



**Activists Demand New York Arrest Itamar Ben Gvir During Visit**

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The Hind Rajab Foundation (HRF) and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) has sent a letter to the New York State Attorney General (AG) calling for a criminal investigation of Israel's insecurity minister Itamar Ben Gvir ahead of his upcoming visit to New York.

Ben Gvir -- who oversees Israel's police force and is also an extremist Jewish settler leader -- has called for the destruction and ethnic cleansing of Gaza and overseen the torture and rape of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. He is expected to be in Manhattan next week for the Chiefs of Police Summit from July 7-8.

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## Says Operation Al-Aqsa Flood 'Altered All Equations' 'Turning Point': Hamas Hails Palestinian Sacrifices Over 1,000 Days

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- A senior Hamas official declared on Saturday that Operation Al-Aqsa Flood has fundamentally altered all political and military equations, as the Palestinian resistance marks 1,000 days of confronting Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

Abdel Majid al-Awad, head of political and media relations for the Hamas resistance movement in Lebanon, stated that the October 7, 2023 operation "demonstrated the Palestinian resistance groups' ability to take the initiative and bring about a major change in political and military spheres."

The operation, Awad said, shattered the Tel Aviv regime's myth of invincibility and dispelled the illusion of security and military superiority that Israeli authorities had worked for decades to establish.

"During the war, the Gaza Strip became the target of all-out aggression, which impacted all aspects of life and was accompanied by killings, widespread destruction, and growing humanitarian crises," he added.



Palestinians are seen atop an Israeli Merkava tank seized during the Operation al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2023.

The senior Hamas official stated that Israel had set several objectives for its bloody onslaught, including the obliteration of resistance groups and the imposition of a new reality on the ground—goals it has failed to achieve despite the passage of more than 1,000 days.

"The steadfastness and resilience of the Palestinian people, and the retaliatory operations carried out by resistance factions, prevented the occupying regime

from declaring what it asserted as absolute victory," Awad stated.

He noted that Israel suffered political, security, and military losses during the Gaza war, while Palestinians continued to adhere to their national rights and principles. The genocidal war, he said, has had "severe and catastrophic fallouts for Israel's prestige."

Awad also highlighted the growth of solidarity campaigns with the Palestinians and the increase in

popular and legal movements across the globe, stating that the Palestinian narrative has gained a stronger presence worldwide.

He expressed gratitude to all movements and parties that supported the Palestinian people during the Gaza genocide.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed approximately 73,000 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 21,500 children—1,022 of them infants—while injuring over 173,000 others. Some 9,500 Palestinians remain missing, believed to be buried beneath the rubble of demolished buildings.

More than 90 percent of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed, while 80 percent of the territory remains under Israeli occupation.

UNICEF has warned that more than 11,000 children have suffered "life-changing" injuries, including up to 4,000 cases of limb amputations, many carried out under extremely difficult conditions in hospitals and medical centers repeatedly targeted by Israeli forces.

## Saudi Proxies Threaten Yemen After Ansarullah Vows to Strike Kingdom

RIYADH (Dispatches) -- The Saudi proxies in Yemen have threatened an "unprecedented" military action after the Sanaa-based government, led by the Ansarullah resistance movement and its allies in the Yemeni army, pledged to attack Saudi airports in retaliation for Saudi warplanes blocking an Iranian civilian flight from landing in capital Sanaa.

Saudi-led coalition spokesman Major-General Turki al-Maliki issued a statement on Saturday accused the Ansarullah-led government of undermining regional and international security.

The threats from Riyadh's proxies came after the Sanaa government announced on Friday that it had confronted Saudi warplanes attempting to prevent an Iranian civilian aircraft from landing at Sanaa International Airport.

The plane was carrying more than 200 patients alongside a delegation traveling to Tehran for the funeral of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Military spokesman Yahya Saree warned that any attempt to violate Yemeni airspace or target the country "will be met with a comprehensive response targeting Saudi airports and vital interests on land and sea."

The flight was the first publicly confirmed Iranian civilian aircraft to land in Sanaa in roughly a decade, defying the crippling blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia and its proxies that has exacerbated Yemen's humanitarian crisis.

