

Lebanon files complaint with UNSC over Israeli strikes



in hostilities in the south is "extremely concerning." "The loss of innocent life is lamentable. The rules of war are clear: Parties must protect civilians and these rules must be upheld. They are not a target," Riza said in a statement. At least 39 civilians have reportedly been killed in southern Lebanon in the last four months, according to the UN Human Rights Office. The Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah has promised to retaliate for Wednesday's strikes, stating that Israel would pay "the price" for killing 10 people, including five children in southern Lebanon. "The enemy will pay the price for these crimes," Hezbollah politician Hassan Fadlallah told Reuters. "The resistance will continue to practice its legitimate

one of the war-torn Palestinian territory's few operating hospitals that had been raided by Israeli forces. "A fifth patient at Nasser hospital was martyred as a result of the stopping of generators that caused a cut in oxygen supply," the ministry said in a statement, raising fears for four other patients admitted at the hospital's intensive care unit and three children in a nursery. Israel faced renewed calls from key ally the US on Friday against launching a large-scale attack on Gaza's southern city of Rafah, where nearly 1.5 million Palestinians are trapped. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted he would push ahead with a "powerful" operation in the overcrowded city to achieve "complete victory" over Hamas.

Hezbollah fighters and supporters attend the funeral of one of the group's commanders killed by an Israeli air raid in Lebanon's southern city of Nabatieh on February 16, 2024. MAHMOUD ZAYYAT/AFP

International Desk

Lebanon's permanent mission to the UN has filed a formal complaint before the UN Security Council following the death of at least 10 civilians in two Israeli airstrikes in the south of the country. Addressing the rotating President of the Security Council Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, the mission noted that the strikes against civilians amount to "war crime". "While international humanitarian law guarantees

protection of civilians and civilian facilities, Israel's deliberate and direct bombing of civilians in their homes is considered a violation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime," reads the complaint. An Israeli strike knocked down part of a building in the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh on Wednesday, killing seven members of the same family, including a child, Lebanon's official National News Agency said. A boy initially reported missing was found alive under

the rubble. In a separate Israeli attack, a woman and her two children were killed in the village of as-Sawana in southern Lebanon. The complaint added that the airstrikes are "considered a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, as well as safety of its lands and citizens." The attacks "breach upon all United Nations resolutions that require Israel to stop its violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and end its occupation of Lebanese lands, including Resolution 1701

(2006)," the mission added. Meanwhile, a UN spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said Thursday that escalating hostilities in southern Lebanon have displaced more than 88,000 residents. He added that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 60,000 people remain in border villages highly affected by exchanges of fire. Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon, Imran Riza, said Thursday that a recent surge

right to defend its people," he pointed out. The border tension comes amid an Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 28,775 people following an attack by the Palestinian resistance group Hamas on Oct. 7 last year. The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Friday the toll includes 112 fatalities over the past 24 hours, while 68,552 people have been wounded in Gaza. It said five patients died Friday due to lack of oxygen at

Fresh calls against Rafah attack

The White House said that President Joe Biden had spoken by phone with Netanyahu late Thursday, urging him not to carry out an attack on Rafah without a plan to keep civilians safe. Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven into Rafah, seeking shelter in a sprawling makeshift encampment near the Egyptian border. The city now hosts more than half of Gaza's population, with displaced people "crammed" into less than 20 percent of the territory, according to OCHA. AFP, REUTERS, Anadolu Agency, and Press TV contributed to this report.

130 journalists killed in Israel's war on Gaza

International Desk

The number of journalists killed in Gaza rose to 130 since the start of Israel's onslaught on the Palestinian territory following the death of two more reporters. The government media office in Gaza in a statement named the two journalists as Zaid Abu Zayed and Yasser Mamdouh. Zayed was killed in the bombing of a house in the Nuseirat camp, along with his wife and children, while

Mamdouh was killed by Israeli snipers in the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 99 journalists were killed worldwide in 2023, making those 12 months the deadliest for the media in almost a decade. The Palestinian victims account for nearly 75 percent of all journalists killed worldwide. Killings of reporters would have dropped globally year-

on-year had it not been for the deaths in the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza, the CPJ said in its annual report released on Thursday. "This war is unprecedented in terms of the threat to journalists," Jodie Ginsberg, president of the CPJ, told Al Jazeera from New York. "What's important to remember about this war is that Gazan journalists are the only journalists able to report on what's happening inside Gaza. International journalists have not been



able to get in, have not been allowed in, except on very, very controlled trips that are overseen by the Israeli army. "So we are entirely reliant on those [Palestinian]

journalists, who are risking their lives to bring us this story," she added. The CPJ has previously attacked the "persecution" of journalists by Israeli forces and is investigating whether

er a dozen journalists killed in the Gaza conflict were deliberately targeted by Israeli soldiers, which would constitute a war crime. Journalists in Gaza have been killed covering the war and sheltering from it. Some have died with their colleagues; others, with their families. They tried to report any way they could, recording scenes of carnage and rare moments of calm through photos, videos and social media posts. The images they left behind — or the words they didn't know would be their last — allowed a glimpse into the lives of besieged Palestinians in a devastating war.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tehran ready to ensure Caucasus security



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi welcomed peace negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, expressing Tehran's readiness to guarantee security in the Caucasus region. In a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan on Thursday, Raisi expressed Iran's opposition to the presence of outsiders in the region, Tasnim News Agency reported. "We do not agree with the presence of outsiders in the region under the pretext of solving problems, and we believe that their presence will not only not solve the problems, but will become a bigger problem for the nations and governments of the region," he said. Tensions between the two Caucasus neighbors have remained high since Baku re-captured the Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh last September in a lightning military offensive.

Iran firm on constructing barrier along Afghanistan border



The commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces said on Friday that construction of a barrier along the Afghanistan border is one of the most important projects of the country. Brigadier General Kiumars Heydari said that the construction of barriers like walls and fences is common in all countries, and no one can protest. Heydari underlined that other countries cannot interfere in Iran's plans to construct a barrier. Heydari's comments came in reaction to remarks by Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who had said earlier that Afghanistan is safe and poses no threat to any country, claiming that construction of barriers at the border should be coordinated with Kabul. Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi confirmed earlier in the month Iran's plans to erect a barrier along the border with Afghanistan.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran, Saudi Arabia push for OIC emergency meeting on Gaza

The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia weighed plans for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to address the heinous crimes the Zionist regime is committing against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In a telephone conversation on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud called for concerted efforts to end the Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Pointing to his diplomatic efforts, including his recent negotiations with the secretary general of OIC, Amir-Abdollahian said he has proposed the idea of holding an emergency meeting of OIC foreign ministers to address the Gaza crisis. The top Saudi diplomat welcomed the proposal for the emergency meeting on plans to stop the Israeli regime's genocidal crimes in Gaza and the West Bank. The two sides agreed to hold further consultations with the other foreign ministers about the issue.

The Iranian foreign minister lashed out at the US for sponsoring the Zionist crimes in Gaza and giving Israel the green light for strikes on Rafah. "We do not regard war as the solution, but if a political solution is not found immediately, the negative consequences of continuation of acts of genocide by the Israeli regime for regional security and stability will be inevitable," he warned. For his part, the Saudi minister denounced Israel's disregard for international calls for the cessation of war.