

# Mother of Palestinian toddler killed by Israeli forces calls for justice

The mother of a Palestinian toddler who died of his wounds after being shot by Israeli soldiers last week called for justice on Tuesday as she attended his funeral in the occupied West Bank.

Marching with dozens of mourners, Marwa al-Tamimi held her toddler for the last time, his face fitting in her palms as she leaned in to kiss his forehead.

"I want justice for my son, and for every person who shot at my husband and son to be held accountable," she said.

Mohammad, who his mother said was months shy of his third birthday, succumbed on Monday to a gunshot wound to the head inflicted after he and his father came under Israeli gunfire near their home while driving to visit relatives. Haitham al-Tamimi, the father, was shot in the shoulder.

"When I went to check on my son, I told (the soldiers) that my son was killed. They said 'stand back or we'll shoot,'" the mother, who was not in the car, told Reuters.

In a statement following the incident, the Israeli military claimed that soldiers responded with

live fire to shots fired by assailants toward a settlement, and two Palestinians, including a child, were wounded.

According to the Palestinian office of Defense for Children International (DCIP), Al-Tamimi was one of 27 Palestinian minors killed as a result of Israeli military and settler activity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza since January.

"Without accountability, Israel's crimes against our people/children will continue unabated," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh wrote in a tweet on Tuesday.

The U.S. Office for Palestinian Affairs urged Israel "to evaluate all use of deadly force that involves civilian casualties". It echoed statements by the EU delegation to the Palestinians and the United Nations envoy for the Middle East peace process that called on Israel to hold accountable those responsible for Al-Tamimi's death.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman also condemned the fatal shooting of the Palestinian toddler, saying the United States is also complicit in the daily crimes of Israel due to its



constant support for the occupying regime, Press TV reported.

Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday, a day after two-and-a-half-year-old boy

succumbed to the critical wounds he received a few days earlier from shots by Israeli soldiers.

"Mohammad Haytham Tamimi, a two-year-old child, is the 28th innocent Palestinian child who has

been killed at the hands of the child-killing Israeli regime. The supporting role of the regime's sponsors in continuing these daily crimes is also to blame from a legal and international perspective," he wrote.

The mother (C) of Mohammed Haitham al-Tamimi carries his body during the funeral in the village of Nabi Saleh in the central part of the occupied West Bank on June 6, 2023. **AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP**

## French hold new protests against pension reform

French union activists marched on the headquarters of the Paris Olympics and slowed traffic at the capital's Orly Airport with strikes Tuesday as they sought to reignite resistance to a higher retirement age.

But the last-ditch effort drew fewer followers than at the height of the movement earlier this year, and even some union leaders seemed ready to move on, according to AP.

President Emmanuel Macron's move to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 — and force the measure through parliament without a vote — inflamed public emotions and triggered some of France's biggest demonstrations in years. But the intensity of anger over the pension reform has ebbed since the last big protests on May 1, and since the measure became law in April.

As part of Tuesday's actions, a third of flights were canceled at Paris' Orly Airport because of strikes, and about 10% of trains around France were disrupted. Around 250 marches, rallies and other actions were planned around the country to mark the 14th day of national protest since January over the pension reform. A small group of activists with the hard-left CGT union pushed their way into the headquarters



SEBASTIEN SALOM-GOMIS/AFP

of the 2024 Olympics in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, chanting anti-Macron slogans. In Paris, thousands gathered along the embankments of the Seine River near the gold-domed Invalides monument before setting off on their march to southeast Paris. The peaceful crowd waved union flags, banged drums and chanted to demand the withdrawal of the pension law and a lower retirement age. Macron says the reform was needed to finance the pension system as the population ages. Unions and left-wing opponents say the changes hurt poorer workers and have argued for higher taxes on the wealthy and employers instead.

## Bulgarian parliament approves gov't after five elections

Bulgaria's Parliament on Tuesday formally approved the country's new government proposed by the two main political rivals in a bid to end a 30-months-long political crisis, restore stability and spur economic development in the poorest EU member country. The GERB party of ex-Premier Boyko Borissov, which won the April general election, and the runner-up, the pro-European liberal coalition "We Continue the Change - Democratic Bulgaria" have agreed to form the first-ever Bulgarian government where the post of prime minister will change hands halfway through, AP reported.

