

# Israel ‘Using Thirst as Weapon to Kill Palestinians’ in Gaza, UN Experts Say



NEW YORK CITY (Dispatches) – A group of UN human rights experts has accused the Zionist regime’s authorities of deliberately depriving Palestinians in Gaza of access to clean drinking water. They described this alleged action as a grave violation of international law and a potential crime against humanity.

“Israel is using thirst as a weapon to kill Palestinians,” the experts said. “Cutting off water and food is a silent but lethal bomb that kills mostly children and babies.”

The independent experts, who are appointed by

the UN Human Rights Council, said that water and sanitation systems in Gaza have been systematically targeted throughout the Zionist regime’s ongoing military campaign.

Since the conflict began in October 2023, Zionist troops have destroyed or severely damaged wells, pipelines, desalination plants and sewage networks. According to the UN, nearly 90 percent of the territory’s water infrastructure is no longer functional, leaving more than 90 percent of the population without reliable access to safe water supplies.

As summer temperatures soar and hygiene conditions deteriorate rapidly, fatalities from dehydration are increasing and outbreaks of water-borne disease are spreading. Most of the 2 million residents of Gaza have been displaced, with many of them forced to drink contaminated water and live without even basic sanitation.

“This catastrophe was not only predictable, it was predicted,” the UN experts said. “The deliberate denial of water and essential supplies is part of a pattern of collective punishment and may amount to extermination under international law.”

The experts referred to an advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in July 2024, which reaffirmed the Zionist regime’s obligations as an occupying power to ensure civilians are able to access adequate supplies of food and water.

Instead, the experts noted, the regime’s authorities have further reduced the already limited flow of emergency water deliveries, and continue to block essential shipments of fuel required to power desalination and sanitation systems.

The UN Relief and Works Agency, the main humanitarian agency in Gaza, has warned that it will be forced to close several of its remaining wells entirely unless immediate authorization is granted for fuel deliveries to the territory. These sources currently provide hundreds of thousands of liters of water to people each day for drinking and hygiene purposes.

## U.S. Activists Protest Against Capital One Over Loan to Israeli Arms Manufacturer Elbit Systems

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Every weekend for the past three weeks, demonstrators have banged pots and pans outside Capital One’s Cafe in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The protestors are targeting Capital One, one of the ten largest banks in the U.S., which operates five “cafes” in Boston, because it is part of a consortium of six banks that have loaned \$545m to Elbit Systems, the Zionist regime’s largest arms contractor.

The cafes are designed to attract young consumers through a mix of cafe spaces, customer perks, and banking services.

The picketers are led by Boycott, Divestment Sanctions

Boston (BDS Boston), a local pro-Palestine group that has been campaigning against Elbit Systems for years.

According to S, a member of BDS Boston who asked only to be identified by their first initial, the pickets “have a very strong emphasis on disruption”.

“Our pickets are extremely loud, and we do our best to be in the face of the customers and the workers so that they cannot ignore us, neither visually, nor in terms of sounds, so that the cafe was effectively uninhabitable for any normal person,” he continued.

Elbit Systems has become a frequent target of pro-Palestine activists because it provides

about 85 percent of the Zionist regime’s drones and land-based military equipment.

Several countries, as well as many international rights groups and experts, say Israel’s war on Gaza qualifies as genocide.

Earlier this month, a report by Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur for Palestine, said that “for Israeli companies such as Elbit Systems... the ongoing genocide has been a profitable venture”.

One customer, who asked to remain anonymous, stated that they would not return to Capital One Cafes after being informed about their loan to Elbit Systems.

S also noted BDS Boston’s

past successful campaigns against Elbit Systems.

In August 2024, Elbit abandoned its innovation center in Cambridge after over a year of campaigning by pro-Palestine activists.

In April 2025, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s industrial liaisons program cut ties with Elbit Systems after seven months of campaigning by BDS Boston.

Activists hope that Capital One will follow in the footsteps of British banking giant HSBC, which divested from Elbit Systems in 2018 after a sustained campaign from pro-Palestine activists.