Al-Maliki's statement claimed that the Sanaa government's military posture has exposed Yemeni civilian infrastructure to potential targeting, including the ports of Hodeidah, Ras Isa, and as-Salif, as well as Sanaa International Airport.

He vowed that the coalition "will respond with unprecedented determination and force to any and all attempts to target the Kingdom."

Yemen's so-called Presidential Leadership Council, which serves as a front for Saudi and Emirati interests in the country, held an emergency meeting condemning the Iranian flight as a violation of Yemeni sovereignty and demanding the UN take "deterrent measures" against the Sanaa government.

The Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015 after the Sanaa government ousted the Saudi-backed puppet regime. The conflict has since caused widespread displacement and damage, with the UN describing the situation as one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises—a crisis largely attributable to the Saudi blockade.

The renewed threats come months after the Saudi proxies and the Sanaa government agreed to their largest prisoner exchange, confirmed in May, which included seven Saudi prisoners of war.

Fighting has largely been frozen since a UN-negotiated truce in 2022, though Saudi Arabia continues to violate Yemeni sovereignty through its ongoing aerial bombardment and illegal blockade.

## Damascus Opens Trial for Druze Massacre as Violence Engulfs Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- The interim Syrian regime announced that it has finally begun trying suspects over the massacre of Druze civilians in Sweida last year in what critics view as a cynical attempt by the de facto ruler, Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, to whitewash the blood spilled by his own forces.

The violence in July 2025 was some of the worst the country has seen since the fall of Bashar al-Assad. While the regime claims it is holding "defendants" accountable, the facts on the ground point to a different reality.

The massacre was carried out by Jolani's security forces and allied takfiri militias, yet the trial reeks of a cover-up to protect the architects of the bloodshed.

The conflict erupted in the Druze-

majority Sweida province, spiraling into a sectarian nightmare. Reports indicate that Jolani's security forces intervened alongside Bedouin fighters against the Druze, leading to a staggering death toll.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, over 2,000 people were killed, including at least 789 Druze civilians. Government investigators conceded to documenting the killing of 1,760 people, though they are likely undercounting the scale of the atrocity.

UN investigators have warned that war crimes and crimes against humanity may have been committed. They documented "widespread executions, torture, gender-based violence and the burning of homes" in Sweida.

Despite these grave findings, the

trial opened by the Jolani regime appears to be a public relations exercise designed to shield the real perpetrators.

While the regime insists the trial is meant to "hold accountable anyone proven responsible," the failure to indict the senior military commanders who ordered the intervention is glaring.

The killers in Sweida were acting under the command of the new regime. By pretending that a few low-level defendants can bear the blame for a systematic state-led massacre, Jolani is testing the world's patience.

The hypocrisy of the Jolani administration is further underscored by its recent crackdown on former officials from the Assad era. On the same day, the regime announced the arrest of former Major General

Ali Saleh Dhiab, a former intelligence chief in Qamishli.

General Dhiab was a bastion against Israeli occupation and influence in the region. Jolani, on the other hand, has spent his tenure watching the Zionist regime regularly destroy Syria's infrastructure and harass Syrians with repeated ground incursions and occupation of territory.

He is also presiding over an escalation of violence, including the recent bombings in Damascus that have killed dozens of civilians.

A recent string of security incidents, including an attempted bus bombing in a Damascus suburb and a deadly cafe blast near the Justice Palace, highlight the instability Jolani's regime has failed to contain, with Syria becoming a hotbed of factional violence and lawlessness.

## Report: Israeli Spyware Targeted EU Lawmaker Probing Phone Hacking

OTTAWA (Reuters) -- A former member of the European Parliament who served on a committee investigating abusive surveillance was himself hacked using an Israeli-made spy tool, a Canadian tech watchdog group has said.

Citizen Lab said in a report that the phone of Stelios Kouloglou, a Greek television journalist-turned-lawmaker, was hacked at least three times between October 2022 and March 2023 using Pegasus spyware, a tool distributed by the Israeli company NSO Group.

At the time of the targeting, Kouloglou was serving on the European Parliament's PEGA Committee, which was set up in 2022 to examine the use of illegal phone hacking across the European Union.