Lawmakers voted 132-69 to elect Nikolay Denkov, a 60-year-old chemistry professor and former education minister, as prime minister. Denkov is a founding member of the reformist "We Continue the Change" party. In a separate vote, legislators

also approved the Cabinet, in which GERB's Maria Gabriel, a former European Commissioner, will serve as deputy head of government and foreign minister. After nine months, Denkov and Gabriel will switch positions for the rest of the term. Even though the two parties in this unlikely coalition are fundamentally at odds, they managed to strike a deal on the key elements in the government program.

They will seek to cobble together a constitutional majority of two-thirds of parliamentary seats to push through a comprehensive overhaul of the judiciary and to implement long-awaited anti-corruption reforms in the graft-ridden country.

The Balkan country of 6.5 million is one of the most corrupt nations in the EU. It also has the worst income inequality in the 27-member bloc.

## Moscow, Kyiv trade ...

Officials raced to check cooling systems at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; and authorities expressed concern about supplies of drinking water to the south in Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.

Both Russian and Ukrainian authorities brought in trains and buses for residents. About 22,000 people live in areas at risk of flooding in Russian-con-

trolled areas, while 16,000 live in the most critical zone in Ukrainian-held territory, according to official tallies. Neither side reported any deaths or injuries.

The dam break added a stunning new dimension to the war in Ukraine, now in its 16th month. Ukrainian forces were widely seen to be moving forward with a long-anticipated counter-offensive in patches along more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) of front line

in the east and south.

It was not immediately clear whether either side benefits from the damage to the dam, since both Russian-controlled and Ukrainian-held lands are at risk. The damage could also hinder Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south and distract its government, while Russia depends on the dam to supply water to Crimea. Although Kyiv officials claimed Russia blew up

the dam to hinder the counteroffensive, observers note that crossing the broad Dnieper would be extremely challenging for the Ukrainian military. Other sectors of the front line are more likely avenues of attack, analysts say.

Experts have previously said the dam was in disrepair, which could also have led to the breach. Authorities, experts and residents have expressed concern for months about

water flows through — and over — the Kakhovka dam. After heavy rains and snow melt last month, water levels rose beyond normal levels, flooding nearby villages. Satellite images showed water washing over damaged sluice gates.

Amid official outrage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he convened an urgent meeting of the National Security Council. He alleged Rus-

sian forces set off a blast inside the dam structure at 2:50 a.m. (2350 GMT Monday) and said about 80 settlements were in danger. Zelensky said in October his government had information that Russia had mined the dam and power plant.

But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called it "a deliberate act of sabotage by the Ukrainian side ... aimed at cutting water supplies to Crimea."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Protests against finance bill in Kenya turn violent

REUTERS — Kenyan police fired tear gas at hundreds of people protesting near parliament on Tuesday against a proposed finance bill that would hike taxes on fuel and housing. President William Ruto, who won elections in August on a platform of helping the poor, is under pressure to raise revenues in East Africa's economic powerhouse in the face of rising government debt repayments. But his proposals have drawn sharp criticism from civil servants and political opponents, who say that the cost of living is already too high.

#### Kuwaitis vote in parl. polls



AP

REUTERS — Kuwait on Tuesday held its second legislative election in nine months in a bid to resolve a grinding political crisis that has seen parliament repeatedly dissolved and reinstated, hindering economic reforms.

Feuding between the OPEC member state's appointed government and elected parliament has hampered fiscal reform, including passing a debt law that allows Kuwait to tap international markets and address a heavy reliance on oil.

#### Dozens dead, thousands homeless after floods in Haiti



REUTERS — Flooding from torrential rains in Haiti has left at least 42 people dead over the past couple days and dozens more missing and injured, officials said. Over 13,600 homes are also listed as flooded. The civil protection agency said on Twitter on Monday the death toll had risen since Sunday night after floods over the weekend hit various parts of the country, including near the capital Port-au-Prince.