

MADRID (Dispatches) – The Spanish parliament has decided to accelerate the passage of an arms embargo bill against the Zionist regime, according to media reports, Anadolu Agency said. The Sumar, Podemos, Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), Basque EH Bildu and the Galician Nationalist Bloc (BNG) parties submitted a petition to the Congressional Bureau demanding the urgent procession of the bill, said the El Mundo newspaper. The request, also supported by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's Socialist Party, was approved, halving the timeline and accelerating the process. It came after parliament passed a non-binding motion on May 20 that urged the government to impose an arms embargo on Israel in response to its military operations in the Gaza Strip.

UNRWA Chief on Persian Gulf Deals With Trump:

# I Wish Trickle of Those Trillions Went to Palestinians

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) has urged Persian Gulf states to give a fraction of the money mentioned in U.S. President Donald Trump's 'mega deals' to Palestinian refugees struggling to survive in the occupied Palestinian territories and neighboring countries.

Philippe Lazzarini told Middle East Eye that UNRWA, the largest humanitarian provider for approximately six million Palestinian refugees, is currently operating with a "negative cash flow," and the shortage of funds may force him to take "a difficult decision" as U.S. funding remains suspended.

"We are confronted with a very severe financial crisis, which, if it persists in the near future, will force me to take a difficult and painful decision," he told MEE's upcoming episode of Expert Witness podcast.

"Because if we have no resources, we cannot pay the staff. We



Palestinian students at an UNRWA school in Shuafat, Al-Quds on 6 May 2025.

might be confronted with a situation where the money is not available any more, even to process our salaries. And if that is the case, the agency will be forced to look at what services among the critical services are more critical than others."

UNRWA, whose staff members are mostly Palestinian refugees,

has been at the receiving end of Israeli attacks since the beginning of the Zionist regime's war on Gaza in October 2023. At least 310 of its employees have been killed by the Israeli army over the past 19 months and over 80 percent of its premises have been destroyed.

In January last year, 18 states suspended their funding to UNRWA

pending investigations into alleged Hamas links. However, by July, all states except for the U.S. reinstated their funding after a UN inquiry found no evidence of wrongdoing by UNRWA staff.

So far, no country has stepped in to compensate the agency for the lack of U.S. funding, said Lazzarini.

He called on Persian Gulf states to dedicate more funding for UNRWA, saying he wished the multi-billion dollar deals with Donald Trump in his latest Persian Gulf tour included pledges for Palestinian refugees.

Trump's Middle East trip, which included stops in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), resulted in deals worth over \$700bn, with the White House claiming that \$2 trillion worth of deals have been agreed.

"I wish a trickle of all these trillions of dollars committed would also come for the Palestinian refugees," Lazzarini told MEE.

## Paris Fountain Turns Red to Denounce Gaza 'Bloodbath'

### France Lobbying European Powers to Recognize Palestinian State

PARIS (Dispatches) – France is pushing for other European powers, including the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands, to recognize Palestinian statehood at a UN conference next month.

A French diplomat told Politico on condition of anonymity that President Emmanuel Macron was hoping the announcement at the conference could help restart peace talks between the Palestinians and the Zionist regime.

"The solution is more necessary than ever but it has been more undermined than ever due to the war, the displacement [of Palestinians] and the violence of extremist settlers," said the diplomat.

He said that Macron had hoped the recognition of Palestine at

the conference, which will be co-hosted by Saudi Arabia, could be complemented by a number of Arab states recognizing the Zionist regime.

However, another European diplomat told Politico that at this stage the Arab states wanted "sanctions not statehood".

Some 147 of 193 UN member states currently recognize the State of Palestine. European states Spain, Ireland and Norway agreed to recognition last year.

French activists dyed a Paris fountain red Wednesday to symbolize the "bloodbath" of Palestinians in Gaza.

Activists from Oxfam and Amnesty International poured dye into the Fontaine des Innocents

in the heart of the French capital, while others held placards saying "Cease fire" and "Gaza: stop the bloodbath."

"This operation aims to denounce France's slow response to an absolute humanitarian emergency facing the people of Gaza today," the activists, which included the French branch of Greenpeace, said in a joint statement.

"France cannot limit itself to mere verbal condemnations," said former minister Cecile Duflot, executive director of Oxfam France.

Clemence Lagouardat, who helped coordinate Oxfam's humanitarian response in Gaza, denounced the Israeli blockade of

the besieged territory.

"The people in Gaza need everything, it's a matter of survival," she told AFP.

"There is a genocide going on and political inaction is becoming a kind of complicity in this genocide," said Jean-Francois Julliard, head of Greenpeace France.

"We call on (President) Emmanuel Macron to act with courage, clarity and determination to put an end to this bloodshed."

The activists urged states "with influence over Israel" to press for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, an arms embargo on Israel, the revision of a cooperation agreement between the EU and the Zionist regime and other measures.

## Some 380 UK, Ireland Writers Denounce Gaza 'Genocide'



Women sit together in mourning by the shrouded bodies of victims killed in Israeli bombardment as they lie on the floor at the Ahli Arab hospital, also known as the Baptist hospital, in Gaza City on March 18, 2025.

