

LATAKIA (Xinhua) – Massive wildfires breaking out on Wednesday in Syria have scorched more than 30 hectares of land in the countryside of the coastal province of Latakia, the Syrian Civil Defense said Sunday.

No injuries or damage to homes have been reported so far, and the cause of the wildfires has not been identified yet, it said.

According to the Civil Defense, strong winds, high temperatures, remnants of war, and difficult access remain key challenges for firefighting teams. Meanwhile, Ali Assi, head of administrative and technical units in Latakia, told Xinhua that intense heat and difficulties in gaining access to firefighting equipment and water sources due to steep terrain are hindering efforts to fully contain the wildfires.

Often inordinate desire to secure a single gain acts as a hindrance for the quest of many profitable pursuits.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Media: Israel Destroys Only Quarter of Hamas' Tunnels in Gaza

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's army has destroyed only around 25% of Hamas' underground tunnel network in Gaza since the start of the ongoing war, Israeli media reported on Sunday.

The public broadcaster KAN, citing Israeli military officials, said there is growing concern over alleged efforts by Hamas to reconstruct and expand its tunnel infrastructure in the enclave.

"Hamas continues to build new tunnels and expand existing ones," the officials claimed, citing difficulties in fully locating and destroying the extensive underground network.

According to KAN, the Zionist regime's chief of staff Eyal Zamir met on Friday with four recently released Israeli captives from



Zionist troops checking the entrance of a tunnel in central Gaza

Gaza, who told him that they could hear Israeli soldiers moving above them when they were underground.

KAN said the Israeli army has only destroyed a quarter of the tunnels, with military commanders worried about Hamas fighters

continuing to use the remaining network to ambush Israeli troops.

There was no comment from Hamas on the Israeli media report.

The Zionist regime's army has continued a brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip, killing more than 52,800 Palestinians since October 2023, mostly women and children.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants last November for Zionist prime minister Benjamin 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.

U.S. Students Launch Hunger Strike Thousands Rally in Madrid to Demand Spain Cut Ties With Israel



Pro-Palestinian demonstration in Madrid

MADRID (Dispatches) – Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched through central Madrid against the genocide in Gaza, criticizing what they called the "hypocrisy" and "double standards" of the Spanish and European Union authorities regarding the war between the Zionist regime and Hamas.

Ione Belarra, a member of Congress, stated, "It is the international community that is allowing this genocide to be perpetuated."

"If it were not for the fact that the United States and the European Union continue to sell, buy, and allow the transit of weapons through our countries, Netanyahu would not be able to do what he is doing," she added.

The same position was taken by Antonio Mailló, General Coordinator of the IU party, who stated that "the European Union cannot look the other way, it cannot have the double standard of criticizing war conflicts and taking a different position on Israel."

At the protest, demonstrators could be seen carrying placards reading "End the arms trade with Israel" and "Stop the complicity of the government and businesses."

There were also several large banners at the march, one of which read "Stop the genocide in Palestine, long live the struggle of the Palestinian people."

In another move, student groups across several American universities

have launched a coordinated hunger strike in solidarity with the people of Gaza, who are facing severe food shortages due to the Zionist regime's genocidal policies.

The student-led initiative also aims to draw attention to the Donald Trump administration's targeting of pro-Palestinian students advocating for human rights.

Students from Yale University and four California State universities—Long Beach, San Jose State, Sacramento State, and San Francisco State—have joined forces in a coordinated hunger strike.

The students also demand complete divestment from companies complicit in the occupying regime's genocidal actions, the severing of university ties with Israeli institutions, and the protection of free speech on campus.

At Yale, six Yalies4Palestine members, which include five undergraduates and one recent alum, aim to continue the hunger strike until the university meets its demands.

Their demands include divesting from weapons suppliers, not punishing student protesters, and ending partnerships that fund students to travel to the Palestinian land occupied by the Israeli forces.

The students said they would only consume water until Yale concedes to their list of demands.

Gaza Health Ministry: 1,500 Blind, 4,000 at Risk of Blindness Amid Shortage of Medicine

GAZA (Dispatches) – Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza has warned that around 1,500 citizens have lost their eyesight due to the war and another 4,000 are at risk of blindness because of severe shortages of medications and medical equipment.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health in a report on Sunday said that the eye care services in Gaza have been facing a catastrophic collapse because of the genocidal war.

"The health sector is witnessing a critical shortage of consumables and medical equipment for eye surgeries, which is leading to an almost total collapse of surgical services, particularly for retinal diseases and diabetic retinopathy with internal bleeding," said Dr. Abdel-salam Sabah, director of Gaza's Eye Hospital.

"The Eye Hospital currently has only 3 worn-out surgical scissors in use, which greatly increases risks to patients' lives and prevents effective treat-

ment," he added.

The majority of eye injuries are caused by shrapnel from ordnance explosions and need medical materials such as Healon and fine sutures, which are almost impossible to find in the Strip due to the blockade.

