

**Hundreds Protest Over Water Shortages in Drought-Hit Iraq**

**HILLA (AFP)** – Hundreds of Iraqis protested Friday against severe water shortages exacerbated by the summer’s sweltering heat in the central province of Babylon, an AFP correspondent said.

Iraq, and its 46 million inhabitants, have been intensely impacted by the effects of climate change, experiencing rising temperatures, year-on-year droughts and reduced river flows. Authorities also blame upstream dams for dramatically lowering the flow of the once-mighty Tigris and Euphrates, which have irrigated Iraq for millennia. In the village of al-Majriyeh near the city of Hilla, more than 300 angry protesters urged the government to take action and solve the long-standing water issue, a day after the police dispersed a similar protest.

*Thought for Today*

*This world is not a permanent place, it is a passage, a road on which you are passing. There are two kinds of people here: One is the kind of those who have sold their souls for eternal damnation, the other is of those who have purchased their souls and freed them from damnation.*

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 12586 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Saturday, July 26, 2025, Mordad 4, 1404, Safar 1, 1447

# Houthi: Zionist Entity Threat to Every Nation

SANA'A (Dispatches) -- The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah movement, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, on Thursday strongly condemned Israeli military aggression in Gaza and criticized Arab and Muslim countries for their silence and inaction regarding the situation in the Palestinian territories.

Speaking in a televised address from the Yemeni capital, Houthi described the Israeli regime as “an enemy of all races” and warned that its actions pose “a danger to every nation.”

“The fallout of silence and inaction regarding the Palestinian issue is very unfortunate, especially as Muslims are not a small community,” he said.

“Nearly two billion Muslims around the world, including millions of Arabs, have abandoned Palestine, with the exception of a few nations who have clearly and openly declared their position.”

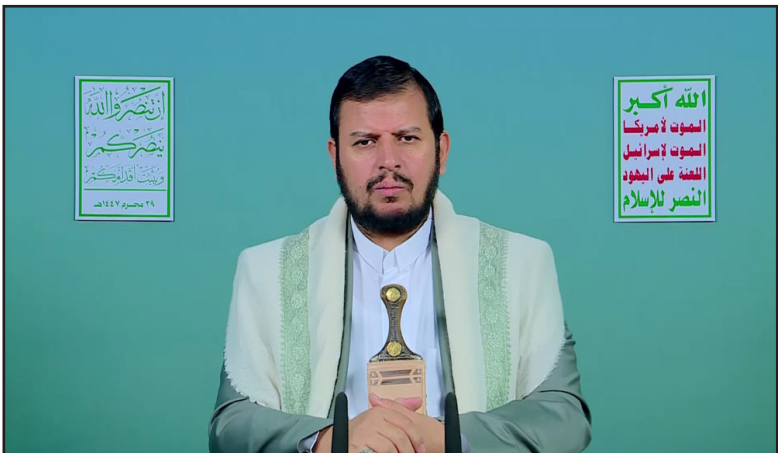
He questioned the failure of Arab countries to respond to what he described as long-standing oppression in Gaza.

“If the Arabs do not stand by Palestinians in the face of this flagrant and long-standing oppression, which is the result of their own inaction, what oppression can unite them then?” he asked.

Houthi criticized regional and international organizations for a lack of effective measures to stop the genocide.

“It is an eternal stain of shame on the foreheads of all international institutions and organizations, the global community, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that they do not take concrete action,” he said.

“Where is the Arab League and what ac-



Leader of Yemen’s Ansarullah resistance movement Abdul-Malik al-Houthi delivers a televised speech in Sana’a on July 24, 2025.

tion is it taking regarding the ongoing hunger, genocide, and forced displacement of Palestinian people?”

He warned that “hostile actions against those who support the Palestinian issue are the worst form of moral decline and trampling on innate values in the new era, which will have dire consequences.”

“Ever since the occupation of Palestinian territory started, the Arab response to the process has been very weak and not up to the level of their responsibility.”

Houthi also rejected normalization of ties with Israel, calling it an abandonment of religious and ethical responsibility.

“Normalization is not a normal relationship with the criminal occupier, but rather coop-

eration with the enemy to destroy the religion and livelihood of the Muslim Ummah,” he said.

“The Zionist enemy does not have the slightest tinge of respect for the Muslim world. It knows that it can commit crimes at any level, and Muslims and Arabs won’t take effective and comprehensive action to confront it.”

