

# Trump Threatens to Eradicate Hamas Over Israeli-Backed Gangs

WASHINGTON/GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Hamas Monday, warning that the group could face eradication if it does not control “rebellious” factions carrying out security operations against criminal gangs and Israeli collaborators in Gaza.

Trump said the recent clashes within Gaza, attributed to Hamas security forces cracking down on rival groups cooperating with Israel, were the work of “rebellious” members rather than Hamas’s leadership.

“We made a deal with Hamas that they are going to be very good. They are going to behave. They are going to be nice... and if not, they will be eradicated,” Trump said at the White House.

He reiterated that while he initially supported Hamas’s deployment of security forces to stabilize Gaza, he has since called for the group to disarm



if internal violence continues.

Trump suggested the United States and Israel stand ready to take military action against Hamas if necessary but are holding back to allow the fragile ceasefire brokered earlier this month a chance to succeed.

“I could ask Israel to return to withdrawn areas of Gaza and eradicate Hamas if I wanted to, but right now we’re giving it a little chance,” Trump said. He claimed that countries had privately offered to intervene

militarily but that Israel would quickly respond if ordered.

The warnings come amid ongoing tensions in Gaza, where Hamas has been fighting against armed gangs allegedly collaborating with Israel and internal rival clans. Hamas’s armed wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, denied involvement in a recent deadly attack on Israeli troops in southern Rafah, insisting it remains committed to the ceasefire agreement.

Since the truce took effect

on October 11, Israeli forces have reportedly violated the ceasefire over 80 times, with local media reporting airstrikes, artillery fire, and arrests of Palestinians.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israeli forces dropped 153 tonnes of bombs on Gaza on Sunday in response to what he described as Hamas attacks on Israeli soldiers.

The war has resulted in heavy casualties, with at least 45 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in the past 48 hours alone. The Palestinian health ministry reported a death toll of 68,216 since the war began in October 2023, including many women and children, and more than 170,000 wounded.

Hamas announced it would hand over the remains of an Israeli captive recovered in Gaza on Monday evening, amid continued violence and uncertainty over the ceasefire’s durability.

## Who...

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Shifting focus, the Leader praised the athletes and young scientists present, calling them “the embodiment of national growth and strength.”

“You have proven that the young generation of Iran, as symbols of the nation, have the power to stand on the peaks and attract the attention of the world to Iran’s bright future,” he said.

Expressing joy in being among the youth who have earned medals in sports and scientific competitions, he said their achievements carry “special value” because they were earned during a time when enemies try to demoralize the nation through psychological warfare.

“Despite their attempts to discourage and depress, you have revealed the power of the nation through your hard work and achievements,” Ayatollah Khamenei added.

He dismissed claims of youth despair as “ill-informed,” reaffirming that Iran and its youth “represent hope” and have the ability, with determination and effort, to reach the highest summits.

The Leader outlined Iran’s scientific leaps since the Islamic Revolution, citing advancements in nanotechnology, laser technology, nuclear science, military industries, and medicine.

He referenced recent news of a major medical breakthrough: “One of our research centers has found a cure for a previously incurable disease.”

Acknowledging enemy efforts to diminish Iran’s successes by “denying achievements, mixing truth and falsehood, exaggerating problems, and biased propaganda,” Ayatollah Khamenei praised the youth for standing atop the podiums of science and sports, thereby illuminating the country’s bright reality.

He warned that losing faith in national capabilities is “another enemy tactic” aimed at discouraging the nation and its youth.

“On the contrary, you must rely on the limitless energy of youth and intensify your efforts to bring hope and demonstrate the nation’s strength,” he urged.

Ayatollah Khamenei addressed young Iranians who might consider emigrating, telling them, “Even if you advance elsewhere, you remain strangers. Iran is your land, your home, and your heritage.”

He recounted the role of Iranian youth in the eight-year Iraqi war of the 1980s on Iran, noting how young people, despite scarce resources, innovated and enabled Iran to emerge victorious against a heavily armed enemy backed by global powers.

The Leader praised scientific fields where Iran ranks among the world’s top ten, including nanotechnology, laser, nuclear sciences, various military industries, and medical advances.

He encouraged continued pursuit of knowledge and innovation, emphasizing that Iran’s youth are the key to the nation’s future prosperity and independence.

