

Europe's Largest Missile Maker Supplying Parts to Israel for Bombs Used in Gaza

LONDON (Dispatches) – Parts made by Europe's largest missile maker are being used in bombs launched by the Zionist regime's in airstrikes on Gaza, an investigation has found.

A joint report by The Guardian, Disclose and Follow the Money discovered that components produced by MBDA are used to construct the GBU-39 bomb.

Wing-like parts, called Diamond-Blacks and manufactured at MBDA's plant in Alabama, are fitted to the 250 lb GBU-39, which is made by Boeing, allowing the bomb to manoeuvre mid-air toward targets.

The GBU-39 is sent to the Israeli-occupied territories as part of the U.S. military aid program, bought directly from Boeing and transferred from American military stocks.

Deployed aerially from fighter jets over combat zones, an estimated 4,800 have been sent to the occupied territories



Israeli artillery fires toward Gaza.

since the Gaza war began in October 2023.

Open-source analysis found that the weapon has been deployed at least 24 times in Gaza in incidents where civilians, including children, were killed.

The attacks often came at night, targeting shelters including school buildings, camps and a mosque. At least 500 people have been killed in

the identified cases, including more than 100 children.

In another development, hundreds of Greeks gathered at Piraeus Port, one of the biggest in Europe, to block a shipment of military-grade steel to the Israeli-occupied territories, Anadolu reports.

The participants, including port workers and members of pro-Palestinian progressive organizations and associa-

tions as well as sympathizers of various leftist parties, carried Palestinian flags and banners expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause and denouncing Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

Markos Bekris, president of ENEDEP, the port's container handling workers' union, said the action intends to block the transfer of five containers of military grade-steel that arrived from India to another ship destined for the occupied territories.

"We absolutely do not want our country and our port to be involved in this war or in the transportation of military equipment to be used in the war. We do not want this military equipment to be used against the Palestinian people, who are struggling to establish their own state, nor do we want it to lead to the killing of women and children. We do not stain our hands with the blood of innocent people," he said.

UK MP Jeremy Corbyn Announces 'Independent Gaza Tribunal'

LONDON (Dispatches) – British MP Jeremy Corbyn has announced an independent "Gaza tribunal" to investigate the UK's involvement in the Zionist regime's military aggression in the territory.

The former Labour Party leader, who now sits in parliament as an independent, has been one of the most prominent voices in the UK against the Zionist regime's war.

He previously called for the government to set up an inquiry into British involvement in the conflict, but his bill was rejected at its second reading earlier this

month.

Corbyn said on Thursday he would hold a Gaza tribunal in September because "the public deserves to know the full scale of their government's complicity in genocide.

"Just like Iraq, the government is doing everything it can to protect itself from scrutiny," he said, referring to the UK's ill-fated decision to join the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. "Just like Iraq, it will not succeed in its attempts to suffocate the truth."

The left-wing politician added: "We will bring about justice for

the people of Palestine."

The UK suspended 30 arms export licenses to the Zionist regime in September last year in response to its Gaza operations.

But Corbyn and pressure groups say the UK is still supplying other weapons, including parts for F-35 fighter jets.

The Royal Air Force is also accused of flying surveillance flights over Gaza and supplying Israel with intelligence.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy told the International Development Committee on Wednesday that he was "very

certain" no weapons were being used against civilians and aid workers in Gaza.

Corbyn said the tribunal would hear from expert witnesses including Palestinians in Gaza, journalists, and health and aid workers who have worked in the territory.

Legal experts and UN officials will also be called upon to provide evidence.

The tribunal will begin by outlining the scale of human suffering in Gaza, where more than 58,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 2023.

French Court Orders Pro-Palestinian Lebanese Fighter Freed After 40 Years

PARIS (Dispatches) – A French court has ordered the release of pro-Palestinian Lebanese activist Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, who had been imprisoned for 40 years in France.

The Paris Appeals Court ruled on Thursday that the 74-year-old Abdallah could be freed from a prison in southern France on July 25, provided that he leaves French territory and never returns.

Abdallah is expected to be deported to Lebanon. He has been one of the longest-serving prisoners in France, as most individuals serving life sentences are released after less than 30 years.

Abdallah was sentenced to life im-

prisonment in 1987 for his involvement in the 1982 murders of United States military attache Charles Robert Ray and Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov in Paris, as well as the attempted murder of U.S. Consul General Robert Homme in Strasbourg in 1984.

His lawyer, Jean-Louis Chalanset, described Abdallah as the longest-held political prisoner in Europe.

"He has never renounced his convictions," Chalanset stated, noting that U.S. authorities had pressured the Paris court to deny Abdallah's release request. "So this is also a political victory, even after nearly 41 years in detention, against the United States."

Abdallah's brother, Robert Abdallah, expressed relief to reporters in Lebanon on Thursday, asserting that his brother had been unjustly imprisoned for decades in France due to U.S. and Israeli influence.

"We're delighted. I didn't expect the French judiciary to make such a decision or for him to ever be freed, especially after so many failed requests for release," he said. "For once, the French authorities have freed themselves from Israeli and US pressures."

Chalanset welcomed the court's decision, calling it "both a judicial victory and a political scandal" that Abdallah was not released earlier.

