

Thousands of Protesters in Tel Aviv Demand Release of Captives in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Thousands of Israelis demonstrated Saturday in Tel Aviv, demanding the return of captives from the Gaza Strip as part of a “comprehensive agreement” with Hamas.

The Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper reported that protesters called for a “comprehensive and not selective deal” that would lead to the release of all detainees in the besieged enclave, alive or deceased. Several family members of the captives participated in the protest, chanting slogans that dismissed any partial deal that might limit the release to a small number, according to the daily.

A number of relatives also gave speeches, urging pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu’s regime to expedite the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement without delay.

The Zionist regime claimed that Hamas made “unacceptable” changes to a Qatari proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

“The changes that Hamas is seeking to make in the Qatari proposal were conveyed to us last night and are unacceptable to Israel,” Netanyahu’s office said in a



Thousands protest in Tel Aviv against the regime to demand the return of captives held in Gaza.

statement.

“In light of an assessment of the situation, prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has directed that the invitation to proximity talks be accepted and that the contacts for the return of our captives – on the basis of the Qatari proposal that Israel has agreed to – be continued,” it added.

The statement noted that the negotiation team will leave Sunday for Qatar to hold talks.

Hamas announced late Friday it

submitted its response to mediators regarding the proposal after completing internal consultations with Palestinian factions and forces.

The Palestinian resistance group described the response to the proposal as “positive” and confirmed its “serious readiness to immediately enter a round of negotiations on the mechanism for implementing” the proposal.

Mediators are optimistic about bridging the gaps between the two sides, paving the way for an

agreement.

Netanyahu is scheduled to leave for Washington early Sunday to meet U.S. President Donald Trump, according to Haaretz.

Tel Aviv estimates that there are 50 captives, 20 of whom are held captive in Gaza. More than 10,400 Palestinian prisoners are held in Israeli jails, subjected to torture, starvation and medical neglect, which has resulted in many deaths, according to Palestinian and Israeli human rights and media reports.

Despite international calls for a ceasefire, the Zionist regime has pursued a genocidal war against the coastal enclave, killing more than 57,300 Palestinians, most of them women and children, since October 2023.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants last November for Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the blockaded territory.

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

Supporters of Palestine Action, Including 83-Year-Old Priest, Arrested in London

LONDON (Dispatches) – An 83-year-old retired priest has been arrested for defying a newly enforced ban on pro-Palestinian group Palestine Action, just hours after the group was formally outlawed by the UK government.

The Reverend Sue Parfitt, from Bristol, was detained for holding a placard that read: “I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action.” She was among more than 27 people arrested on Saturday for acts of defiance against the proscription.

Parfitt’s arrest has sparked wide-

spread outrage on social media. One user called it “the march of authoritarianism & crackdown on freedom of speech & expression,” while another questioned whether it was now illegal to call her “a hero.”

Police detained more than two dozen demonstrators in London for supporting Palestine Action, just hours after the activist group was banned in the United Kingdom.

“A total of 29 arrests were made during this afternoon’s protest in support of Palestine Action in Parliament Square. They remain in custody,” the

Metropolitan Police wrote on X.

In an earlier statement, the police force said the protesters were detained “on suspicion of offences under the Terrorism Act 2000”.

“They have been taken into custody. Palestine Action is a proscribed group and officers will act where criminal offences are committed,” it added.

Campaign group Defend Our Juries announced in an earlier statement that a priest and a number of health professionals were among those detained.

The protesters had held cardboard signs, reading, “I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action.”

“We commend the Counter Terrorism police for their decisive action in protecting the people of London from some cardboard signs opposing the genocide in Gaza and expressing support for those taking action to prevent it,” a Defend Our Juries spokesperson stressed.

Passersby condemned the arrests as police intervened in the demonstration at around noon local time (11:00 GMT).

Report: Netanyahu Era Sees 40% Surge in Illegal Settlements in West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinians in the occupied West Bank endure a sharp rise in settler attacks, alongside a 40% increase in the number of settlement outposts under the current government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media reported.

The Israeli Channel 12 said that the West Bank is experiencing an Israeli settlement boom since the formation of Netanyahu’s regime at the end of 2022.

The number of settlements increased from 128 in the West Bank to 178, representing about a 40%

rise, alongside unprecedented demolitions of Palestinian homes, it added.

The report came two days after 14 Zionist regime ministers from Netanyahu’s Likud Party, along with Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana, signed a letter demanding Netanyahu annex the occupied territory immediately.

Tel Aviv usually shows little concern for settler attacks on Palestinians; however, their recent attacks on Zionist troops and police officers have occupied all Israeli politicians.

Last week, three Palestinians were killed and seven others injured in a deadly settler attack on the town of Kafr Malik in the Central West Bank.

“The announcement of dozens of new settlements, the unprecedented pace of establishing illegal outposts, the construction of strategic roads, and the large-scale demolition of Palestinian buildings all aim to strengthen Jewish control over the area and effectively eliminate the two-state solution,” the channel said.

“No cabinet has ever encouraged

settlement as much as this one,” Meir Deutsch, CEO of the far-right Regavim movement, was quoted as stating by the channel.

According to the report, at least 50 new settlements have been announced in the West Bank since the formation of the current government.

“According to research data, 19 of the newly recognized settlements already exist, seven are currently grazing farms, 14 are neighborhoods in settlements, and 10 are settlements only on paper,” it noted.

