

Largest Hospital Forced to End Dialysis Services

Palestine Warns of ‘New Disaster’ as Meningitis Spreads Rapidly Among Gaza Children



A patient receives treatment at al-Shifa hospital’s dialysis center in Gaza City on 11 June 2024.

GAZA (Dispatches) – The Hamas movement issued a stark warning over the escalating spread of meningitis among children in the Gaza Strip, calling it the latest chapter in an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe fueled by the Zionist regime’s ongoing genocide and the complete collapse of the health system.

In a statement, the resistance movement said that hundreds of new meningitis cases have been reported in recent days, signaling an alarming public health crisis that threatens the lives of thousands of children already weakened by malnutrition, famine, and a lack of access to medical care, the Pal-

estinian Information Center reported.

“The spread of meningitis among Gaza’s children is a harbinger of a new disaster,” the statement read. “This comes as famine deepens, baby formula becomes nearly impossible to find, and cases of malnutrition rise due to the suffocating siege and relentless attacks by the fascist occupation army,” it added.

Hamas called on the international community, the United Nations, and its agencies — particularly the World Health Organization (WHO) — to intervene immediately to protect Gaza’s children and end the deadly siege. The

statement emphasized that supplying medical resources and child care necessities is not only a humanitarian duty but also a legal and moral obligation that can no longer be ignored.

Since October 7, 2023, Zionist troops— with unconditional support from the United States — have waged a war of genocide in Gaza that has killed or wounded over 190,000 Palestinians, the majority of them women and children. More than 11,000 remain missing, many buried under rubble.

Gaza’s health infrastructure has been systematically destroyed, leaving hospitals without electricity, equipment,

or staff. The siege has also cut off access to clean water and food, triggering a famine that has claimed the lives of dozens of children and elderly people.

With more than two million Palestinians displaced and entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble, the Gaza Strip now faces one of the worst humanitarian disasters in modern history, according to rights groups and UN officials.

At least 350 kidney failure patients in Gaza face imminent death as the Strip’s largest medical complex announced a halt to dialysis sessions due to fuel shortages.

On Tuesday morning, the head of al-Shifa Complex in Gaza City announced that the dialysis ward would completely shut down by noon, as fuel needed to operate the generators had run out.

“This is happening for the first time since the beginning of the war on Gaza,” Dr Muhammad Abu Hassira, a specialist in internal medicine and nephrology at al-Shifa Medical Complex, told Middle East Eye.

“During the worst periods of the war, the dialysis unit was forced to suspend operations multiple times for several days due to Israeli raids on the hospital. Today, the hospital is still partially functioning, but we simply cannot run the dialysis machines because there is no fuel.”

Dr Abu Hassira confirmed that the dialysis ward had completely shut down earlier in the day, with the small amount of remaining fuel running a single generator reserved exclusively for the intensive care unit.

Swiss Authorities Launch Proceedings to Shut Branch of U.S.-Backed Gaza Aid Group

GENEVA (Dispatches) – A U.S.- and Israel-backed group handing out food in Gaza under an aid system denounced by the United Nations said on Wednesday it was planning to shut its branch in Geneva, after Swiss authorities launched proceedings to dissolve it.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed trying to receive aid since the GHF began handing out food packages in Gaza at the end of May, under a system which the Zionist regime says is intended to prevent aid from being diverted to militants but the UN calls a dangerous violation of human-

itarian neutrality principles.

The Swiss Federal Supervisory Authority for Foundations (ESA) said in a notice published in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce on Wednesday that it could order the dissolution of the GHF unless creditors come forward within 30 days.

The U.S.-registered GHF had registered an affiliate on February 12 in Geneva, home to headquarters for most UN humanitarian agencies, the Red Cross and many of the other charities involved in global aid distribution.

The GHF told Reuters it had

made a strategic decision not to start operations in Switzerland, and was now working to dissolve its Swiss-based entity.

The ESA told Reuters the GHF had not fulfilled certain legal requirements to operate in Switzerland, including having the correct number of board members, a postal address or a Swiss bank account.

“GHF confirmed to the ESA that it had never carried out activities in Switzerland...and that it intends to dissolve the Geneva-registered (branch),” the ESA said in a statement.

Last week, Geneva authorities issued a separate legal no-

tice to the GHF to remedy deficiencies within 30 days or face potential action.

