

Gaza-Bound Activist Convoy Reaches Libyan Capital

TRIPOLI (AFP) – Hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists in a Gaza-bound convoy reached the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Wednesday as they drive eastward in a bid to break the Zionist regime’s blockade of the Palestinian territory.

The Soumoud convoy -- meaning steadfastness in Arabic -- set off from Tunis in buses and cars on Monday, hoping to pass through divided Libya and Egypt, which organizers say has yet to provide passage permits, to reach Gaza.

It was launched the day the Zionist regime intercepted an aid ship also attempting to breach its blockade on Gaza, which was carrying 12 people, including campaigner Greta Thunberg and European parliament member Franco-Palestinian Rima Hassan.

The land convoy was welcomed by hundreds in Tripoli and escorted through the capital by police patrols.

Libya’s Tripoli-based Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah hailed the convoy as a “fraternal humanitarian initiative” that Libyans “em-



Activists, heading towards Gaza by land with the aim of breaking the siege on the Palestinian territory, are greeted by Libyans in Tripoli’s Martyrs Square.

braced in warmth and solidarity”. “This is another example of Libya’s commitment and generosity in support of the people of Gaza under siege and attack,” the premier said in a statement.

After 20 months of war, the Zionist regime is facing mounting international pressure to allow more aid into Gaza to alleviate widespread shortages of food and basic

supplies.

The United Nations has said the Palestinian territory was “the hungriest place on Earth”.

“This visit brings us joy,” said 45-year-old architect Alaa Abdel Razzaq among the crowd in downtown Tripoli welcoming the convoy.

Souhour al-Qatif said the gathering in the capital showed that “the

tears of the Libyan people are united with the convoy”.

“It’s a great feeling,” she added. “I feel like I’m not in Libya, but in Gaza, united with my Palestinian brothers.”

Organizers have said a dozen buses and around 100 other vehicles were part of the convoy, adding that they expected the number of participants to grow along the way.

Algerian, Mauritanian, Moroccan and Libyan activists were also among the Soumoud group, which is now set to cross eastern Libya, a region controlled by a different administration than Tripoli.

This has cast doubt on whether the activists would reach the border crossing with Egypt, which has yet to grant clearance for the activists to cross.

Convoy spokesman Ghassen Henchiri told Tunisian media on Wednesday discussions were ongoing with Egyptian authorities regarding a permit to cross, “but as of now, we haven’t received an official response.”

Hamas: Ben-Gvir Inciting ‘Religious War’ at Al-Aqsa Mosque

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has derided the latest incursion into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by the Zionist regime’s far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, saying that it is aimed at inciting a “religious war” at the holy site.

“The intrusion of the extremist Itamar Ben-Gvir, the so-called National Security Minister, into the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and his conducting of a provocative tour in its compound ... represents a blatant challenge and disregard for the feelings of Muslims

and for the sanctity and status of Al-Aqsa in the Islamic world,” Hamas said in a statement on Wednesday.

The movement stressed that the “repeated” violations confirm the arrogance of this extremist government and its insistence on fueling a religious war.”

“We warn against the increasing incursions by settlers and their performance of Talmudic rituals within the al-Aqsa compound,” the statement said.

Hamas vowed that the Palestinian people will continue to defend

the al-Aqsa Mosque and confront the Israeli plots to judaize and divide al-Aqsa.

The group also urged the free people in the Muslim and Arab nations to stand in support of al-Aqsa, amid the escalating incursions.

Earlier in the day, Ben-Gvir and a group of Israeli settlers stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East al-Quds and performed religious rituals in the courtyard.

Ben-Gvir has repeatedly stormed the compound of the third-holiest

site for Muslims since joining the Israeli cabinet in 2022.

Under an agreement signed between Israel and the Jordanian government in the wake of the regime’s occupation of al-Quds in 1967, non-Muslim worship at the holy compound is prohibited. But the ban is a mere phrase, and, in action, circumstances have been against Muslims.

