

Firefighters in Turkey Battle to Contain Wildfires

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – Firefighters in Turkey were battling wildfires on Monday for a second day raging in the western province of Izmir fanned by strong winds, the forestry minister and local media said. Wildfires in Kuyucak and Doganbey areas of Izmir were fanned overnight by winds reaching 40-50 kph (25-30 mph) and four villages and two neighborhoods had been evacuated, Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said. Helicopters, fire extinguishing aircrafts and other vehicles, and more than a thousand people were trying to extinguish the fires, Yumakli told reporters in Izmir. Media footage showed teams using tractors with water trailers and helicopters carrying water, as smoke billowed over hills marked with charred trees. Turkey's coastal regions have in recent years been ravaged by wildfires, as summers have become hotter and drier, which scientists relate to climate change.

Shocking Israeli Report: Killing Deemed Acceptable as Contractors Paid \$1,500 for Each Home Demolished in Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) – A report published by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz has revealed that private contractors hired by the Zionist regime's army are being paid 5,000 shekels (approximately \$1,500) for every Palestinian home they demolish in the Gaza Strip. The report further alleges that decisions have been made on the ground that deem the killing of Palestinian civilians, including those searching for food, as acceptable to secure this payment.

An Israeli soldier currently deployed in Gaza told Haaretz: "Every private contractor working in Gaza with engineering equipment earns 5,000 shekels for each house they destroy. They're making a lot of money."

He continued: "Any time they're not demolishing houses is a finan-



The destruction in the Jabalia region in the north of the Gaza Strip, which has been subjected to attacks and ground operations by the Israeli army for months on January 30, 2025.

cial loss, and the Israeli army has to keep them working."

According to the soldier's account,

the contractors' campaign of destruction brings them and their small security units dangerously close to

humanitarian aid distribution points set up by the U.S. and the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. These sites are frequently crowded with Palestinians in urgent need of food and assistance.

The report indicated that, in order to ensure their own safety, contractors provoke security incidents to receive additional military protection, which often results in Israeli soldiers opening fire on Palestinians gathered near these aid sites. These incidents have led to the deaths of several civilians suffering from hunger.

The article concludes: "In order for a contractor to earn an additional 5,000 shekels, a decision is made that it's acceptable to kill Palestinian individuals who are looking for food."

Experts: Western Media Enabling Gaza Genocide, Rewriting History

LONDON (Dispatches) – As the Zionist regime's war on Gaza intensifies and expands across West Asia, media analysts and human rights advocates are raising concerns over the lack of international accountability and the role of Western news outlets in shaping public perception of the conflict.

At a panel hosted by the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians (ICJP) in London, experts accused mainstream Western media of contributing to the denial and distortion of atrocities unfolding in Gaza.

The Centre for Media Monitoring (CFMM) presented findings highlighting how often leading media organizations downplay or dismiss claims of genocide. Faisal Hanif, a media analyst at CFMM, said the BBC had shut down references to genocide in its Gaza coverage more than 100 times over the past year.

Omar al-Ghazzi, Associate Professor of Media and Communications at the London School of

Economics, called the trend "a war on history." He warned that the use of media narratives as future historical sources could shape how upcoming generations understand the events in Gaza.

The panel also pointed to specific language patterns in coverage. Hanif noted that the term "massacre" appeared 18 times more often when referring to Hamas attacks than to Israeli attacks on Palestinians. He said this imbalance reflected a wider rhetorical bias and an uncritical acceptance of Israeli regime's claims—particularly those targeting local journalists in Gaza.

British-Israeli journalist Rachel Shabi said Israel has consistently framed its ban on international reporters entering Gaza as a safety measure, while accusing Palestinian journalists of links to Hamas. She criticized international media outlets for accepting these narratives without challenge.

"They fall for the trap without calling it out," Shabi told the audience.

She added that even when Pal-

estinian voices are included, their suffering is often discredited or doubted. "The media has not only excluded Palestinian voices conveyed through local journalists' reports, but, at times when it has included them, it has effectively put Palestinian victims 'on trial,' portraying them as unreliable narrators of their own stories and suffering."

Historian Avi Shlaim described the Zionist regime's media strategy as an aggressive propaganda campaign designed to suppress criticism by labeling opponents as anti-Semitic.

Professor Martin Shaw, a leading scholar on war and genocide, said such tactics amounted to a third form of genocide denial—"implicatory denial"—where actors acknowledge atrocities but take no meaningful action.

"The media is starting to shift, but it still lags behind the reality," Shaw said. "Even when governments and media recognize genocide is taking place in Gaza, they don't act to stop it."

He argued that the era of rhe-

torical devices such as "responsibility to protect" and "humanitarian intervention" had ended. "The powerful do what they want without dressing it up," he added.

Al-Ghazzi agreed, saying the West continues to control language and historical narrative, positioning itself as the sole "moral arbitrator."

The panel also connected media complicity to broader geopolitical ambitions. Wadah Khanfar, president of Al-Sharq Forum and former director general of Al Jazeera, said the West remains determined to engineer a "new Middle East" and marginalize Arab voices in shaping the region's future.

He singled out Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling him "truly arrogant" for believing he can design that future alone.

The panel agreed that the occupying regime's impunity could further destabilize the region. Khanfar warned that the ongoing war may plunge the world into "a new dark age."

High Court Rejects Challenge to Export of UK-Made F-35 Parts to Zionist Regime

LONDON (Dispatches) – The High Court has rejected the challenge brought by rights groups which sought to halt the export of British-made F-35 fighter jet parts to the Zionist regime following a 20-month court battle.

