

LONDON (Dispatches) -- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has appointed the chair of Labor Friends of Israel (LFI) as his parliamentary private secretary. Jon Pearce, who was elected as an MP last year, visited Israeli occupied territories and the UAE earlier this year and publicly opposed Britain recognizing a Palestinian state unilaterally. The role of parliamentary private secretary (PPS) to the prime minister is conventionally held by backbenchers and is a coveted position, despite being unpaid, for the access it provides to the leader.

There are many educated people who have ruined their future on account of their ignorance of religion. Their knowledge did not prove of any avail to them.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Gaza Flotilla Begins Final Push to Break Israeli Siege

TUNIS (Dispatches) -- The Global Sumud Flotilla has embarked on the final leg of its humanitarian mission to Gaza, carrying life-saving aid and defying Israel's brutal and illegal blockade.

Over 40 boats, including 16 from the original fleet and several new additions from Tunisia, are now at sea.

They are transporting critical supplies—food, water, and medicine—to Palestinians enduring famine and relentless bombardment.

Departing from Tunisian ports this weekend after an 11-day delay due to Israeli drone attacks and storm damage, the flotilla marks a powerful act of global solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Israel's siege on Gaza, in place for over a decade and now tightened to a complete closure since March 2, 2025, has created one of the world's most catastrophic humanitarian crises.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has officially declared famine in north-



Supporters and activists of the Global Sumud Flotilla gather at the Tunisian port of Sidi Bou Said on Sept. 10, 2025.

ern Gaza, warning that it is likely to spread to central and southern areas within weeks.

Since October 2023, at least 425 Palestinians—145 of them children—have died from malnutrition and starvation. These are not natural deaths, but direct consequences of Israel's deliberate policy of deprivation.

The Health Ministry in Gaza re-

ports that over 64,905 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war, with another 164,926 injured. Rescue efforts remain hampered, as victims lie trapped under rubble while Israeli forces continue targeting aid seekers.

In just the past 24 hours, 34 more bodies were brought to hospitals and 316 people were injured on Monday. Three more Palestinians

died of starvation, while three others were gunned down by Israeli soldiers while trying to access aid.

Since May 27 alone, 2,497 Palestinians have been killed while seeking humanitarian assistance—an atrocity that further underscores Israel's systematic targeting of civilians.

The flotilla's journey is not only a mission of aid but a political statement against impunity. It seeks to break Israel's illegal blockade and open a desperately needed humanitarian corridor.

Volunteers aboard the boats, who underwent nonviolence training in Tunis, are risking their lives to deliver relief and bear witness to crimes that international institutions have so far failed to stop.

Israel faces mounting legal consequences: the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for prime minister Netanyahu and former war minister Gallant, and the International Court of Justice is hearing a case accusing Israel of genocide. Yet, the killing continues unabated.

Turkey on Edge: Court Delays Key Opposition Leadership Decision

ANKARA (Dispatches) — A Turkish court on Monday postponed a verdict in a case challenging the validity of the Republican People's Party's (CHP) internal leadership election, delaying a decision that could affect the party's leadership and intensify political tensions ahead of upcoming elections.

The Ankara court adjourned the trial concerning the 38th congress of the CHP, held in 2023, until October 24. During this congress, long-time party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu was replaced by the current chairman, Özgür Özel.

The legal case alleges irregularities during the congress, including vote-buying and procedural breaches. The CHP denies these claims, labeling the case as politi-

cally motivated.

The government insists that the judiciary operates independently and that investigations focus on corruption allegations without political influence. Officials emphasize that the legal actions are part of efforts to ensure transparency and accountability.

Critics suggest that the case may affect the CHP's momentum after significant gains in last year's local elections. Some view the court's actions as part of broader efforts to maintain political stability ahead of the national elections scheduled for 2028, which may be held earlier.

Municipalities governed by the CHP have experienced a series of legal challenges over the past year.

Notably, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu remains in pre-trial detention on corruption charges he denies.

İmamoğlu is considered a prominent political figure and potential challenger in future elections. His arrest in March triggered widespread protests and drew significant public attention.

Recently, a court annulled the CHP's elected provincial leadership in Istanbul, appointing an interim chairman to manage the local branch. The appointed official was escorted to the party's Istanbul headquarters by police, who used pepper spray to disperse resisting party members and supporters.

If the court annuls the 2023

congress, it could lead to the appointment of trustees or the reinstatement of Kilicdaroglu as party chairman, a development that may create internal divisions within the CHP. Kilicdaroglu has expressed willingness to return to leadership but remains a contentious figure among supporters following previous electoral defeats.

On Sunday, thousands gathered in Ankara to protest the legal proceedings, chanting slogans and showing support for the opposition. In a letter sent from prison and read at the rally, İmamoğlu highlighted concerns about the judicial process and expressed hope for collective political progress, underscoring the significance of unity in Turkey's political future.

Top General: Military 'In the Dark' on Gaza Invasion Plan

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israeli military chief of staff Eyal Zamir has told members of the Knesset subcommittee for intelligence that prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has left the military "in the dark" regarding what comes after the operation to occupy Gaza City, Hebrew media revealed.

"The prime minister is not telling us what comes next, we don't know what to prepare for," the military chief said, according to Israeli news site Ynet.

Zamir also reportedly referred to the deadly U.S.-Israeli aid mechanism, the so-called Gaza humanitarian roundation (GHF), as a "failure."

According to Israel's Channel 12, Zamir has informed senior Zionist officials that the Israeli military is "committed to the goals of the war as defined by the cabinet, but Hamas will not be defeated militarily and politically even after the operation to capture Gaza City."

The military chief has been vocal about his opposition to the occupation of Gaza City and has clashed with Netanyahu on the matter.