Unless immediate and urgent intervention is made by relevant bodies and international organizations, the Eye Hospital will be unable to provide any surgical services in the near future.

The siege has forced hospitals and medical centers in Gaza to ration medications such as painkillers, provide less effective treatment, or turn patients away. Hospitals and medical centers have run out of surgical supplies such as anesthetics, pediatric antibiotics, and medicines for chronic conditions.

Since March 18, when the Zionist regime broke its ceasefire agreement with Hamas, it has killed around 1,900 Palestinians and wounded several thousand more, most of whom are children and women.

Hamas Releases Video of Two Captives Thousands of Israelis Demand Captives' Release, End to Gaza War

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Thousands of Israelis rallied in central Tel Aviv, calling on the regime to end the war on Gaza and secure the immediate release of captives held in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that in Tel Aviv, the Captives and Missing Families Forum, an Israeli campaign group, held its weekly rally Saturday in "Captives Square", while another demonstration by families of captives is taking place outside the Israeli military headquarters.

A separate anti-regime protest also occurred at Habima Square in Tel Aviv.

The Times of Israel reported that Shai Mozes, whose parents were held captive and released in separate exchange deals, told the crowd at the protest

in Habima Square that Israel's "real enemy is not Hamas, but prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is destroying Israel."

Al Jazeera's Hamdah Salhut, reporting from Amman, Jordan, said that "family members of Israeli captives still held in Gaza say that Netanyahu is still prolonging the war for personal and political gain, and that he's the one who's not willing to compromise when it comes to any sort of cease fire deal".

"There are still 59 captives held in Gaza, 35 of whom Israeli officials say are confirmed dead, and 21 that are presumed alive, and three whose fate is still unknown", she said.

"Israeli officials say that they are going to be expanding their assault in Gaza and not heading toward any sort of cease-

fire deal just yet, saying that the best way to bring about the release of those captives is through military means, something that the family members of captives and the larger portion of Israeli society do not agree with" she said.

After Netanyahu announced an expanded aggression in the Gaza Strip on Monday, the Captives and Missing Families Forum criticized the move in a statement, saying the plan is "sacrificing" those still held in the Palestinian territory.

Haaretz also reported that protests were planned in other cities, including Al-Quds, Haifa, and Beersheba, as well as at dozens of other sites and intersections across the Israeli-occupied territories.

Hamas's armed wing released a video on Saturday show-

ing two Israeli captives alive in the Gaza Strip, with one of the two men calling to end the 19-month-long war.

The pair were identified as Elkana Bohbot and Yosef Haim Ohana, who were taken captive during Hamas's October 7, 2023 operation on Israel.

The undated three-minute video footage released by Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades shows one of the captives, 36-year-old Bohbot, visibly weak and lying on the floor wrapped in a blanket.

The second, Ohana, 24, speaks in Hebrew urging the Zionist regime to end the war in Gaza and secure the release of all remaining captives -- a similar message to statements made by other captives in previous videos released by Hamas.

Prospects of Saudi Ties to Israel Elusive as Trump Seeks \$1 Trillion Bonanza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – When U.S. President Donald Trump lands in Riyadh on Tuesday, he will be greeted with opulent ceremonies, gilded palaces and the prospect of \$1 trillion in investments. But, the raging war in Gaza has denied him one goal he has long craved: Saudi-Israel normalization.

Behind the scenes, U.S. officials are quietly pressing the Zionist regime to agree to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza - one of Saudi Arabia's preconditions for any re-start of normalization talks, said two Persian Gulf sources close to official circles and a U.S. official.

Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff told an audience at the Zionist regime's embassy in Washington this week that he imminently expected progress on expanding the so-called Abraham Accords, a set of deals brokered by Trump in his first term under which Arab states including the UAE, Bahrain, Su-

dan and Morocco normalized with the occupying regime.

"We think we will have some or a lot of announcements very, very shortly, which we hope will yield progress by next year," Witkoff said in a video of his speech. He is expected to accompany Trump on his visit to the Middle East.

However, opposition by Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to a permanent stop to the war or to the creation of a Palestinian state make progress on similar talks with Riyadh unlikely, two of the sources said.

Saudi Arabia does not recognize the Zionist regime as legitimate.

Establishing ties has become especially toxic for Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, since the start of the Zionist regime's war in Gaza.

As such, the issue, central to bilateral talks in Trump's first term, has effectively been de-

linked from economic and other security matters between Washington and the kingdom, according to six other sources Reuters spoke with for this story, including two Saudi and two U.S. officials. The people all asked to remain anonymous to speak about sensitive diplomatic conversations.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, needs the Gaza war to end and a credible path to a Palestinian state "before he re-engages with the issue of normalization," said Dennis Ross, a former U.S. negotiator.

In the meantime, Washington and Riyadh will focus Trump's trip largely on the economic partnership and other regional matters, according to the six sources. Lucrative investments such as major deals in arms, mega-projects and artificial intelligence are in play, officials from both sides stressed.