

Danger of famine in Gaza

NGO warns Israel persists in starvation policy

International Desk

A human rights group has said that the starvation of people in Gaza is "not a by-product of war but a direct result of Israel's declared policy".

"The horror is growing by the minute, and the danger of famine is real. Still, Israel persists in its policy," said the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, B'Tselem.

"The images of children begging for food, people waiting in long lines for paltry hand-outs, and hungry residents charging at aid trucks are already inconceivable" it added. Changing this policy, the organization stated, is not just a moral obligation but a requirement under international humanitarian law.

"Starvation as a method of warfare is prohibited, and when a civilian population lacks what it needs to survive, parties to the conflict have a positive obligation to

allow rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid, including food."

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After Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Oct. 9 ordered "a complete siege on the Gaza Strip," saying "there will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed." UN officials say a humanitarian cease-fire and the safe and unrestricted flow of supplies into Gaza, including commercial goods, are vital to avert famine. Israel should facilitate the entry and delivery of commensurate aid, Laurence

says, adding that "failure to act in line with these obligations may have serious consequences under international law."

The World Health Organization said on Sunday that it had been compelled to cancel a mission to bring medical supplies to northern Gaza on Sunday after failing to receive security guarantees. It was the fourth time WHO had had to call off a planned mission to bring urgently needed medical supplies to Al-Awda Hospital and the central drug store in northern Gaza since Dec. 26, it said.

Meanwhile, majority of medical staff, as well as around 600 patients, from Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza have been forced to leave the complex to unknown locations with no information of their whereabouts, the WHO and the UN said on Monday.

The hospital is struggling to cope amid intense airstrikes across the enclave.

The two institutions note chaotic scenes as the remaining staff at the hospital continues to try to cope with an influx of injured people as "heavy Israeli bombardment from air, land, and sea intensified across much of the Gaza Strip".

The Health Ministry in Gaza said Monday at least 23,084 people have been killed in the besieged Palestinian territory since war with Israel began on October 7.

Meanwhile, the US and its allies in the Group of Seven were seeking a quick way out of the military phase of the Gaza conflict, Italy said on Monday, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his EU and German counterparts toured the region. He began a five-day Middle East diplomatic effort in Jordan and Qatar on Sunday, his fourth visit to the region since Oct. 7.

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock was in Israel on Monday and the EU's top diplomat Josep Bor-



A Palestinian child holds an empty pot as he waits to receive food distributed by volunteers for Palestinian families displaced by Israeli attacks in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on December 22, 2023.
● ABED ZAGOUT/ANADOLU AGENCY

rell was in Lebanon in a sign of international concern.

Pope Francis, tackling conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine in his yearly address to diplomats, said on Monday that "indiscriminately striking" civilians is a war crime because it violates international humanitarian law. Expressing concern that the war in Gaza could spread in the wider Middle East, he called for a "cease-

fire on every front, including Lebanon".

Speaking at a weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani described recent incidents in the Red Sea as "an outcome of the situation in Palestine."

Al Jazeera, Reuters, AFP, and Press TV contributed to this report.

Israeli strike on Lebanon kills senior Hezbollah commander

International Desk

A senior commander of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has been assassinated in an Israeli airstrike on southern Lebanon.

Wissam Hassan al-Tawil was killed when the strike hit the vehicle transporting him in the village of Khirbet Selm on Monday, Press TV reported.

The commander served with Hezbollah's elite Radwan ground force.

Israel has been desperate in its ground invasion of the besieged Gaza Strip since early October. The regime has achieved no objectives in Gaza, killing more than 23,000 people notwithstanding.

Southern Lebanon has also been tense ever since, with Hezbollah and Israeli forces exchanging fire across the border on a daily basis.

On Monday, another Hezbollah member was also killed in an Israeli airstrike on the village of Majdal Selm.

Israeli bombardment has killed more than 130 Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon since cross-border shelling began in the aftermath of Hamas's attack on Israeli territory on Oct. 7. Another 19 have been killed in Syria.

Hezbollah has already warned the regime of the consequences of further escalation in the region.

Hezbollah's secretary-general Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has warned Israel in two televised addresses last week not to launch a full-scale war on Lebanon.

"Whoever thinks of war with us - in one word, he will regret it," Nasrallah said, Reuters reported.

On Friday, Nasrallah said Israel is concealing the "heavy losses" it has suffered in southern Lebanon since the Lebanese resistance movement's operations against the occupying regime are "very exhausting."

The Israeli military has admitted that its strategic air base on Mount Meron was "seriously damaged" in a recent missile strike by Hezbollah.

Like Zionists in Gaza, Daesh massacres innocents

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the Daesh terrorist group seeks to kill women and children just like the Israeli regime that is massacring innocent people in Gaza.

Raisi made the statement in a meeting with Chairman of Tajikistan's National Assembly Rustam Emomali in Tehran on Monday, Press TV reported.

He said all regional countries should actively counter terrorist groups such as

Daesh, which is nurtured by the US and Israel.

He emphasized that Iran and Tajikistan must promote cooperation in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and smuggling of illicit drugs.

The president hailed the appropriate level of growing relations between Tehran and Dushanbe in the past two years and said the expansion of parliamentary ties would play a key role in boosting cooperation in the

political and economic sectors as well.

Emomali, for his part, said Tajikistan supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and condemns Israel's killing of more than 23,000 Palestinian civilians in Gaza since the beginning of its war against the Gaza Strip in October.

The top Tajik parliamentarian described insecurity as an issue of common concern between Tehran and



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (R) meets Chairman of Tajikistan's National Assembly Rustam Emomali in Tehran on January 8, 2024.
● president.ir

Dushanbe and a danger to promotion of bilateral trade cooperation.

Heading a high-ranking parliamentary delegation, Emomali arrived in Tehran on Monday morning.

MoU signed to boost parliamentary cooperation



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Emomali signed a memorandum of understanding to improve parliamentary

cooperation. They said Iran and Tajikistan should make use of their capacities to further expand relations.

Americans played Dutch over Stuxnet: Report

International Desk

According to the investigative journalists of the newspaper Volkskrant, the Dutch intelligence services knew they were participating in the sabotage of the Iranian nuclear program in 2008 but not that their agent was bringing in Stuxnet. "The Americans used us," one intelligence source told the Volkskrant.

In 2008, a Dutchman played a crucial role in the United States and Israeli-led operation to sabotage Iran's nuclear program. The then 36-year-old Erik van Sabben infiltrated an Iranian nuclear complex and released the infamous Stuxnet virus, paralyzing the country's nuclear program.

A few years ago, Volkskrant revealed that the Dutch

intelligence services AIVD and MIVD had recruited the infiltrator in this sabotage operation. But at the time, it was believed to have been an Iranian engineer. Dozens of people involved, including 19 employees of the AIVD and MIVD told the newspaper that Dutchman Van Sabben infiltrated the underground nuclear complex in the city of Natanz and installed equipment infected with the highly sophisticated Stuxnet virus.

Van Sabben immediately left Iran after sabotaging the country's nuclear program, the researchers concluded. He died two weeks later in a motorcycle accident near his home in Dubai. Nothing points to foul play, the Volkskrant said.

Iranian and Dutch officials did not immediately re-

spond to the report, and Iran Daily cannot inde-

pendently verify claims made by the report.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Notice of cancellation
the tender No. 14/1402/Z
(renewed)

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces cancellation of renewed Tender No. 14/1402/Z "70.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran" until further notice.

Meanwhile the second tender renewal will be informed in newspaper and Golgohar website as www.geg.ir subsequently.

Transactions Commission of Golgohar
Mining & Industrial Co.