Capital One did not respond to a request for comment.

## Two Men Forcibly Disappeared in Egypt After Storming Police Station Over Gaza Blockade

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Two men have been forcibly disappeared in Egypt following their participation in the storming of the State Security headquarters at the Ma’asara police station in Helwan in southern Cairo in protest of Egypt’s complicity in the Gaza siege, Middle East Eye has learned.

Twenty-seven-year-old Mohsen Mustafa and his 23-year-old cousin Ahmed Sherif Ahmed Abdel Wahab have not been heard from since Mustafa posted on Facebook claiming responsibility for the raid, shortly before his

profile was removed.

The men were reportedly involved in the storming of the police station on 25 July, where a group who identified themselves as “Iron 17” raided the facility and detained several security personnel for hours.

Footage of the raid showing the young men holding the officers captive went viral. The videos, which were published on a Telegram channel and viewed millions of times, showed the men condemning the closure of Egypt’s Rafah border crossing

with Gaza and the arrests of activists collecting aid for Palestinians in the territory.

In one clip, a detained officer said that the opening of the crossing was “impossible”.

Egypt’s interior ministry promptly issued two statements claiming the footage was fabricated as part of a Muslim Brotherhood-led plot, and that those involved in circulating it had been arrested. The ministry accused the Muslim Brotherhood of attempting to undermine Egypt’s support for Palestine. The Tele-

gram channel disappeared shortly after.

The Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR) said the videos had been verified by former detainees who were held at the facility, while Egyptian news outlet Mada Masr cited lawyers who said documents visible in the footage belong to detainees who are currently under surveillance.

Hours before the channel disappeared, the group released an audio statement, attributed to Mustafa and Wahab, claiming responsibility for the operation.

## Wildfire in Turkey Largely Contained

ISTANBUL (Xinhua) – Forest fire in Turkey’s northwestern province of Bursa has largely been brought under control, with fire-fighting efforts continuing at the one remaining spot, authorities announced.

Turkish Agriculture and Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli said on the social media platform X that there is currently only one ongoing wildfire in the country

-- the one in the Harmancik district of Bursa.

“Our teams are responding both from the air and on the ground, and they have encircled the entire area,” Yumakli said.

The blaze in Bursa, fueled by strong winds and high temperatures, has been raging for four days, claiming four lives and scorching over 3,000 hectares of land.

## U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

“The U.S. is saying there’s no more Barrack, no more papers back and forth — the council of ministers should take a decision and then we can keep discussing. They cannot wait any longer,” a Lebanese source told Reuters.

This headline stance exposes the true agenda behind Washington’s diplomacy: to dismantle Hezbollah’s military capabilities under the guise of peace, while ignoring Israel’s relentless violations.

Lebanese officials fear that failing to issue a clear commitment to disarm Hezbollah could provoke intensified Israeli strikes, possibly targeting Beirut itself, the sources said. This looming threat coerces Lebanon’s government into a corner, pressured to sacrifice its own defensive capabilities in the face of an aggressor with overwhelming military advantage.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam is expected to convene a cabinet session soon to address the U.S. demands. However, Hezbollah has repeatedly rejected surrendering its weapons, emphasizing its role as Lebanon’s main deterrent against Israeli aggression.

The resistance group is open to discussions about integrating its arms into a national defense strategy, provided Israel withdraws and ends its attacks — conditions Washington and Tel Aviv have so far ignored.

Israeli media reports suggest Tel Aviv is preparing to continue military aggressions against Lebanon despite the ceasefire, even at the risk of sparking a broader conflict.

Since the ceasefire in November, Israel has violated it over 3,000 times, killing more than 200 people and expanding its occupation by establishing control over five strategic locations on Lebanese soil.

Israel justifies its near-daily attacks as legitimate enforcement of the ceasefire, accusing Hezbollah of rebuilding its military capabilities. Yet this narrative masks the reality that these violations perpetuate an illegal occupation and undermine any genuine prospects for peace.

The U.S. and Israel’s insistence on Hezbollah’s disarmament — without demanding reciprocal Israeli withdrawal or cessation of attacks — effectively prolongs the occupation under a veneer of diplomacy.

