

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) U.S.-backed militants from the YPG, the Syrian branch of the PKK, conducted simultaneous raids in five Hasakah neighborhoods, detaining over 50 civilians from Arab tribes, local media reported.

The YPG accused the detainees of links to Daesh. Many had recently visited Damascus, where the ruling Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is based. Despite a March agreement to integrate into the post-Assad army, the YPG continues to push for a decentralized Syria to maintain its autonomy in the northeast.

I wonder at the mentality of a miser, fearing poverty he takes to stinginess and thus hastily pushes himself head- long into a state of want and destitution, he madly desires plenty and ease, but throws it away without understand- ing. In this world he, of his own free will, leads the life of a beggar and in the next world he will have to submit an account like the rich.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Int'l Genocide Scholars: Israeli Actions in Gaza Constitute Genocide

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The world's leading genocide scholars' association says Israel has met the legal criteria for the crime during its ongoing onslaught in Gaza.

The president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) said on Monday that his organization had passed a resolution that Israel had "engaged in systematic and widespread crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide".

Eighty-six percent of those who voted among the 500-member International Association of Genocide Scholars backed the resolution, which calls on Israel to "immediately cease all acts that constitute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza".

There was no immediate response from Israel, which is fighting a case at the International Court of Justice in the Hague that accuses it of genocide.



Palestinians commiserate outside Al-Shifa hospital where casualties of Israeli strikes on Gaza City the previous night were transported on September 1, 2025.

More than 63,557 Palestinians have been martyred and 160,660 wounded in Gaza since October 2023, when Israel launched its war on Gaza, driving the population into a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

At least 34 Palestinians were martyred by Israeli forces since dawn

on Monday, Al Jazeera Arabic reported. The number included 19 in Gaza City and seven aid seekers.

Earlier, eight Palestinians were reported killed as Israel conducted airstrikes on homes in Al-Nafaq area and Al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City.

Last month, famine was officially

declared in Gaza following months of severe Israel-enforced food shortages.

At least 340 people, including 124 children, have died from malnutrition during the genocide, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

The IAGS resolution said the "deliberate destruction of agricultural fields, food warehouses, and bakeries and other violence that prevents food production, in conjunction with denial and restriction of humanitarian aid, indicate the intentional infliction of unlivable conditions resulting in starvation of Palestinians in Gaza".

They added that Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu endorsed a plan by U.S. President Donald Trump to forcibly expel all Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, with no right of return, "in what Navi Pillay, head of the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, has said amounts to ethnic cleansing".

## Leaked Israeli Report Reveals Defeat in Gaza Invasion

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- A classified Israeli military document has revealed that Operation "Gideon's Chariots," the extensive onslaught launched against the Gaza Strip in May and concluded last month, failed to achieve its primary goals, including the defeat of Hamas and securing the return of Israeli captives, Channel 12 reported on Sunday.

The report attributes the invasion's failures to a critical misalignment between Israeli military tactics and Hamas's combat methods, undermining the effectiveness of the genocidal offensive.

The so-called Israeli security cabinet approved the "Gideon's Chariots" plan in early May 2025. The strategy was designed as a three-phase operation aimed at delivering both military

and political victories by pressuring Hamas into agreeing to a ceasefire and prisoner exchange, while simultaneously dismantling the group's military infrastructure. The plan called for the mobilization of tens of thousands of reservists to execute the aggression.

The ultimate objective was to occupy the entirety of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, as confirmed by the Israeli broadcasting authority on May 5, 2025. However, the military campaign fell short of these ambitions.

On Saturday, tens of thousands of settlers protested in Tel Aviv, demanding that prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's regime abandon plans to occupy Gaza City and instead immediately sign a ceasefire and prisoner exchange deal with Hamas.

Tuval Haim, whose brother Yotam was among three Israeli captives killed by the military in December 2023, accused the Netanyahu regime of failing to make genuine efforts to secure the release of captives. "Today, I feel we are being lied to," Haim said.