## Future...

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During the war, Naqdi said, Iran found itself facing not just Israel but a coalition including NATO members such as the United States, Britain, France, Jordan, and Israel.

He cited the role of foreign military bases in neighboring countries, radars, listening posts, foreign embassies in Tehran, and satellite intelligence feeding real-time data to Israeli forces.

Dozens of foreign drones were reported patrolling the Persian Gulf daily, monitoring deep inside Iranian territory.

Despite these challenges, the IRGC successfully shot down 43 advanced Israeli drones and over 140 hostile drones overall, relying entirely on domestic defense systems.

Naqdi said these indigenous systems outperformed foreign technology like the Russian-made S-300 and offer advantages in upgradeability and adaptability.

The general stressed that Iran’s military endured a severe blow to its enemies and proved the nation’s ability to withstand even the most technologically advanced adversaries.

Naqdi said Iran did not seek a ceasefire during the war, with field commanders reporting no operational difficulties and forces holding firm throughout the war.

## Declassified...

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which erupted shortly after the 1979 revolution. Although denying official support, the FCO acknowledged the potential for other powers such as Iraq and Israel to back the Kurdish rebellion, revealing tacit approval of foreign interference against Iran.

A Kurdish lobbying group’s September 1980 letter to the FCO claimed Britain might be preparing to send a military mission to Iranian Kurdistan to assist the separatist movement. The UK response firmly denied any such plans but stopped short of condemning the insurgency, emphasizing instead that the British government recognized the borders of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey since World War I — a superficial stance given their ongoing undermining of Iranian sovereignty.

Lord Peter Carrington, then-Foreign Secretary, was petitioned to intervene on behalf of the Kurds across Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, describing the plight of the Kurds as “dreadful” and decrying “mediaeval” suppression. Yet, Carrington’s official reply, drafted by the FCO, sought to deflect responsibility by portraying Iranian authorities as defenders of ethnic equality, claiming government actions targeted only insurgents with foreign backing. He warned that British intervention could backfire, potentially associating Kurdish demands with foreign powers and escalating

tensions — a cynical admission of the West’s role in stoking unrest.

Meanwhile, the new Iranian constitution, adopted in December 1979, explicitly guarantees equal rights to all ethnic groups and rejects any discrimination based on color, race, language, or tribe. It also commits the Islamic Republic to supporting oppressed peoples worldwide, underscoring Iran’s dedication to unity and justice rather than division and foreign-imposed fragmentation.

## Iran’s...

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been considered violators of the JCPOA.”

Responding to calls by Britain, France, and Germany for renewed negotiations, Baghaei dismissed their efforts. “The short answer is: ‘Do not cause trouble.’ The three European countries must prove that they have the necessary capability to act as a reliable party,” he said.

Baghaei confirmed indirect communications with adversaries in recent days but rejected claims that Iran is on the verge of negotiations. “There have been contacts through intermediaries, but it cannot be claimed that we are at the threshold of a negotiation process,” he said.

He also criticized the United States for what he described as repeated abuse of the UN Security Council.

“This is not the first time that the U.S. has abused the Security Council. A clear example is multiple vetoes to prevent action against the Israeli regime. There have been six vetoes in recent months by the U.S.,” he said.

Baghaei said Washington had attempted to use the Security Council to reinstate sanctions against Iran but was blocked by European countries in the past — countries that now lack both the will and ability to do so.

“We have declared our opposition to the return of sanctions and have presented our arguments. The reality is that no decision has been made in this regard by the Security Council,” he said.

He noted that Russia and China, both permanent members of the Security Council, have expressed continued opposition to attempts to misuse the Council’s mechanisms against Iran.

Baghaei also highlighted Iran’s recent diplomatic activity at the 19th Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda, where the final declaration condemned Israeli and U.S. aggression against Iran and reaffirmed support for Iran’s nuclear position.

“Countries act based on their political views, and we hope to see the results of this diplomatic campaign in practice,” he said.

Addressing the European Union’s announcement that some non-member states might join sanctions against Iran, Baghaei said many countries have declared they will not enforce such measures.

“Countries that are candidates for EU membership may have legal commitments within their own frameworks, but in this specific case, we believe the action is contrary to international law,” he said.