LONDON (Dispatches) – Nearly 380 writers from the UK and Ireland, including Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan, penned an open letter Wednesday denouncing the Zionist regime's "genocide" in Gaza and urging a ceasefire.

The letter called on "our nations and the peoples of the world to join us in ending our collective silence and inaction in the face of horror," they wrote in a letter published on the Medium website.

"The use of the words 'genocide' or 'acts of genocide' to describe what is happening in Gaza is no longer debated by international legal experts or human rights organizations," the letter continued.

The Zionist regime has repeatedly denied all accusations of genocide in its genocidal campaign in the Gaza Strip.

The letter comes a day after 300 French-language writers, including Nobel Literature prize winners Annie Ernaux and Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio, signed a similar statement condemning "genocide".

"Palestinians are not the abstract victims of an abstract war. Too often, words have been used to justify the unjustifiable, deny the undeniable, defend the indefensible," the British and Irish writ-

ers said.

The writers, including novelist Elif Shafak and playwright Hanif Kureishi as well as the Scottish and Welsh writers PEN clubs, called for a ceasefire, the "immediate distribution of food and medical aid" in Gaza and sanctions on the Zionist regime.

International condemnation has grown over the occupying regime's humanitarian aid blockade and relentless strikes after it ended a ceasefire in March and intensified military aggression this month.

"This is not only about our common humanity and all human rights; this is about our moral fitness as the writers of our time," the writers said.

On Monday over 800 UK-based legal experts, including former Supreme Court justices, wrote to Prime Minister Keir Starmer saying: "Genocide is being perpetrated in Gaza or, at a minimum, there is a serious risk of genocide occurring.

"Serious violations of international law are being committed and are further threatened by Israel," the lawyers said, adding the UK is "legally obliged to take all reasonable steps within their power to prevent and punish genocide."

## Rights Group: Over 17,000 Detained by Israeli Army Since Gaza War

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's army has detained more than 17,000 Palestinians since October 2023, a prisoners' affairs group said on Wednesday.

"The detainees included 537 women and 1,360 children, who were taken into Israeli custody in the West Bank and (Arab towns) inside Israel," the Palestinian Prisoner Society said in a statement.

The figure does not include those arrested from the Gaza Strip, whose numbers are estimated to be in the thousands.

The rights group said that scores of Palestinian women were arrested in Gaza, without giving an exact figure.

According to the group, at least 70 Palestinians have died in the Zionist regime's prisons, including 44 from Gaza, since October 2023.

According to the only available data provided by the Israeli au-

thorities, around 1,846 Palestinians from Gaza were arrested and held in Israeli prisons and military camps.

The rights group estimated that the number of Palestinian detainees reached over 10,100, including more than 400 children and 45 women.

The Israeli army, rejecting international calls for a ceasefire, has pursued a brutal aggression against Gaza since October 2023, killing over 54,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants 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 crimes against civilians in the enclave.

Forces Raid Currency Exchange Shops

## Zionist Troops Kill Palestinian Sleeping at Home in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops shot dead a 20-year-old Palestinian man while he slept in his home in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday.

Jassem al-Sadda was killed in the village of Jit, east of Qalqilya, according to medical workers who confirmed his death.

His family said soldiers opened fire on him without warning and prevented ambulance crews from reaching him.

A wave of grief and shock swept through the village as hundreds gathered at the family home to witness the aftermath of the raid, including the bloodstains that covered the floor of Sadda's room.

His mother, Haifa al-Sadda, told Middle East Eye that at around 1am, dozens of soldiers stormed the house without knocking. They immediately broke down the door and entered.

"They rushed straight to Jassem's room, where he was asleep, and shot him four times without any warning," she said. "He was left bleeding, and no one was allowed to approach him."

Haifa added that the soldiers "jumped over the wall surrounding the house, stormed in, and killed Jassem. They then prevented us from seeing or reaching him before vandalising the adjacent room."

After confirming his death, the soldiers carried Jassem's body and handed it over to a Palestinian ambulance crew. His room remained stained with his blood.

A day earlier, Zionist occupation forces raided several currency exchange shops in the cities of Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, Qalqilya, and Tubas, Ramallah, Al-Khalil, and Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.

Witnesses indicated that Zionist troops carried out searches and vandalism inside these shops.

Israeli Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper claimed the Israeli army raids targeted funds intended to finance attacks against Israelis.

According to the newspaper, during the raids; the army confiscated "terror- funds", arrested shop owners, and closed them by military order.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority did not im-

mediately comment on the Israeli campaign.

For its part, the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, condemned the Israeli escalation in the occupied West Bank and its targeting of Palestinian economic companies, considering it "an open war against the foundations of Palestinian steadfastness and perseverance on their land".

The statement considered the Israeli attack on money exchange shops and the confiscation of their contents an extension of the piracy policies pursued by the Israeli occupation government, as part of its "grand colonial plan based on annexation and displacement".

It called on the Palestinian Authority to shoulder its responsibilities and take effective measures to confront the occupation's aggression against the Palestinian economy.

It also called for urgent international human rights and humanitarian action to form a political and legal front to pressure the Israeli occupation to halt its crimes and hold it accountable for its piracy of our people's funds and its ongoing violations of our land and resources.