Moshe Or, whose brother Avinatan Or remains a captive in Gaza, called for an immediate ceasefire and prisoner swap. "Enough! There must be an agreement! The prisoners are losing everything. The Israeli people want their children back," he urged.

Similar protests took place across Haifa, West Al-Quds, and other cities.

Israel estimates that approximately 50 settlers remain captive in Gaza, with about 20 believed to be alive.

On August 8, Israel's so-called security cabinet approved a plan to occupy Gaza City, which involves displacing around one million Palestinians southward before surrounding and occupying the city through intense military operations.

Since October 2023, nearly 63,400 Palestinians in Gaza have been martyred amid the ongoing military aggression, which has left the enclave devastated and facing famine.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity related to Gaza. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice over its military actions in the enclave.

## Druze Leader Jumblatt Slams U.S. Pushing 'Israeli Diktat' Berri: Lebanon Won't Relinquish Hezbollah's Weapons

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri firmly rejected a U.S.-backed proposal to disarm Hezbollah, declaring that Lebanon would not relinquish its weapons "under threats or by violating the constitution."

In a televised address, Berri emphasized that any discussion regarding Hezbollah's arsenal must occur within a "calm, consensual framework" grounded in Lebanon's constitution, ministerial statements, and international law.

Berri dismissed foreign pressure to force unilateral concessions, warning such moves undermine Lebanon's sovereignty.

He highlighted Lebanon's compliance with its obligations under the November 2024 ceasefire with Israel and UN Security Council Resolution 1701, slamming Israel for expanding its occupation, carrying out assassinations, and preventing the return of residents to more than 30 towns and villages.

The speaker also opposed proposals to task the Lebanese Army with disarming Hezbollah, describing the army as the nation's "shield and fortress" that should remain above political disputes. He warned that assigning disarmament responsibilities to the army could threaten its unity and destabilize the country.

The rejection came amid escalating Israeli military aggression in southern Lebanon. On Sunday, an Israeli drone strike killed a Lebanese civilian in Nabatieh district, targeting a motorcycle on a main road, according to the state news agency NNA.

The attack was part of a series of Israeli airstrikes across several southern Lebanese towns, including Ali al-Taher and Kfar Tebnit, which caused fires and damaged homes.

These strikes violate the ceasefire agreement brokered in November 2024, which aimed to halt more than a year of fight-

ing that left over 4,000 dead and 17,000 wounded.

Israel has conducted near-daily raids in southern Lebanon. Under the truce, Israel was required to fully withdraw from southern Lebanon by January 26, but the deadline was extended to February 18 after Tel Aviv refused to comply. Israeli forces continue to occupy five border outposts.

The U.S. delegation visiting Beirut this week—including senior senators and special envoys—pressed for Lebanon to restrict weapons possession to the state. Despite this, Berri insisted Lebanon would not accept "imposed surrender" and that dialogue must precede any decisions on Hezbollah's disarmament.

Veteran Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt criticized the U.S. initiative as an "Israeli diktat" aimed at forcing Lebanon into surrender. Jumblatt urged Israeli withdrawal to proceed before any disarmament process, warning that large segments of the Lebanese community reject disarmament without such guarantees.

Hezbollah's Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem has maintained that the group's weapons are "the soul of its supporters" and stressed the resistance will not disarm.

Since 1982, Hezbollah has resisted numerous Israeli incursions and continues to cite Israeli occupation of Shebaa Farms as justification for its armed status.

In recent months, Lebanon's government approved U.S.-backed disarmament objectives and announced plans for the military to bring all weapons under state control by the end of 2025, sparking widespread protests.

Protesters view Hezbollah's military strength as essential to Lebanon's sovereignty and security. Hezbollah warns that forced disarmament risks further Israeli aggression and instability.

## Global Flotilla Sets Sail From Barcelona to Break Gaza Siege

BARCELONA (Dispatches) -- An international aid flotilla comprising activists, politicians, and artists from over 44 countries departed Barcelona on Sunday en route to Gaza, aiming to challenge Israel's blockade of the besieged enclave.