Baghaei added that the majority of the international community opposes the actions taken by the three European countries and the United States.

He rejected the notion that Iran’s nuclear program is an international problem. “We fundamentally do not believe that Iran’s nuclear issue is an international problem. This was introduced into the agenda by the Israeli regime and Western countries under various pretexts,” he said.

“Iran’s nuclear program is not an international dispute. It should be seen based on Iran’s rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The right to enrichment is not something anyone grants us; it exists by virtue of our membership in the safeguards treaty.”

On Iran’s relations with Russia, Baghaei said cooperation between the two countries is expanding across multiple sectors, including defense.

“We have several important fundamental agreements, including a comprehensive joint agreement covering extensive cooperation, including defense,” he said.

## Official...

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during summit sessions and active follow-up on outcomes, highlighting that mere attendance is insufficient.

“We must have concrete suggestions that bring BRICS and SCO closer to their predetermined goals and ensure these are pursued afterward,” he added.

Highlighting the need for greater public communication, Gharibabadi said Iran currently lacks sufficient outreach about its achievements within these groups. He urged government agencies to better inform the public on the benefits of membership.

Gharibabadi also emphasized expanding bilateral cooperation with BRICS and SCO countries beyond multilateral forums, including areas such as legal, security, economic, and cultural exchanges. He noted ongoing initiatives like engagement with the BRICS Business Council aimed at enhancing private sector ties.

Amid ongoing Western sanctions and recent controversial attempts to reinstate UN Security Council sanctions on Iran, Gharibabadi viewed BRICS and SCO as critical platforms to counter unilateral pressures and strengthen Iran’s global standing.

Both organizations, along with the Non-Aligned Movement, rejected recent snapback sanctions attempts, reflecting shared positions among member states.

Iran formally joined BRICS on January 1, 2024, and became a full SCO member in September 2022. Together, these groups represent large portions of the global population, territory, and economy — a fact Gharibabadi said Iran intends to leverage through systematic planning and active participation.

“The strength of these two organizations lies in their comprehensive coverage of political, security, economic, social, and cultural domains,” he said. “Together, they form a truly multifaceted international platform.”

# Record Number of Settlers Leaving Occupied Territories

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) – Record numbers of settlers have left Israeli occupied territories since 2020, a Knesset report released this week shows, alarming lawmakers who warn the outflow could threaten the illegal entity’s Jewish demographics and social resilience.

The Knesset’s research and information center (RIC) found that between 2020 and 2024, some 145,900 more settlers left for the long term than returned. The gap reflects growing departures that lawmakers and analysts link to political turmoil, security concerns and economic pressures.

RIC data show 34,000 settlers left for extended periods in 2020, ris-

ing to 43,400 in 2021. Returnees totaled 32,500 and 23,600 respectively in those years. Departures jumped sharply in 2022 and 2023, with 59,400 leaving in 2022 and 82,800 in 2023 — a surge the report says was partly tied to the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023.

The report, prepared for a session of the Knesset committee for immigration, absorption and diaspora affairs, also breaks down departures by city. Settlers of Tel Aviv accounted for 14% of all settlers who left in 2024, followed by Haifa with 7.7%, Netanya 6.9% and Jerusalem 6.3%.

Committee chair Gilad Kariv described the figures as a “tsunami,”

saying many settlers were choosing to build their futures abroad and that fewer were returning. “This phenomenon threatens the resilience of Israeli society and must be seen as a real strategic threat,” he told Ynet, attributing part of the outflow to the current regime’s policies he said had fractured society and neglected settler needs since the war.

Kariv said the trend could be reversed but only with urgent intervention from prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom he accused of prioritizing other matters.

Other analysts point to a constellation of factors behind the departures, including cost-of-living pressures, housing shortages, security

anxieties and political polarization. Many settlers leaving are young professionals and families seeking greater stability, career opportunities and social cohesion overseas, the report indicates.

The migration outflow has prompted debate among policymakers over measures to retain skilled citizens, from tax incentives and housing support to bolstering public services and restoring social trust. The Knesset session aims to galvanize a policy response as officials weigh whether current trends represent a temporary reaction to conflict or a longer-term demographic shift with implications for Israel’s future.

# Report: UAE Building Airstrip Near Yemen’s Hudaydah

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Satellite images published by AP reveal construction of a new airstrip on Zuqar Island off Yemen’s coast, indicating an intensified military buildup in the region.