The Ansarullah leader said that hunger in Gaza had reached dangerous and painful levels, adding the Israeli military is deliberately relocating civilians from water-rich areas to water-scarce ones.

He said the ongoing mass starvation of more than two million people in Gaza is a consequence of a weak and ineffective re-

sponse by Arab and Muslim states.

Houthi also criticized the continuation of commercial ties with Israel.

“The movement of ships carrying food and goods belonging to Arab and Muslim regimes toward the Israeli-occupied lands has not stopped over the past 22 months of aggression and massacre in the Gaza Strip,” he said.

“Arab and Muslim regimes have increased the level of trade exchanges with the Zionist enemy during this period. These regimes declare solidarity with the Palestinian people through the media, but their trade relations with the Zionist regime are greater than any other party in the world.”

Some governments in the region, he said, had even worked to create alternative maritime routes to support Israeli commerce during the genocide.

Houthi said the United States is supporting Israel’s military campaign and warned against attempts to disarm Lebanon’s Hezbollah movement.

“Attempts to disarm Hezbollah serve the enemies and reflect a misguided, foolish, and malicious logic,” he said.

“The Israeli enemy is supplied with all types of destructive and lethal weapons, while our oppressed people are told they should not possess any arms.”

Houthi reiterated that Yemen would maintain its position in support of the Palestinian cause and called on citizens to join nationwide demonstrations on Friday.

“The Israeli enemy and its major ally, the U.S., have failed to stop Yemen’s supportive stance for Gaza and its backing of the Palestinian people,” he said.

## France, Canada to Recognize Palestinian State at UN General Assembly



A man holds a placard reading “Free Palestine” during a demonstration, at the Place de la Republique in Paris, France, June 9, 2025.

PARIS (Dispatches) – **French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France will recognize a Palestinian state at the United Nations General Assembly in September, on a post on X on Thursday.** “I have decided that France will recognize the State of Palestine,” he said. “I will make this solemn announcement at the United Nations General Assembly in September.”

Macron’s statement was posted on X along with a copy of a letter addressed to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, dated 24 July.

“The urgent need today is to end the war in Gaza and to provide relief to the civilian population. Peace is possible.”

“We must immediately implement a ceasefire, release all captives and provide massive humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.”

“In light of the commitments made to me by the president of the Palestinian Authority, I have therefore written to him of my determination to move forward,” Macron said on X.

Building a Palestinian state and ensuring its viability would “contribute to the security of all in the Middle East”, Macron added.

Macron originally planned to

recognize the Palestinian state at the UN in June along with Saudi Arabia.

However, he put plans on hold after Israel commenced attacks on Iran.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has also announced that his country plans to recognize the State of Palestine at the United Nations.

In a Friday post on X, Carney stated: “Canada supports a solution which guarantees peace and security for Palestinians.” He added that Ottawa “will work intensively in all fora to further that end, including through the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the UN High-Level Conference on a Two-State Solution in New York next week.

The Prime Minister also said that Canada condemns the Israeli regime’s failure to prevent the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas described the move as a positive step in the right direction towards justice for the oppressed Palestinian people and support for their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on all of its occupied territory, with Al-Quds as its capital.

## Rights Groups: Gaza Detainees ‘Burned, Stripped, Forced to Drink Alcohol’ in Israeli Prisons

GAZA (Dispatches) – **Detainees from the Gaza Strip held in the Zionist regime’s prisons have reported severe physical and psychological abuse, including being forced to drink alcohol and subjected to burning by boiling water, two Palestinian rights groups said.**

In a joint statement, the Palestinian Prisoners Society and the Commission of Detainees’ Affairs said their legal teams collected testimonies during visits to multiple Israeli prisons in July, including Ketziot, Ofer, Sde Teiman, and the Russian Compound. “These testimonies reflect un-

precedented levels of torture during arrest and interrogation,” the groups said, adding that detainees continue to face “medical crimes, deliberate starvation, and systematic abuse inside prisons and military camps.”

One detainee said he was forced to drink alcohol, while another reported attempting suicide after an Israeli interrogator falsely told him that all his family members had been killed — a claim later proven untrue.

Other accounts included severe beatings while stripped of clothing, burning with boiling water,

and a dog attack that left one detainee injured.

“These testimonies are only a small part of hundreds of accounts documented by Gaza detainees,” the statement reads, stressing that dozens have died as a result of torture and many others remain forcibly disappeared.

