

Pro-Israel Firm to Control U.S. TikTok Algorithm

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Oracle Corp. will recreate the algorithm and provide data security for a new U.S. version of TikTok following the forthcoming sale of the popular Chinese-owned social media app to U.S. investors, Bloomberg reported.

Citing a White House official, the financial news outlet wrote that the arrangement seeks to ensure U.S. control of TikTok's algorithm, which recommends videos and determines what users in the U.S. see on their feeds. The U.S. government has demanded that TikTok's Chinese parent, ByteDance Ltd., sell its stake in the U.S. subsidiary of the app.

Thought for Today

No wealth is more useful than intelligence and wisdom; no solitude is more horrible than when people avoid you on account of your vanity and conceit or when you wrongly consider yourself above everybody to confide and consult.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hospitals Destroyed as Israel Pushes Permanent Gaza Occupation

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) -- **A Palestinian medical charity said Tuesday that Israel destroyed its main center in Gaza City after ordering its evacuation.**

Hospitals in Gaza said 26 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli fire since dawn Tuesday, with 18 of the dead reported in Gaza City alone. Gaza's health ministry said Israeli attacks over the past 24 hours had killed at least 38 Palestinians and wounded 190 more.

The Palestinian Medical Relief Society said an Israeli strike reduced its six-story building in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood to rubble. It said the center was one of the main facilities in the city providing blood donation and testing services, trauma care, cancer medicine and chronic disease treatment.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which has repeatedly bombed and raided hospitals in Gaza throughout the war.

Multiple hospitals in the famine-stricken city have been forced to shut down as Israel forces advance. Israel accuses Hamas of using medical facilities for military purposes but the Zionist military has provided little or no evidence of an resistance presence.

The head of the World Health Organization, which has partnered with the charity, condemned the strike. "Attacks on health facilities must end. The senseless violence must stop. Ceasefire!" Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote on X.

The medical charity said another of its centers was damaged and surrounded by Israeli troops, and that a third center was destroyed in a separate strike. Gaza's Health Ministry said Monday that the Al-Rantisi Children's Hospital and



Displaced Palestinians flee northern Gaza Strip by foot and in vehicles near Wadi Gaza amid a barbaric Israeli invasion, Sept. 23, 2025.

the Specialized Eye Hospital had been forced to shut down because of nearby Israeli military operations.

Israel launched a major onslaught earlier this month aimed at occupying Gaza City, the territory's largest, which has already suffered heavy damage from previous raids and bombardment.

The world's leading authority on hunger crises said last month that Israel's blockade and ongoing invasion had already pushed Gaza City into famine. More than 300,000 people have fled the city in recent weeks as Israel has ordered the population to move south, but an estimated 700,000 remain, according to UN agencies and aid groups.

The Gaza Health Ministry says at least

65,382 Palestinians have been martyred in the war, without saying how many were civilians or combatants.

The Zionist regime seeks to permanently occupy Gaza and wants to ensure a Jewish majority in the occupied West Bank, the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory said in a report on Tuesday.

Reuters quoted the report saying that the Israeli authorities have systematically demolished civilian infrastructure in Gaza, resulting in Israel expanding occupation to 75 percent of the enclave by July this year.

"Israeli forces have also intentionally altered the geography of Gaza" through the creation of military corridors, the report said.

Extremist Settlers Raid Al-Aqsa Mosque Under Military Protection

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- **Hundreds of extremist Israeli settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Al-Quds on Tuesday, coinciding with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.**

Groups of settlers entered the mosque complex under the protection of heavily armed Israeli forces.

They openly performed Jewish prayers and religious rituals at the site. They also sang and danced.

These actions violate long-

standing international agreements - known as the status quo - which designate Al-Aqsa Mosque as an exclusively Islamic site, where only Muslims are permitted to worship.

Israeli incursions into the mosque complex have become a near-daily occurrence.

However, the number of raids tends to increase significantly during Jewish and national holidays.

Beyadenu -- Returning to the

Temple Mount, an Israeli extremist group that organizes many of these incursions, had called on its supporters to carry out mass raids between 22 and 24 September in an effort to break records for the number of settlers entering the site.

So-called Temple Mount extremist groups reported that 58,310 settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque over the course of the past Hebrew year (5,785), marking a 14 percent

increase compared to the previous year, and a fivefold increase compared to a decade ago.

Temple Mount groups advocate for the destruction of Al-Aqsa Mosque to build a third Jewish temple in its place.

Before Tuesday's raids, Israeli forces tightened movement restrictions on Palestinians in the city, including limiting access to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Envoy: U.S. to Help Lebanese Army to 'Fight Own People'

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- U.S. envoy Tom Barrack said in an interview that Washington will support the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) to "fight their own people."

"It's a good organization, it's well-meaning, but it's not well-equipped," Barrack told The National in an interview. "Because who are they going to fight? We're gonna arm them so they can fight Israel? I don't think so. So, you're arming them so they can fight their own people. Hezbollah."

"The Lebanese ... all they do is talk. There's never been one act. We told them, you want our help? We gave them a playbook, but they can't get there," he went on to say, referring to Washington's demand to disarm Hezbollah.

Barrack also said the Lebanese wanted U.S. President Donald Trump to "become Dwight Eisenhower" and "land those beautiful marines" in the country.

Additionally, Barrack said Israel was "not withdrawing" from the areas it occupies in south Lebanon. He also said Hezbollah was "rebuilding" its forces.

