

Israel reaches central Rafah as European states recognize Palestine

In a major setback for Israel, Spain, Ireland and Norway formally recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday in a coordinated decision as the regime continues its genocidal war in the Gaza Strip. The three European countries believe their initiative has strong symbolic impact that is likely to encourage others to follow suit, AFP reported.

After Ireland's government formally approved the measure, Prime Minister Simon Harris said the aim was to keep Middle East peace hopes alive.

As Oslo's recognition went into effect, Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide hailed the move as "a special day for Norway-Palestine relations". And after Spain's cabinet backed the move, Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said it was a day that would be "etched in Spain's history".

Earlier, Spanish Prime Min-

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares (c), Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide (r) and Irish Foreign minister Micheal Martin join hands after holding a joint press conference in Brussels on May 27, 2024. **● KENZO TRIBOUILLARD/AFP**

ister Pedro Sanchez said recognition was "essential" for peace, insisting the move was "not against anyone, least of all Israel" and the only way to secure a future of two states living side-by-side "in peace and security". The plans were unveiled last week by the prime ministers of the three countries, sparking a furious response from Israel and further exacerbating its diplomatic tensions, notably with Spain.

'Clear call for elimination of Israel'

Last week, Sanchez's far-left deputy Yolanda Diaz hailed the move saying: "We cannot



stop. Palestine will be free from the river to the sea", which the Israeli Ambassador in Spain slammed as a "clear call for the elimination of Israel". The slogan refers to the British mandate borders of Pal-

estine, which stretched from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea before Israel was created in 1948. On Tuesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz went even further. "Sanchez, as long as you

don't fire your deputy and you recognize a Palestinian state, you are participating in the incitement to commit genocide and war crimes against the Jewish people," he wrote on X. Tuesday's move will mean

145 of the United Nations' 193 member states now recognize Palestinian statehood.

Rafah invasion

On Tuesday, Israeli tanks advanced to the center of Rafah for the first time, witnesses said, three weeks into a ground offensive in the southern Gaza city that has stirred global condemnation for its continued civilian toll, according to Reuters.

Overnight, its forces battered the city with airstrikes and tank fire, residents said, pressing the offensive despite an international outcry over an attack on Sunday that sparked a massive blaze in a tent camp, killing at least 45 Palestinians, more than half of them children, women and the elderly.

Global leaders voiced horror at the fire in a designated "humanitarian zone" where families uprooted by fighting elsewhere in Gaza had

sought shelter, and urged the implementation of a World Court order for a halt to Israel's assault.

Israel's war on Gaza has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 people since October 7 when the Hamas resistance group launched an operation in the occupied territories which killed more than 1,200 people.

In an opinion published in Haaretz newspaper, an Israeli major general has warned of the consequences of the war on Gaza.

Yitzhak Brik has said that only the Israeli cabinet can end the war, because there is no chance that the Palestinian resistance groups will decide to end it.

He said that if this does not happen, this campaign will turn into a war of attrition, which will last for years, under the leadership of Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in the north, and will lead to the collapse of the regime.

Iran's acting FM urge Muslim elites to pressure Israel



Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani called upon scholars in the Muslim world to explore all available avenues and exert more pressure on the Israeli regime in order to stop its onslaught against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Baqeri Kani made the appeal during a meeting with former Iraqi prime minister Adel Abdul-Mah-

di in Tehran on Monday, Press TV reported. During the meeting, the Iranian diplomat pointed to the strategic changes and developments that have taken shape at regional and international levels following Operation al-Aqsa Storm launched by Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups on October 7 last year, and Operation True Promise,

through which Iran made Israel pay the cost of the criminal attack against its embassy in the Syrian capital on April 1.

Baqeri Kani underlined that prominent thinkers and elites of the Muslim world must play much greater role, and heap pressure on Israel and its sponsors, above all the United States, so that the occupying regime would stop its crimes and genocide in Palestinian territories.

Abdul-Mahdi visited Tehran to offer condolences on the passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life alongside seven others in a helicopter crash in northwest Iran on May 19.

Parliament re-elects Qalibaf as speaker

National Desk

Iranian lawmakers re-elected Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf as the speaker of the country's 12th Parliament. During the Tuesday parliament's session, Qalibaf gained the votes of 197 out of 287 lawmakers. He will serve as the speaker for one-year period. The new parliament was inaugurated on Monday with a message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.



Iran's parliamentary elections were held in March. 245 candidates won the race in the first round of balloting. The final make-up of the legislative body was determined after a run-off held on May the 10th. A trained pilot, Qalibaf was

a commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) during the Iraqi imposed war in the 1980s. He also served as the head of the IRGC's construction arm, Khatam al-Anbia, the commander of the IRGC's air force, the police chief and the mayor of Tehran. Qalibaf's reinstatement comes ahead of early presidential vote as a snap election has been set for June 28 following the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19.

ton's "shameless" support for the "genocide" he charged was under way in Gaza.

"I reiterate my demand to expel" the US ambassador and "close the embassy through diplomatic means without bloodshed," he said in a statement on X.

Iraq's Sadr calls for closure of US Embassy

Influential Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr renewed his calls to close the US embassy in Baghdad Tuesday after an Israeli strike killed at least 45 civilians in a camp in Gaza on Sunday night. Sadr condemned the Israeli strike and Washing-

The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation
The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)

has issued a public call (No:140301/6) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the implementation of development projects under the EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework. Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

- A profile and professional resume (including a list of similar ongoing or completed contracts).
- An expression of interest.
- Other relevant information related to the call.

Submissions can be made either by mail to the following address:
Address: 63 IMINO Building, 5th Floor, Between Jahan Kodak Square and Vanak Square, Vanak, Tehran, Iran, Postal Code: 1969935788
 Or electronically to the email address: info-iccdco@imidro.gov.ir

The project scope includes various aspects related to copper production:
Design, construction, and installation of semi product and downstream copper chain production lines.

In this regard, Mr. Mostafa Eini Sohail can be contacted at phone number +98 2141868000-742 for collaboration and document retrieval.

The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation
The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)

has issued a public call (No:140301/4) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the implementation of development projects under the EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework. Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

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Copper production processes (including concentration, smelting, and refining).

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The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation
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has issued a public call (No: 140301/2) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the implementation of development projects under the EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework. Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

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The project scope includes various aspects related to copper production:
Exploration and extraction of copper (including heavy mining machinery, crushers, and in-pit crushing and conveying systems).

In this regard, Mr. Mostafa Eini Sohail can be contacted at phone number +98 2141868000-742 for collaboration and document retrieval.