While prosecutors have the option to appeal to France's highest court, the Court of Cassation, it is unlikely that the appeal will be processed quickly enough to prevent his release next week.

Abdallah has been eligible for release for 25 years, but the U.S., a party to the case, has consistently opposed his departure from prison.

Lebanese officials have repeatedly advocated for Abdallah's release, affirming their intention to facilitate his return to Beirut.

Abdallah has persistently maintained that he is an activist fighting for Palestinian rights, rather than a "criminal."

No Reason...

(Continued From Page One)

"Providing such guarantees is very difficult, but we are ready to give one more chance and listen to what the U.S. has to say on this matter and see its practical actions in this regard."

Separately, Foreign Minister Araghchi called on the European Union and the three European parties to the JCPOA (Germany, France, and the UK) to abandon "worn-out policies of threat and pressure" if they wish to play a meaningful role in any potential new round of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States.

In a statement posted Friday on his official X account, Araghchi made the remarks following a joint video conference with the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and Britain, as well as the EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas.

"It was the U.S. that withdrew from a two-year negotiated deal -coordinated by EU in 2015- not Iran; and it was U.S. that left the negotiation table in June this year and chose a military option instead, not Iran," the Iranian foreign minister said.

The Iranian foreign minister made it clear that any revival of talks would require genuine political will on the part of the West. "A new round of negotiations will only be possible when the other side is ready for a fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial agreement," he stressed.

Araghchi also warned against continued European threats to activate the so-called "snapback" mechanism, which would reimpose United Nations sanctions on Iran.

"If EU/E3 want to have a role, they should act responsibly, and put aside the worn-out policies of threat and pressure, including the 'snapback' for which they lack absolutely no moral and legal ground."

Armed...

(Continued From Page One)

only Iran's operational strength but also the determination and courage of its air defense forces.

"The sheer number of hostile aerial targets shot down demonstrates the capability, willpower, and bravery of our air defense warriors. This will be remembered in the collective memory of the Iranian people," he said.

The top commander attributed this resilience to a combination of factors.

"This capability, determination, resistance, and courage stem from unwavering faith, national pride, the wise and unmatched leadership of the Islamic Revolution Leader, and the unity and unwavering support of the Iranian people."

"If the enemy ever dares to attack our beloved country again, with God's help, it will be met with even harsher blows and suffer a greater defeat than before," he stressed.

He also pointed to the need to keep pace with evolving threats, calling for continuous updates and modernization of defense systems, along with innovation, agility, and reliance on domestic scientific and technological capacity.

Yemeni...

(Continued From Page One)

Yemen marked the start of a military operation against the country, dubbed Operation Black Flag. The YAF announced a large-scale missile and drone attack on several Israeli targets that day in response to heavy Israeli airstrikes.

According to Israeli reports, Tel Aviv is pressuring Washington to restart its bombing of Yemen and form a broad coalition to end the threat posed by the YAF.

Israel's Broadcasting Corporation (KAN) reported that Yemeni attacks on vessels headed to Israeli ports "can no longer remain solely an Israeli problem."

Washington's deadly campaign against Yemen came to an end in May after the U.S. burned through around \$1 billion in munitions and failed to impact Sanaa's military capabilities.

The ceasefire deal did not include a halt to Yemeni drone and missile operations against Israel, which have continued regularly.

Officials Try to Identify 18 Bodies in Deadly Iraq Shopping Mall Fire

BAGHDAD (AP) – Officials struggled Friday to identify more than a dozen bodies pulled from a deadly shopping mall fire in Iraq, amid ongoing investigations into what caused the blaze.

An Iraqi medical official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment said the final death toll was 63, including 18 bodies that could not be identified due to the severity of the burns and would undergo DNA testing.

The Corniche Hypermarket mall in the town of Kut in Wasit province, a five-story building containing restaurants, shops and a supermarket, had opened just days before the blaze, which officials said broke out late Wednesday on the second floor in an area selling perfume and cosmetics.

Civil defense crews were able to rescue 45

people from the burning building. Officials said that most of those who died were trapped on the upper floors.

While the cause of the fire has not yet been determined, officials blamed lack of safety standards in the building for the scale of the tragedy.

Provincial Gov. Mohammed al-Miyahi has said that the building owner did not implement fire safety measures and had not applied for required permits.

The provincial council of Wasit on Thursday voted to form committees to carry out building safety inspections and to suspend the director of Kut municipality and the director of occupational safety until investigations into the fire are complete.

Al-Miyahi said Thursday that legal com-

plaints had been filed against the building owner and shopping center owner, who could not be reached for comment. The governor said in a press conference that the son of the shopping center owner and other members of his family were among the victims in the blaze.

Poor building standards have often contributed to tragic fires in Iraq. In July 2021, a blaze at a hospital in the Iraqi city of Nasiriyah that killed between 60 to 92 people was determined to have been fueled by highly flammable, low-cost type of "sandwich panel" cladding that is illegal in Iraq.

In 2023, more than 100 people died in a fire at a wedding hall in the predominantly Christian area of Hamdaniya in Nineveh province after the ceiling panels above a pyrotechnic machine burst into flames.