The Global Sumud Flotilla—named after the Arabic term for "steadfastness"—consists of roughly 20 vessels carrying more than 300 participants, including doctors, journalists, and campaigners.

After leaving Barcelona, the fleet will sail through the Mediterranean, making stops in Italy, Greece, and Tunisia before heading to Gaza.

Barcelona, which severed all official ties with Israel earlier this year citing what it described as genocide in Gaza, served as the symbolic launch point for the mission.

Notable figures on board include Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Irish actor Liam Cunningham, Spanish actor Eduardo Fernandez, and former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau.

Ahead of departure, Thunberg condemned the situation in Gaza as "a clear example of oppression, genocide, and ethnic cleansing," hitting out at Israel for attempting to "wipe out the Palestinian people."

She criticized global silence and inaction, calling on people worldwide to mobilize and demand a humanitarian corridor to Gaza. Thunberg emphasized that the mission is peaceful and humanitarian, adding the flotilla has contingency plans in case of interception by Israeli forces.

Other participants echoed these sentiments. Eduardo Fernandez described Gaza as "a mirror reflecting all of us," asserting that "silence is complicity" in the face of ongoing violence.

Liam Cunningham highlighted the international community's failure to act, urging governments to impose sanctions on Israel. Ada Colau praised the civilian-led mission for forcing institutions to take a stand amid what she called "cowardice" and ongoing

violations of international law.

Organizers stressed the mission's peaceful nature and humanitarian goals, lamenting the lack of action from international institutions. Activists called for immediate sanctions against Israel, pointing to decades of ethnic cleansing since 1948.

The flotilla, flying Palestinian flags, is expected to reach Gaza in mid-September. Additional vessels from Greece, Italy, and Tunisia are set to join the mission on September 4, carrying hundreds of tons of aid, including food collected in Italian ports.

This mission follows previous failed attempts to deliver aid by sea, with Israeli forces intercepting flotillas in June and July.

The Spanish government has pledged diplomatic support for its citizens aboard the flotilla. Spain recognized Palestine as an independent state last year.

The flotilla's organizers describe their effort as the largest civilian solidarity mission in history.

## Nentanyahu Plans West Bank Annexation Amid Global Recognition of Palestine

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- Israel is reportedly considering the annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank in response to recent moves by France and other countries to recognize a Palestinian state, according to multiple Israeli officials.

The issue was set to be discussed further in prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet meeting on Sunday.

The potential extension of Israel's illegal annexation—effectively annexing territory captured in the 1967 Middle East war—remains vague in its scope and timing. Officials have yet to clarify whether any annexation would target all or only select Israeli settlements, specific areas such as the Jordan Valley, or other parts of the occupied West Bank. Any concrete steps would likely involve a complex legislative process.

Such a move would almost certainly trigger widespread condemnation from Palestinians, who seek the West

Bank as part of their future state, as well as from Arab nations and Western countries. The stance of the United States, a key ally of Israel, remains unclear. Requests for comment from the White House and State Department were not immediately answered.

Similarly, Israeli foreign minister Gideon Saar's office declined to comment on whether discussions about annexation took place during Saar's recent visit to Washington.

Netanyahu had previously pledged to annex Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley, but those plans were shelved in 2020 in favor of the Abraham Accords—agreements to normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's office has not yet commented on the potential annexation. Meanwhile, the U.S. recently barred Abbas from traveling to New York to attend the United Nations

General Assembly, where several U.S. allies plan to recognize Palestine as a state.

Israel's consideration of annexation comes amid mounting international criticism over its atrocities in Gaza and in light of recent commitments by countries including France, Britain, Australia, and Canada to formally recognize Palestinian statehood at the upcoming UN General Assembly summit.

The International Court of Justice ruled in 2024 that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, including the West Bank, and its settlement activity are illegal and should end. Israel's previous annexations of East Al-Quds and the Golan Heights remain unrecognized by the international community.

Members of Netanyahu's coalition have long advocated for formal annexation of parts of the West Bank, citing biblical and historical claims to the land.