The latest provocative acts by the Zionist regime came as the regime continues its bloody war machine in the Gaza Strip, killing more than 55,000 Palestinians.

UN: Israel Rejected 11 of 18 Humanitarian Coordination Requests in Gaza

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The UN says that the Zionist regime’s authorities have rejected 11 of its 18 humanitarian coordination requests in the Gaza Strip, as the humanitarian situation in the enclave continues to deteriorate, Anadolu reports.

“Israeli authorities continue to deny many humanitarian movements within the strip to provide whatever limited services are available to the population,” UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said at a news conference, adding that the

rejected requests included attempts to truck water, retrieve fuel, carry out a rescue mission in Khan Younis, and repair roads.

Citing the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Haq warned that more than two million people in Gaza are being denied basic necessities amid ongoing Israeli military aggression.

“In northern Gaza, Israeli military operations have intensified in recent days, with mass casual-

ties reported,” he said, noting that “hungry and displaced people have also reportedly been killed while risking their lives to access food at militarized distribution hubs.”

Since May 27, the Zionist regime has launched a new aid initiative in Gaza through the so-called “Gaza Relief Foundation,” supported by the U.S. and the Zionist regime, bypassing the UN. Many Palestinians see it as an effort to forcibly relocate people from northern to southern Gaza.

Meanwhile, the occupying regime has kept Gaza’s main crossings sealed since March 2, allowing only a limited number of trucks to enter. The enclave requires a minimum of 500 aid trucks per day to meet basic needs.

The Zionist regime’s army, rejecting international calls for a ceasefire, has pursued a brutal aggression against Gaza since October 2023, killing over 55,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

Zionist Troops Kill Islamic Jihad Commander, Abduct His Body in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s special forces have shot dead a high-profile commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement during a raid on the West Bank, amid the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian media outlets reported that the Israeli forces stormed the town of Tammun late on Tuesday, on board a civilian vehicle with Palestinian license plates, and were escorted by military reinforcements.

They fatally shot the 47-year-old Raiq Abdul Rahman Sadiq Basharat.

Local sources said Israeli soldiers then broke into a number of local residents’ homes and violently ransacked them, as a military helicopter and several reconnaissance drones flew overhead.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society

(PRCS) said that Israeli forces prevented their ambulance crew members from approaching the injured man, and fired live rounds at them. A paramedic suffered gunshot injuries as a result.

Israeli special forces then took away the body of Basharat, a former prisoner, to an unknown location.

In a related development, two young Palestinian men were shot and killed, when Israeli occupation forces opened fire at local residents in Nablus.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the victims as brothers Nidal and Khaled Mahdi Ahmed Amira, 40 and 35 respectively.

The official Palestinian Wafa news agency said Israeli occupation forces prevented ambulance crews from reaching them.

The Palestinian youths’ bodies were later seized by Israeli forces.

Israel has ramped up its aggression against Palestinians across the West Bank since October 7, 2023, when it launched its atrocious military campaign against the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and thousands of others injured by Israeli settlers or troops across the occupied territory since the onset of the war.

More than 700,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East al-Quds.

The international community views the settlements as illegal under international law and the Geneva Conventions due to their construction on the occupied territories.

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

Trump, voted back into office last year largely for his promise to deport undocumented immigrants, used a speech honoring soldiers on Tuesday to defend his decision.

He told troops at the army base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina: “Generations of army heroes did not shed their blood on distant shores only to watch our country be destroyed by invasion and third-world lawlessness.”

“What you’re witnessing in California is a full-blown assault on peace, on public order and on national sovereignty, carried out by rioters bearing foreign flags,” Trump said, adding his administration would “liberate Los Angeles.”

Demonstrators have waved the flags of Mexico and other countries in solidarity for the migrants rounded up in a series of intensifying raids.