Previous reports have revealed heavy ten-

sions between the Israeli cabinet and Zamir, who went to great lengths pressing Netanyahu over the danger the occupation plan poses to the captives held by the resistance in Gaza.

Zamir also told Netanyahu that the invasion will put further unnecessary strain on Israeli troops.

The chief of staff is not the first to express doubt about how effective the invasion will be in defeating Hamas. After two years of genocidal war, the resistance movement retains a significant fighting force and military capabilities – and continues to inflict losses on troops in Gaza.

Israel's Broadcasting Corporation (KAN) reported earlier this month that a military representative addressed a closed-door panel of the Knesset's foreign affairs and war committee, saying, "Why would the occupation of Gaza City cause Hamas to budge at all? ... it is not certain at all."

Zamir is also against the establishment of Israeli military governance in Gaza, which is one of the likely results of the occupation plan.

The Israeli military has been launching some of its heaviest airstrikes on the Gaza Strip since the start of its genocidal war in October 2023.

Israel carried out more than 100 airstrikes on September 13, according to Palestinian journalist Youssef Fares. Tel Aviv's massive escalation of strikes on Gaza City aims to wipe out infrastructure and pave the way for the upcoming assault.

Last week, Israel launched an unprecedented attack on Qatar, targeting Hamas leaders as they were meeting to discuss a U.S. ceasefire proposal. The resistance movement had agreed to an earlier proposal on August 18, yet it was rejected by Israel.

Tel Aviv is now insisting on going ahead with the occupation plan unless Hamas releases all the captives in one go and completely disarms and surrenders.

Hamas has signaled its willingness to release the captives and give up governance of Gaza to an independent Palestinian body. However, it refuses to disarm, given the history of Israel's aggression and occupation.

Jolani-Led Syria Begins Elections With Many Regions Excluded

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Syria commenced its first parliamentary elections since the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad on Monday, with the process expected to run through Saturday. However, the vote is overshadowed by ongoing violence, deep political divisions, and concerns over the legitimacy of the electoral process.

Unlike conventional elections where citizens directly vote for representatives, Syria's electoral system now relies heavily on indirect selection.

Regional electoral committees, formed through local community consultations, will appoint 140 of the 210 parliamentary seats. The remaining 70 seats will be directly selected by Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, a former takfiri leader who assumed power following President Assad's ouster earlier this year.

The elections are being conducted under the de facto regime of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a takfiri militant group affiliated with both Al-Qaeda and Daesh, led by Jolani, a former commander in both extremist organizations.

Despite HTS's notorious past and ongoing brutal campaign against minority groups, including the Alawites and Druze, the group is increasingly engaging with Western powers, including the U.S. and European nations, in an apparent bid for political normalization.

The election process excludes several key regions amid ongoing conflict and insecurity. The Druze-majority Sweida governorate and the Kurdish-controlled northern areas of Al-Haskah and Raqqa will not participate due to "security concerns," according to the

so-called Supreme Committee for People's Assembly Elections.

Officials have indicated the vote in these Kurdish areas will be postponed until conditions allow, leaving allocated parliamentary seats vacant in the meantime.

Syria continues to be plagued by violence, with recent escalations marked by intensified Israeli military operations, including the Zionist regime's largest ground invasion into Syrian territory on Sunday and sustained bombing campaigns targeting the country's critical infrastructure.

These attacks have further destabilized the region and complicated efforts toward political reconciliation.

HTS has made overtures toward normalization, yet the Kurdish factions remain defiant, refusing to adhere to any peace agreements, highlighting the fragmented and volatile political landscape.

The HTS regime's systematic exclusion of minorities such as the Alawites and Druze from the elections underscores the ongoing marginalization and persecution these communities face under HTS rule.

Authorities justify the indirect election model as a necessary measure to address logistical and demographic challenges, including millions of internally displaced persons and refugees, and widespread lack of identification documents.

However, political and human rights groups have called for international monitoring of the elections to ensure transparency and fair representation, especially regarding the parliamentarians selected by Jolani.

Turkish FM: Israel Seeks Expansion Far Beyond Palestine

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan has said that Israel is seeking to create a "Greater Israel" that extends beyond Palestinian land into parts of neighboring countries which include Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

"There are two reasons underlying Israel's expansionism. The first is to enlarge its territories and establish Greater Israel," Fidan said in an interview with Al Jazeera.

"The second is to keep the countries in the region weak, ineffective, and especially to leave Israel's neighboring states divided."

Fidan made the remarks in Qatar while attending an emergency joint summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League, convened in response to Israeli strikes in Doha that targeted Hamas last week.

"The issue is no longer just the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in our region. It is not only about Israel's occupation of Palestine or its continuation of genocide in Gaza. It is also about Israel's pursuit of regional expansionism," he added.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was set to join the summit in Doha on Monday.

Ankara considers Qatar a strategic partner and ally, and the attack in Doha has heightened Turkish concerns while reinforcing its view that

Israel disregards established norms of international law.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared last month to endorse the vision of a Greater Israel.

In an interview with i24 News, host Sharon Gal presented Netanyahu with an amulet depicting what Gal described as "a map of the Promised Land". When asked if he felt connected to the vision of Greater Israel, Netanyahu responded: "Very much."

Although the amulet did not appear on screen, the phrase "Greater Israel" is widely understood as an expansionist concept long invoked by extremist Zionists to claim parts of Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria, in addition to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu also described himself in the interview as being on a "historic and spiritual mission".

The idea has been publicly invoked by other Israeli officials as well. Last year, extremist finance minister Bezalel Smotrich was recorded advocating expansion of Zionist "borders" to include Damascus.

He suggested that Israel would ultimately extend to cover not only all Palestinian territories but also parts of Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

"It is written that the future of Jerusalem is to expand to Damascus," Smotrich said.