More than 500 people have been killed near GHF distribution hubs in Gaza or along access roads guarded by Zionist troops since the GHF started operating, according to Palestinian medical authorities in the territory.

The Zionist regime’s military acknowledged on Monday that Palestinian civilians had been harmed near the distribution centers and said its forces had been issued new instructions following what it called “lessons learned”.

Fuel Tanker Explosion Kills 7 in Central Syria

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – At least seven people were killed and several others injured on Wednesday in a fuel tanker explosion in the town of Jibrin in Syria’s central Hama province, state media reported.

The explosion, which occurred when a fuel tanker caught fire, resulted in the deaths of civilians and

left an undetermined number of others injured, Syrian broadcaster al-Ikhbariya reported.

Emergency response teams, including civil defense and ambulance units, rushed to the scene to assist with the rescue operations and extinguish the blaze.

No immediate cause was given for

the fire that triggered the blast. Authorities are investigating the incident.

Separately, a series of explosions were reported near the town of al-Fu’ah in Syria’s northwestern Idlib province, reportedly caused by the detonation of an ammunition depot due to high summer temperatures,

al-Ikhbariya said in a separate report.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the Idlib blasts.

Both areas have witnessed varying degrees of instability throughout Syria’s years-long conflict, though it remains unclear whether Wednesday’s incidents were linked to military activity.

Afghan Ministry Signs MoU to Assist Returnees, Poor

KABUL (Xinhua) – The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a local aid agency to assist returnees, displaced people, and needy families, the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

According to the MoU, over 952,000 U.S. dollars will be raised to benefit 210,140 peo-

ple, the statement said.

The agency will distribute foodstuffs and implement public utility projects in the provinces of Kabul, Kapisa, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Logar, Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Herat, Farah, Badghis, and Ghor.

The Afghan interim government has called

on local and international organizations to invest in the country to address its economic hardship and create jobs.

As per the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, a record 28.3 million people currently depend on humanitarian and protection assistance in Afghanistan, up from 24.4 million in 2022 and 18.4 million in 2021.

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amplifying the daily bombardment of areas already under siege.

At least 45 more Palestinians were killed and scores injured as the Israeli military escalated its attacks on civilians across the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, medics said.

A medical source told Anadolu that the Israeli military shelled civilians seeking to obtain aid on Salah al-Din Street, near the Netzarim Corridor in central Gaza, killing 10 Palestinians and injuring over 50.

Five others waiting for the aid in western Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip were killed by Israeli army fire, the source said.

Two Palestinians were killed and others injured in an Israeli strike that targeted a home in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes also hit three tents sheltering displaced Palestinians, killing 12 people.

Three others were killed after Israel shelled a group of civilians in central Khan Yunis. The bodies of two Palestinians were also retrieved from the rubble in eastern areas of the city.

In the central city of Deir al-Balah, the Israeli military targeted a group of civilians, resulting in the death of five people.

Five more Palestinians lost their lives, and others were injured in Israeli strikes in Gaza City, medics said.

Meanwhile, eight people were injured when Israeli jets struck a residential building in the Al-Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza City.

Gaza’s Health Ministry also said that the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Sultan, was killed, along with some of his family members, after Israeli warplanes hit his house in Gaza City.

The hospital is the Palestinian enclave’s largest medical facility north of Gaza City and has been a critical lifeline since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

The hospital was surrounded by Israeli troops last month, and evacuated alongside the other two primary hospitals in northern Gaza.

The bodies of the doctor, his wife, daughter and son-in-law, arrived at Shifa Hospital torn into pieces, according to Issam Nabhan, head of the nursing department at the Indonesian Hospital.

“Gaza lost a great man and doctor,” Nabhan said. “He never left the hospital one moment since the war began and urged us to stay and provide humanitarian assistance. We don’t know what he did to deserve getting killed.”

Despite international calls for a ceasefire, the Israeli military has pursued a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, killing more than 57,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children, since October 2023.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Israel has agreed to “the necessary conditions” to finalize a 60-day ceasefire in the enclave, urging the Palestinian resistance group Hamas to accept the proposal.

Hamas insisted on its longstanding position that any deal bring an end to the war on Gaza.

Trump said the 60-day period would be used to work toward ending the war — something Israel says it won’t accept until Hamas is defeated. He said that a deal might come together as soon as next week.