Dozens of BBC Journalists Censure Broadcaster Over Forcing to ‘Do PR for Israel’

LONDON (Dispatches) – More than a hundred current employees of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) have signed an open letter, stating that the broadcaster has not upheld its own editorial standards and is functioning as “a mouthpiece” for Israel in its reporting on the genocidal war on Gaza.

The letter, which has also been endorsed by more than 300 media professionals, including actors Miriam Margolyes and Charles Dance, filmmaker Mike Leigh as well as historian William Dalrymple, expressed that the BBC’s coverage “falls short” in portraying the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, often resembling “PR for the Israeli regime and military.”

“All too often it has felt that the BBC has been performing PR for the Israeli regime and military. This should be a cause of great shame and concern for everyone at the BBC,” the letter, sent to BBC Director-General Tim Davie and the broadcaster’s

board, stated.

The signatories referenced internal censorship and editorial meddling. The letter states that BBC staffers are biased for posting articles that criticize Israel on social media, while contributors indicated they experienced editorial pressure under the guise of neutrality.

The letter also raises concerns over the BBC’s decision to withdraw from airing “Gaza: Doctors Under Attack,” a documentary it originally commissioned, which will now be broadcast by Channel 4.

The BBC claimed it pulled the film because it did not pass final editorial checks and risked creating “a perception of partiality.”

“This appears to be a political decision and is not reflective of the journalism in the film,” the letter stated. “This illustrates precisely what many of us have experienced firsthand: an organization that is crippled by fear of being perceived as critical of Israel.”

The letter also demanded the resignation of Robbie Gibb, a member of the BBC board, citing his connections to the London-based weekly newspaper The Jewish Chronicle, which the signatories criticized for publishing anti-Palestinian content.

The letter describes Gibb’s position on the BBC board — including on the editorial standards committee — as “untenable.”

The letter also takes a swipe at Gibb over a conflict of interest and highlights what it sees as a double standard: “For many of us, our efforts have been frustrated by opaque decisions made at senior levels of the BBC without discussion or explanation. Our failures impact audiences.

“As an organization we have not offered any significant analysis of the UK government’s involvement in the war on Palestinians. We have failed to report on weapons sales or their legal implications. These stories have instead been broken by the BBC’s competitors.”

Data...

(Continued From Page One)

Ashdod, placing additional strain on its economy. The disruption has led to domestic fuel shortages, higher transportation and manufacturing costs, and increased power outages in Israeli cities, fueling public dissatisfaction.

The refinery attack followed Israeli strikes on Iranian economic infrastructure, including a southern gas processing plant and two fuel storage facilities in Tehran.

Despite Israeli efforts to downplay the damage, reports indicate extensive devastation in Tel Aviv and Haifa caused by Iranian missile and drone attacks.

Iran ceased its retaliatory strikes on June 24 after the U.S. brokered a ceasefire to end the conflict.

The 12-day war revealed the growing sophistication of Iran’s missile and drone capabilities and highlighted the limits of Israeli air defenses, leaving a lasting impact on the region’s strategic landscape.

Dozens...

(Continued From Page One)

More rain was expected in the area on Sunday. The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for Kerr County until 1 p.m. local time.

The disaster unfolded rapidly on Friday morning as heavier-than-forecast rain drove river waters rapidly to as high as 29 feet (9 meters).

Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican, told a press conference on Saturday he had asked Trump to sign a disaster declaration, which would unlock federal aid for those affected. Noem said Trump would honor that request.

Trump has previously outlined plans to scale back the federal government’s role in responding to natural disasters, leaving states to shoulder more of the burden themselves.

The 11 missing girls and the counselor were from the Camp Mystic summer camp, a nearly century-old Christian girls camp, which had 700 girls in residence at the time of the flood.

A day after the disaster struck, the camp was a scene of devastation. Inside one cabin, mud lines indicating how high the water had risen were at least six feet (1.83 m) from the floor. Bed frames, mattresses and personal belongings caked with mud were scattered inside. Some buildings had broken windows, one had a missing wall.

President...

(Continued From Page 2)

Iran’s commitment to expanding cooperation with neighboring and Muslim countries, advocating diplomacy and dialogue to resolve differences. Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan’s condemnation of Israeli aggression and supported Iran’s right to self-defense.

In a discussion with Tajikistan’s president, Pezeshkian stressed that diplomacy remains effective if all parties honor their commitments.

“Iran still considers diplomacy the best path to resolving disputes, provided the other side is genuinely committed,” he said. Rahmon echoed calls for a return to negotiations to resolve regional tensions.

“The principled stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran remains to promote neighborly relations and multilateral economic diplomacy,” Pezeshkian said. “Together, through ECO, we can realize our shared vision of enhanced trade, transit, digital innovation, tourism, and regional resilience by 2035.”

The summit concluded with renewed commitment among member states to advance peace, prosperity, and stability across the region, standing united in the face of external threats.

Warning...

(Continued From Page 2)

did not gain their independence easily, and we will not rest until we put the child-killing Israeli regime in its place,” he asserted.

He also reminded adversaries that Iran’s enemies had spent over 15 years planning the recent war, but their efforts were thwarted by Iran’s unity and military strength. “They underestimated our resolve. The Iranian nation will never bow,” Mousavi added.

While reaffirming Iran’s commitment to peace and stability, Mousavi emphasized the country’s preparedness to defend its territory and independence against any aggressor. “We are ready to face any renewed aggression, but our stance remains one of self-defense,” he said.