The committee focused mainly on the use of Pegasus and similar tools, finding that governments across the EU likely used spyware "in one way or another, some legitimate, some illegitimate."

Kouloglou said he was astonished at the audacity of whoever was behind the hacking. "I was not expecting that a PEGA member would be spied on

by Pegasus," he told Reuters. "I was not expecting that they would be as reckless as that."

In a statement to Reuters, the European Parliament did not directly address Kouloglou's case but said its IT security services "constantly monitor cybersecurity threats as well as potential cyberattacks against its working environment."

It said spyware screening tools had been available to all lawmakers since 2022 and that a report adopted last month called for their extension to all devices used for parliamentary business.

NSO has said its spy tools are used to police serious crime and to protect national security, but the company has repeatedly been accused of facilitating intrusive surveillance of journalists, political opponents, civil rights activists and religious figures around the world.

NSO was blacklisted by the U.S. government in 2021 over human rights and national security concerns. Last year, WhatsApp owner Meta Platforms won a \$168 million damages award against NSO for unlawfully hacking the platform, although the award was significantly reduced.

Last month, Meta accused NSO of violating the

court's injunction on targeting its services and filed for a contempt order.

Citizen Lab said it believed that Kouloglou had been hacked through a vulnerability in Apple software that was not known at the time. It said Kouloglou received repeated warnings about state-sponsored hacking attempts from Apple in 2023 and 2024.

Citizen Lab did not identify who actually used Pegasus to target the former lawmaker, but it linked some of the hacking activity to earlier discoveries that Pegasus was used to spy on Russian- and Belarusian-speaking journalists and activists in exile.

Sophie in 't Veld, a former EU lawmaker who championed the PEGA committee's creation, said the hacking of Kouloglou's phone showed how the spread of mercenary spyware had created a surveillance free-for-all.

"We're in a situation where anybody could spy on anyone and they're spying on citizens, they're spying on journalists, they're spying on NGOs, on lawyers, on politicians, and nobody knows who's behind it," she said.

## Largest U.S. Presbyterian Church Declares Israel's Gaza War a Genocide

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The Presbyterian Church (USA), the largest Presbyterian denomination in the U.S., has voted overwhelmingly to recognize Israel's military onslaught in Gaza as a genocide, making it the first major U.S. church to adopt such a designation.

The General Assembly approved the measure by a vote of 454 to 15, also calling on church members to boycott Israeli products and lobby Congress for an arms embargo against Israel.

The denomination further voted to divest from two U.S. firms—Palantir Technologies and General Electric Aerospace—over their ties to Israel's military and intelligence services.

Palantir, a data analysis firm with close ties to the CIA, provides artificial intelligence applications that assist the Israeli military in developing "kill lists" of Palestinians, according to the church's resolution.

General Electric Aerospace supplies engines and manufacturing components used in military assaults in Gaza that human rights organizations have deemed war crimes.

Reverend Dr Fahed Abu Akel, a Palestinian-American and former moderator of the PCUSA, who survived the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, addressed the assembly.

"We have been silent on the destruction of most of the schools, universities, hospitals, mosques and churches—all of which were done with our American-made weapons and dollars. Siblings in Christ, in the name of the living Christ, we cannot

be silent on this matter any longer."

Reverend Marietta Macy, co-moderator of the church's Palestine Justice Network, welcomed the decision, stating: "We are pleased that the denomination has taken meaningful steps to address the genocide and other gross human rights abuses against Palestinians and others around the world."

The church has previously divested from companies implicated in Israeli war crimes. In 2014, it divested from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions for providing equipment used in Israel's illegal occupation and colonization of Palestinian territories.

Last year, the denomination voted to divest from Israeli bonds and approved a resolution denouncing Christian Zionism.

Reverend Dr Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Anglican who heads the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in occupied Al-Quds, has said that Christian Zionism contradicts the teachings of the New Testament and should be viewed as a heresy.

He says the doctrine violates Christ's message of love, justice, and peace, and its prophecy of a world ending in violence contradicts the view of a loving and merciful God, instead endorsing a tribalism based on racial exclusivity.

Israel has killed more than 75,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 2023, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, though independent estimates are significantly higher. The death toll includes 17 Palestinian Christians in Gaza.