according to Gaza’s media office. He had shared a photo on Instagram of his newborn baby girl.

Victims of the blasts, some with severe injuries, were taken to nearby Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza health ministry spokesperson Zaher al-Wahidi said.

An attack Tuesday night on a school sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians killed 27 people, officials from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. The school has been struck repeatedly since the war began. Earlier, a strike on another school turned shelter in Gaza City killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes in other areas killed at least 16 others.

In Bureij, an urban refugee camp, paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out of a blaze after a large column of smoke and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter.

Since Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas in mid-March, it has unleashed fierce strikes on Gaza that have killed hundreds and captured swaths of territory. Before the truce ended, Israel halted all humanitarian aid into the territory, including food, fuel and water, setting off what is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis in 19 months of war.