Earlier this month, Washington approved a \$14.2-million package of assistance to help the Lebanese army disarm Hezbollah and other armed groups across the country.

The Lebanese army has been funded and equipped by the U.S. for years. However, it is not permitted to possess any weapons capable of defending the country and its borders from Israel or liberating occupied

territory.

The last confirmed delivery of ammunition took place in September 2023. In February 2024, the army confirmed receiving speedboats and patrol vessels from Washington. Since then, following the start of the war in Gaza on October 7, 2023, several mysterious foreign military cargo flights have landed in Beirut and the country's northern Hamat airport.

The Lebanese government adopted a decision to disarm the resistance early last month under heavy pressure from Washington.

Hezbollah has rejected the decision. It says it is open to discussing a national defense strategy, which would see its weapons incorporated into the Lebanese army and be available for use in defending the country if needed.

Yet the resistance group has emphasized that these talks cannot take place as Israel continues to attack Lebanon and occupy its territory in the south.

At least 300 people, including scores of civilians, have been killed by Israeli attacks on the country since the November ceasefire last year. Israel has also expanded the occupation it established during the ceasefire in violation of the deal, and Tel Aviv has said that it will not consider withdrawal until Hezbollah is disarmed first. Washington has publicly backed Israel's position.

Over the weekend, five people were killed by an Israeli attack on Bint Jbeil, including a man and his three small children.

Turkey Facing Worst Drought in Over Half a Century

ISTANBUL (AFP) -- **Turkey is experiencing its worst drought in over half a century, with rainfall dropping by 27 percent compared to the last three decades and even more in some regions, according to data published this week.**

Between October 1, 2024 and August 31 this year, precipitation in Turkey averaged at 401.1 millimeters (15.8 inches) compared to 548.5 mm between 1991 and 2020, the Turkish State Meteorological Service (MGM) said in its monthly report.

"Over 11 months, rainfall in Turkey has dropped to its lowest level in the past 52 years," the MGM said, noting a reduction of more than 60 percent in southeastern Anatolia, a typically arid region that borders Syria.

Less than 250 mm fell over 11 months, compared to average rainfall of over 1,000 mm over the past 30 years.

Turkey's Mediterranean regions have not been spared, with Marmara and the coast along the Aegean Sea recording the lowest precipitation in 18 years.

Water shortages paired with abnormally high temperatures made for a hellish summer in Turkey.

The month of July was the hottest in 55 years: average temperatures exceeded those between 1991-2020 by 1.9C, and even broke records with 50.5C in Si-lopi in the southeast at the end of the month.

Adana, the southern region known for its citrus fruit production, also saw its hottest day in 95 years when it hit 47.5C in early August.

In the west, Cesme's reservoir lake dropped to three percent of its usual water levels -- so much so that an old road, normally submerged, reappeared and made it to Turkish TV screens.

The situation triggered multiple forest fires in the west and around Hatay in the south, prompting mosques across the country to pray for rain at the beginning of August.

An NGO study published in early July estimated that 88 percent of Turkey risks desertification.

Rainfall is set to decrease by a third between now and the end of the century, while temperatures could rise by 5 to 6C compared to averages recorded between 1961-1990, experts predict.

Atypical weather has affected Turkey's most important exports such as apricots, apples, figs and hazelnuts, which make up 70 percent of global production.

In late August, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan estimated agricultural losses of 23 billion Turkish lira (\$557 million) for the country's 50,000 insured farmers and promised state aid for the 420,000 without any cover, whose incomes have collapsed.

U.S. to Sanction ICC Over Probe Into Israeli War Crimes

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The U.S. is considering imposing sanctions against the entirety of the International Criminal Court (ICC) over its investigations into Israeli war crimes, according to six sources cited by Reuters.

These "entity sanctions" are expected to be imposed soon, the sources said.

According to the report, ICC officials have "already held emergency internal meetings to discuss the impact of potential blanket sanctions." ICC member state diplomats have also held discussions on the matter.

One of the sources said "entity-wide sanctions were being weighed," but did not specify any timing.

The sanctions could negatively impact the court's daily operations, including its ability to pay salaries and access its bank accounts or computer software.

Three sources told Reuters that ICC employees have received this month's payment in ad-

vance. Diplomatic sources said ICC states would attempt to take a stance against the potential sanctions at the ongoing UN General Assembly session.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson said the court was trying to assert its "purported jurisdiction" over U.S. and Israeli officials, adding that Washington will be taking further action.

Neither the U.S. nor Israel is a signatory to the Rome Statute or a member of the ICC.

Washington has already been targeting the court with sanctions as it vowed to do after the ICC issued arrest warrants against Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant over war crimes in Gaza.

U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order imposing asset freezes and travel sanctions on ICC staff and their families, in-

cluding chief prosecutor Karim Khan.

The American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002, nicknamed the "Hague Invasion Act," authorizes a U.S. president to use "all means necessary and appropriate" to free any U.S. or allied personnel detained by the ICC.

In April, the ICC reversed its dismissal of Israel's objection to the arrest warrants issued against Netanyahu and Gallant.

The decision was seen as a move in favor of Israel.

Le Monde reported in early August that the U.S. and Israel carried out a nearly year-long campaign to pressure the ICC in a bid to prevent the warrants from being issued.

According to a report by The Guardian from May last year, Tel Aviv has waged a years-long intimidation campaign against the ICC -- which included the "stalking" and "threatening" of its officials -- in an effort to stifle investigations into Israeli war crimes.