After suffering military defeats at Hezbollah’s hands in previous conflicts, Washington and Tel Aviv now seek to weaken the group politically and militarily through coercion rather than direct confrontation.

This strategy risks undermining Lebanon’s sovereignty and security, forcing it to disarm against an occupying force’s ongoing aggression. It also dismisses Hezbollah’s historical role as a defensive force born from Israel’s repeated invasions and occupations.

In reality, the U.S. and Israel’s policy agenda prolongs instability in Lebanon and the region, using Hezbollah’s disarmament as a pretext to maintain control over southern Lebanon.

Genuine peace and stability will require addressing the root causes — ending occupation and respecting Lebanon’s right to self-defense — not imposing unilateral disarmament while tolerating Israeli aggression.

## 114 Lawyers... (Continued From Page One)

Western powers including France have refrained from taking concrete action to halt Israel’s assault. Instead, they issue statements of concern while continuing arms shipments and diplomatic backing. This disconnect reveals a cynical calculus where strategic interests trump human rights, and where rhetoric masks complicity.

The ICC complaint lays bare the hypocrisy of Macron’s administration and its Western allies. Their public expressions of criticism ring hollow when

juxtaposed with their ongoing material support for an occupying force accused of grave crimes.

Without genuine accountability and a fundamental shift in policy, France and the West remain complicit in prolonging a conflict marked by immense suffering and injustice.

## Huge... (Continued From Page One)

Polynesia, Hawaii, Japan and other islands in the Pacific, it added.

Waves of up to one meter were possible elsewhere, including Australia, Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand, Tonga and Taiwan.

At Inage Beach in Chiba prefecture in Japan, officials have set up a security perimeter. One rescue worker told AFP the seaside area was off limits until further notice.

In Taitung in Taiwan, hotel resort worker Wilson Wang, 31, told AFP: “We’ve advised guests to stay safe and not go out, and to avoid going to the coast.”

Pacific nation Palau, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) east of the Philippines, ordered the evacuation of “all areas along the coastline”.

Waves of up to four meters are expected overnight in the Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia, authorities said in a press statement.

## Ghalibaf ... (Continued From Page One)

Ghalibaf criticized the IAEA for refusing to condemn the attack, accusing the agency of legitimizing the aggression and undermining non-proliferation efforts.

He highlighted that the attacks occurred while Iran was engaged in nuclear negotiations and committed to dialogue, adding that Tehran’s “devastating” response forced Israel to seek a ceasefire.

Ghalibaf said the U.S. joined Israel in violating international law by attacking Iran’s nuclear sites, breaching the United Nations Charter and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. He noted that while 120 countries condemned the aggression, Israel’s powerful allies blocked decisive action against the regime.

The speaker hit out at international institutions for their silence and political bias, failing to uphold peace and justice.

At the conference, Ghalibaf displayed images of two children – Ryan, a two-month-old Iranian victim of Israel’s attacks, and a Palestinian child from Gaza – as symbols of Israeli crimes.

He described Gaza as a “museum of crimes against humanity” and condemned ongoing Israeli strikes in the region, including Lebanon and Syria.

## Ghalibaf... (Continued From Page 2)

in the region in order to expand its territory. He specifically condemned Israel’s use of hunger and thirst as weapons in its ongoing aggression against Gaza.

Turning to economic relations, Ghalibaf emphasized the growing cooperation between Iran and Turkey, stating that both countries must take “serious measures” to enhance economic and trade ties, improve border affairs, and strengthen parliamentary cooperation.

In his response, Turkish Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmus reiterated that Israel’s aggression is enabled by American backing, and highlighted Turkey’s firm stance in support of Iran during the recent conflict.

He also noted that Turkey’s Parliament had issued a resolution condemning the war and extending solidarity to Iran.

Kurtulmus underscored that economic relations between the two countries are expanding, with a target trade volume of \$50 billion. He also praised the recent discussions held by Iran’s Parliamentary Friendship Group during their visit to Turkey, calling them productive and promising for future collaboration.