The groups said these acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and called on international institutions to investigate and hold Israeli officials accountable.

The Zionist regime has killed more than 59,200 Palestinians,

most of them women and children, in the Gaza Strip since October 2023. The military campaign has devastated the enclave, collapsed the health system, and led to severe food shortages.

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.

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

## Jordan Fueling ‘Internal Crisis’ With Palestine Solidarity Crackdown, Sources Say

AMMAN (Dispatches) – **Jordanian authorities are inadvertently fueling an “internal crisis” with their decision to crack down on Palestine solidarity activists, sources have told Middle East Eye.**

The sources said that the situation was reaching a boiling point due to Jordan’s intelligence services launching a heavy-handed campaign of arrests targeting activists, political opponents and party leaders.

The arrests come amid mounting instability in neighboring Syria, worsening conditions for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Zionist regime pursuing a campaign of genocide by starvation in Gaza.

Jordanian authorities arrested the prominent social media activist Ayman Aballi, days after he published a video denouncing the country’s “silence” over the Zionist regime’s starvation policy in Gaza.

Criticism of the intelligence services, commonly known as the Mukhabarat, was already escalat-

ing after a young man died in police custody a day after his arrest, the sources told MEE.

Local media reported that tensions began to escalate after Ahmed al-Ibrahim died in police custody after being subject to a “severe physical assault” during detention.

According to his family, Ibrahim was taken to a nearby hospital on multiple occasions while at the Ramtha police station in Ar-Ramtha, 5km from the Syrian border.

He reportedly succumbed to his injuries hours after being transferred to the hospital for the final time.

His death triggered a night of anger in Ar-Ramtha, with videos seen by MEE showing angry protesters blocking roads, setting tires on fire and demanding full accountability.

On the same day that Ibrahim died, security forces arrested Yanal Freihat, an MP from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, over a Facebook post in which he criticized the government’s stance on the Muslim Brotherhood.

Security forces also briefly detained Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Moaz al-Khawaldeh, before releasing him the following day.

“The security forces are creating an internal crisis and causing an unprecedented wave of anger in the streets,” a Jordanian political analyst told MEE on condition of anonymity, due to fear of reprisals.

“This comes at a time when Jordan is facing serious external threats that require internal unity, not deep political and societal divisions.

“Jordan now faces two major, unprecedented strategic threats. The first is the threat of the collapse of the Syria and the secession of Sweida with Israeli support, possibly sparking a widespread war that would impact the region and Jordan,” the analyst said.

“The second is the threat of the displacement of Palestinians from the West Bank to Jordan, leading to a change in the demographic composition of the Hashemite kingdom.”

## U.S. Analysis Found No Evidence of Hamas Aid ‘Theft’ in Gaza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – **An internal U.S. government review has found no evidence of theft of U.S.-funded humanitarian aid by Hamas, contradicting a claim frequently made by the Zionist regime and its allies in Washington.**

The analysis, revealed exclusively by Reuters on Friday, was conducted by a bureau within the U.S. Agency for International Development (US-AID).

It examined 156 incidents of theft or loss of supplies reported by partner organizations between October 2023 and May 2025 and found “no reports alleging Hamas” had benefited from the aid.

Instead, 44 of the incidents of stolen or lost aid were found to be either directly or indirectly

caused by the Zionist regime’s military.

This included 11 attributed to direct Israeli aggressions, such as airstrikes, and others linked to the military compelling aid organizations to use delivery routes known to carry a high risk of theft or looting.

Sixty-three of the incidents were attributed to unknown perpetrators, 35 to armed actors, 25 to unarmed individuals, 11 to corrupt subcontractors, five to corrupt aid group personnel and six to “others” under unclear circumstances.

The armed actors “included gangs and other miscellaneous individuals who may have had weapons”, said one slide of the analysis.

Palestinians have accused the Israel-aligned Abu Shabab gang of involvement in the theft

of aid.

Another slide said “a review of all 156 incidents found no affiliations with” groups designated by the U.S. as foreign “terrorist” organizations, including Hamas.

The 156 reports were filed by UN agencies and other groups working in Gaza, as a condition of receiving U.S. aid funds.

The study was conducted by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of USAID.

The analysis was shared with USAID’s Office of Inspector General and State Department officials involved in Middle East policy, sources told Reuters.

Israel controls all access to humanitarian aid into Gaza and has imposed a near-total blockade on the enclave since March.