But Israel’s defiance raised questions about whether the latest offer could materialize into an actual pause in fighting.

Hamas official Taher al-Nunu said that the group was “ready and serious regarding reaching an agreement.” He said Hamas was “ready to accept any initiative that clearly leads to the complete end to the war.”

A Hamas delegation was expected to meet with Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Cairo on Wednesday to discuss the proposal, according to an Egyptian official.

Throughout the nearly 21-month-long war, ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over whether the war should end as part of any deal.

Hamas said in a brief statement Wednesday that it had received a proposal from the mediators and is holding talks with them to “bridge gaps” to return to the negotiating table to try to reach a ceasefire agreement.

Hamas has said that it’s willing to free the remaining 50 captives, less than half of whom are said to be alive, in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and an end to the war.

Gaza’s Health Ministry said the death toll passed the 57,000 mark Tuesday into Wednesday, after hospitals received 142 bodies overnight.

The Israeli war has left the coastal Palestinian territory in ruins, with much of the urban landscape flattened in the fighting. More than 90% of Gaza’s 2.3 million population has been displaced, often multiple times. And the war has sparked a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, pushing hundreds of thousands of people toward hunger.

Last November, the International Crimi-

nal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

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

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on Syria, citing the “positive actions” of the new regime under Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, formerly the leader of Al-Qaeda’s Syrian branch. Conditions reportedly included normalization with Israel and the expulsion of Palestinian factions.

According to Israel’s Channel 12, an imminent Israeli-Syrian security agreement is expected to include several key components: an update to the 1974 disengagement agreement signed following the 1973 October War and intelligence coordination between Syria and Israel.

The Israeli military’s chief of staff Eyal Zamir “conducted a field tour” of the occupied Syrian territory, the military wrote on X Tuesday.

Zamir conducted a field tour and situation assessment today on Syrian soil, it said.

The normalization negotiations are said to include the Syrian side’s concession to Israel’s permanent rule over the occupied Golan Heights, a strategic plateau at the southwest corner of Syria that has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War.

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“The Islamic Republic of Iran does not accept human rights recommendations from these countries due to their hypocrisy,” he added, referring to Western nations that have been largely silent on Israel’s actions.

The Iranian ambassador also reiterated Iran’s right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, stating that Tehran would not wait for external support to protect its sovereignty. “We will stand against the Zionist regime’s aggression,” Bahreini declared.

The conflict began when Israel launched a series of unprovoked airstrikes on June 13, martyring senior Iranian military commanders and nuclear scientists and targeting nuclear and military facilities. In retaliation, Iran’s military launched over 500 ballistic missiles and 1,100 drones at Israeli-occupied territories, dealing heavy blows to the regime.

On June 22, the United States joined the Israeli assault, bombing three Iranian nuclear sites, a move that Tehran described as a breach of the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The 12-day conflict ended when Israel, suffering heavy losses, agreed to a ceasefire brokered by the United States.

Bahreini called on the UN Security Council to strongly condemn the actions of both Israel and the U.S., for violating Iran’s sovereignty. He also proposed the establishment of a commission to investigate the role of countries that support Israel in committing war crimes.

Iran has further demanded that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issue a formal condemnation of the attacks and call for accountability from Israel and the U.S. for their role in destabilizing the region and endangering global peace.

The escalation of violence has sparked concerns about the long-term stability of West Asia and the potential for wider international repercussions. Both military and diplomatic efforts will be critical in addressing the growing tensions.

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sustainable development goals, especially in the energy sector.

Iran has long been subjected to heavy U.S. and European Union sanctions, largely due to its nuclear program. While the sanctions have created economic challenges, Iran has used them to push for greater self-sufficiency and innovation in domestic industries.

In a statement, Iran criticized the latest round of U.S. sanctions, describing them as a reflection of Washington’s “hostility” toward the country. Despite these challenges, Iran has focused on advancing its high-tech industries and reducing its reliance on foreign assistance.

The statement concluded by urging UNIDO member states to reject unilateral sanctions and take strong action to defend the sovereignty of nations. The signatories called for a collective response to counter these “destructive” measures and to uphold the principles of international law.

As the debate over unilateral sanctions intensifies, Iran and its allies continue to advocate for multilateral solutions to address global challenges and promote sustainable development.