Homeland Security said on Monday its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division had arrested 2,000 immigration offenders per day recently, far above the 311 daily average in fiscal year 2024 under former President Joe Biden.

Protests have also taken place in other cities including New York, Atlanta and Chicago, where demonstrators shouted at and scuffled with officers. Some protesters climbed onto the Picasso sculpture in Daley Plaza, while others chanted that ICE should be abolished.

Texas Governor Abbott said late on Tuesday that he will deploy the National Guard, which “will use every tool & strategy to help law enforcement maintain order.”

“Texas National Guard will be deployed to locations across the state to ensure peace & order. Peaceful protest is legal.

Harming a person or property is illegal & will lead to arrest,” Abbott posted on X.

South Texas organizations are expected to hold anti-ICE rallies on Wednesday and Saturday, CNN reported local media as saying.

About 700 Marines were in a staging area in the Seal Beach area about 30 miles (50 km) south of Los Angeles on Tuesday, awaiting deployment to specific locations, a U.S. official said.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta told Reuters the state was concerned about allowing federal troops to protect personnel, saying there was a risk that could violate an 1878 law that generally forbids the U.S. military, including the National Guard, from taking part in civilian law enforcement.

“Protecting personnel likely means accompanying ICE agents into communities and neighborhoods, and protecting functions could mean protecting the ICE function of enforcing the immigration law,” Bonta said.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Tuesday posted photos on X of National Guard troops accompanying ICE officers on an immigration raid. Trump administration officials have vowed to redouble the immigration raids in response to the street protests.

The last time the military was used for direct police action under the Insurrection Act was in 1992, when the California governor at the time asked President George H.W. Bush to help respond to Los Angeles riots over the acquittal of police officers who beat Black motorist Rodney King.

Pezeshkian ... (Continued From Page One)

Pezeshkian also noted that the

lack of a united Muslim stance against the Israeli crimes has emboldened the regime to continue its actions.

“What we seek is to strengthen convergence, brotherhood, and good neighborliness in the Islamic world, and to achieve a common perspective and stance regarding regional and international issues, including the Palestinian issue,” he said.

Iran’s ... (Continued From Page One)

Najafi emphasized that Iran’s nuclear activities—including uranium enrichment and stockpiling—remain entirely peaceful, are subject to IAEA safeguards verifications, and are aligned with Iran’s indisputable rights under the NPT.

Najafi reiterated that as a signatory to the NPT, Iran reserves the right to research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including uranium enrichment. Regardless of the scale of these activities, they cannot be deemed a serious concern, as all operations remain under the supervision of the IAEA, he added.

Furthermore, the envoy stressed that Iran remains committed to the NPT and has no intention of acquiring nuclear weapons, citing strategic calculations and a religious decree by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution banning such weapons.

Najafi emphasized that Iran has fulfilled its nuclear obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal and has even cooperated beyond the framework of the Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

“Since the E3 has seriously violated Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA, they are neither in a moral nor legal position to activate the snapback mechanism,” Najafi said, warning of serious consequences should the UN Security Council impose new sanctions.

E3 consists of Britain, France, and Germany. The JCPOA stands for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action which E3 signed along with the U.S., China and Russia with Iran.

“If such a scenario unfolds, Iran’s options will be firm, and the United States and the E3 will bear full responsibility,” he said.

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Board of Governors towards strengthening the path of dialogue and interaction.”

Iwaya welcomed the continuation of negotiations between Iran and the U.S., stressing the Islamic Republic’s legitimate right to enjoy nuclear energy for peaceful activities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei announced on Tuesday that Tehran has prepared a raft of proportionate measures to be taken if the IAEA adopts an anti-Iranian resolution.

IAEA... (Continued From Page 2)

no activity is carried out without the agency’s supervision and inspection.

In its latest report, the IAEA claimed that Iran has sharply increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 60 percent.

Iran has denounced as “political” and unbalanced the report by the United Nations nuclear agency, which it said has been drafted under European pressure.