The 2,000-meter runway, located about 90 kilometers from the port city of Hudaydah, is likely aimed at countering the Ansarallah movement and Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF), analysts said.

Work on the airstrip began in April and has progressed steadily, with asphalt being laid by August. A UAE-based maritime company confirmed delivering asphalt to Zuqar, linking the construction to United Arab Emirates-backed efforts. The UAE and Yemen’s Saudi- and

Emirati-backed regime declined to comment on the airstrip’s military use or possible involvement in broader campaigns.

The airstrip is part of a growing network of military and intelligence installations established by the UAE — with Israeli assistance — on islands surrounding Yemen, enhancing surveillance and operational capabilities against resistance forces based in Sana’a.

Eleonora Ardemagni, analyst at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies, told Reuters that while a new offensive against Ansarullah forces cannot be ruled out, the primary purpose appears to be confronting resistance

forces.

The development follows recent satellite imagery showing expanded UAE military and intelligence bases on Yemen’s islands and along the Somali coast. These bases have strengthened UAE dominance over key Red Sea waterways in recent years, notably through facilities in the Socotra archipelago, developed in cooperation with Israel.

Yemen has been embroiled in a devastating war since 2015, when Saudi Arabia led a coalition including the UAE in a military campaign against the country. The decade-long war has caused widespread famine and killed more than 150,000 people. Despite a decline in

active fighting, Yemen’s main ports and airports remain blocked, perpetuating a humanitarian crisis.

Areas outside the Sana’a-based government control are administered by the Saudi-backed Presidential Leadership Council and the Emirati-backed Southern Transitional Council.

Amid ongoing regional tensions, Israel is reportedly preparing to continue military actions against Ansarallah and Yemeni forces despite a ceasefire in Gaza. Hebrew news outlet Channel 12 reported last week that Israel’s security establishment had separated the Yemen front from Gaza, allowing military operations in Yemen to continue independently.

# Report: Epstein Survivor Says Beaten, Raped by Ex-Israeli PM Barak

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Virginia Roberts Giuffre, a victim of disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, has disclosed in her posthumous memoir that she endured brutal beatings and rape at the hands of a prominent political figure in a series of encounters.

In her book titled Nobody’s Girl: A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice, Giuffre recounted how she pleaded with Epstein to intervene after the “well-known prime minister” subjected her to terrifying experiences and forced her to beg for her life, but Epstein coldly told her it was simply part of her job.

“After the attack, I couldn’t stay a fool. Having been treated so brutally and then seeing Epstein’s callous reaction to how terrorized I felt, I had to accept that Epstein meted out praise merely as a manipulation to keep me subservient,” she wrote. “Epstein cared only about Epstein.”

Giuffre referred to the man as the ‘Prime Minister,’ fearing retribution if she revealed his identity, although she had previously pointed to former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak in court filings as one of the many elites who had raped her, a claim he has repeatedly denied.

According to Giuffre, she first encountered the ‘Prime Minister’ on Epstein’s private island when she was 18 years old in 2002, where he subjected her to violent and terrifying acts.

She described how he repeatedly choked her to the point of losing consciousness, inflicting extreme fear and violence upon her, which she detailed in her memoir.

The politician “raped me more savagely than anyone had before,” Giuffre said, adding that she immediately went to Epstein to beg him not to send her back to the prime minister.

But Epstein showed indifference, stating, “You’ll get that sometimes,” when confronted with the politician’s brutality.

Epstein later allegedly arranged for Giuffre to have a second encounter with the prime minister in a cabin aboard his private plane, the Lolita Express, during which she spent the time in constant fear of further violence.

Giuffre admitted that prior to the traumatic experiences, she had given Epstein the benefit of the doubt, believing he cared for the girls, but she was forced to confront the truth after his indifference to her suffering at the hands of the prime minister.

“I didn’t know it then, but my second interaction with the Prime Minister was the beginning of the end for me,” Giuffre said, adding she stopped recruiting other young girls for Epstein as he had forced her to do in the past.

Giuffre’s memoir, written before her death in April, is scheduled for release next week, offering a detailed account of her harrowing experiences at the hands of powerful individuals. Giuffre was 41 when she died.