In a 72-page ruling released on Monday, Lord Justice Males and Mrs Justice Steyn said that the case was narrowly focused on whether the court could rule that the UK "must withdraw from a specific multilateral defense collaboration" considered vital by ministers to the defense of the UK because some UK-made parts might be supplied to the Zionist regime and used in serious violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza.

"Under our constitution that acutely sensitive and political issue is a matter for the executive which is democratically accountable to Parliament and ultimately to the electorate, not for the courts," they found.

Middle East Eye understands that the groups who brought the case plan to appeal.

Al-Haq, the Palestinian human rights group which brought the legal challenge along with the UK-based Global Legal Action Network (Glan), said on Monday that the court had failed to meet its demands, but that the groups had "achieved a partial suspension of UK arms to Israel, exposed [government] complicity in war crimes and rallied public support".

"This is a breakthrough & just a start. We fight on for justice," Al-Haq posted on X.

Yasmine Ahmed, UK director of Human Rights Watch, one of three British human rights groups which intervened in the case, said she and others were "incredibly disappointed" by the ruling.

"Judicial deference to the executive in this case has left the Palestinians in Gaza without access to the protections of international law, despite the government and the court acknowledging that there is a serious risk that UK equipment might be used to facilitate or carry out atrocities against them," Ahmed said.

"The atrocities we are witnessing in Gaza are precisely because governments don't think the rules should apply to them. This perception of impunity, which has been reinforced by the government's unwillingness to suspend arms licensing, has led to unimaginable horrors and atrocities being carried out on Palestinians."

The case was first initiated by Glan and Al-Haq in late October 2023, soon after the Zionist regime launched an attack on Gaza.

Under the Tory government, UK arms exports to the occupied territories continued without any apparent change, despite concerns raised as early as November 2023 by the Foreign Office unit assessing the Zionist regime's compliance with international humanitarian law.

Last September, the newly elected Labour government suspended around 30 export licenses for UK-made arms after the government assessed there was a clear risk the items could be used in Gaza in serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Norwegian Pension Fund Divests From Companies Supplying Weapons to Israel



Protesters wave Palestinian flags outside Norway's central bank, in March 2025.

OSLO (Dispatches) – Norway's largest pension company says it has divested from two firms selling weapons to the Zionist regime, which uses them in the Gaza war.

KLP said on Monday it will no longer do business with the U.S.-based Oshkosh Corporation and the German-based ThyssenKrupp due to their sale of products to "entities" that use them in "systematic breaches of international law."

Oshkosh Corporation mostly produces trucks and military vehicles, while ThyssenKrupp makes a broad selection of products, ranging from elevators and industrial machinery to warships.

"In June 2024, KLP learned of reports from the UN that several named companies were supplying weapons or equipment to [the Zionist regime] and that these weapons are being used in Gaza," said Kiran Aziz, the head of responsible investments at KLP.

KLP said that it had been in touch with both companies before it made its decision and that Oshkosh "confirmed that it has sold, and continues to sell, equipment that is used by [the occupying regime] in Gaza."

KLP added that ThyssenKrupp confirmed "it has a long-term relationship with Israel" and had delivered four warships of the type Sa'ar 6 to the Israeli navy in the period of November 2020 to May 2021. The German company also said it had plans to deliver a submarine to the Israeli navy later this year.

KLP said when it asked the two companies what checks and balances they made when it came to the use of their equipment, both "failed to document the necessary due diligence in relation to their potential complicity in violations of humanitarian law."

This is not the first time that KLP has divested from companies linked to possible human rights violations.

In 2021, KLP divested from 16 companies, including telecom giant Motorola, because of their connection to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Norway's sovereign wealth fund, whose assets are valued at around \$1.9 trillion, is also under pressure to divest from groups accused of helping the Zionist regime wage its war in Gaza and continue its settlement policy in the West Bank.

Top Diplomat Reaffirms France's Determination to Recognize State of Palestine

PARIS (Dispatches) – French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has reaffirmed his country's "determination to recognize the State of Palestine," underscoring the urgent need for international action in light of the worsening humanitarian situation in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Speaking in an interview with LCI news channel, Barrot denounced the killing of hundreds of Palestinian aid seekers by Zionist troops in Gaza, calling it "a disgrace and an affront to human dignity."

The top French diplomat noted that at least 500 Palestinians were killed and around 4,000 others injured in May alone while trying to access food aid in the besieged Strip.

He affirmed that both France and the European Union are ready to support safe and fair food distribution efforts in Gaza.

Barrot then sharply criticized the Tel Aviv regime's current approach, stating that, outside the oversight of the United Nations and international organizations, Zionist regime troops — supported by the United States — have carried out a limited aid distribution plan since May 27, during which the troops have opened fire on Palestinians waiting for food.

He noted that this tactic effectively forces civilians to choose between "starvation or being shot."

"There is no justification for the continued Israeli attacks on Gaza,"

Barrot said. "We are committed to recognizing the State of Palestine, and this will happen as part of a joint initiative that encourages all parties to create the necessary conditions for the establishment of that state."

In a related development, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty stressed the need to broaden international recognition of the State of Palestine, based on the June 4, 1967, borders with East Al-Quds as its capital, as the only path toward lasting peace, security, and stability in the region.

During a meeting in Cairo on Sunday with Christophe Bigot, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Abdelatty reaffirmed Egypt's support for a so-called two-state solution and expressed hope for the convening of an international conference dedicated to resolving the Palestinian issue through peaceful means.

The two officials also discussed the deteriorating situation in the occupied West Bank, as well as ongoing diplomatic efforts — in coordination with Qatar and the United States — aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza, facilitating a prisoner-captive exchange, and ensuring the entry of humanitarian aid into the blockaded coastal territory.

More than 140 UN member states recognize the Palestinian state, with Spain, Ireland, and Norway joining the ranks last year.