

Israeli strike on Gaza school kills 12 Palestinians

Biden remarks 'green light' for Israel to continue war: *Hamas*



Palestinians carry their children as they flee after an Israeli strike on a school, housing displaced Palestinians, in the Rimal neighborhood of central Gaza City on August 20, 2024. **OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP**

Israel has killed 12 Palestinians in a strike on a school in Gaza City, Gaza civil defense said, where "hundreds" of displaced people are sheltering. "Our crews retrieved 12 martyrs from the Mustafa Hafiz school, which was bombed by the Israeli occupation west of Gaza City," agency's spokesman Mahmud Bassal said. Thousands of displaced Palestinians had sought refuge in the school, he said, amid the ongoing Israel's onslaught on the

Gaza Strip. The Israeli military claimed the school was targeted because it housed a command-and-control center. Bassal said the strike hit the second floor of the school building. Photos showed the school reduced to rubble, with scores of Palestinian men and women, many holding children, fleeing the site after the strike. In recent weeks, the Israeli military has struck several schools across Gaza, primarily in Gaza City, ac-

curring them of housing Hamas command centers, which the resistance group denies. Earlier this month, the military had struck the Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City, which according to the civil defense agency killed 93 Palestinians. Tens of thousands of displaced people have taken refuge in schools since the beginning of the Israel's devastating war on October 7. Israel's military offensive has killed at least 40,173 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health

ministry. Most of the dead are women and children, according to the UN human rights office. Diplomatic efforts are underway to end the regime's bloody campaign in the Palestinian territory. The three mediators, namely the US, Qatar and Egypt, have spent months trying to end the war in Gaza, with the talks repeatedly stalling. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who has traveled to the region for the ninth time since October,

said on Monday that Israel has accepted a proposal to bridge differences holding up a cease-fire and captive release in Gaza, and he called on Hamas to do the same, without saying whether concerns cited by the resistance group had been addressed.

US siding with Israel
Hamas has said it is losing faith in the US as a mediator, accusing American negotiators of siding with Israel as it makes new demands that the resistance

group rejects. Blinken did not say whether the proposal addressed Israel's demand for control over two strategic corridors inside Gaza — which Hamas has said is a nonstarter — or other issues that have long bedeviled the negotiations. Hamas senior official Osama Hamdan criticized Blinken's statement, saying it "raises many ambiguities" because it is "not what was presented to us nor what we agreed on." Hamas on Tuesday also condemned claims by US President Joe Biden that it was backing away from a Gaza truce deal, calling his remarks a "green light" for Israel to continue the war. The "misleading claims... do not reflect the true position of the movement, which is keen to reach a cease-fire" agreement, Hamas said in a statement.

It called Biden's remarks an "American green light for the Zionist extremist government to commit more crimes against defenseless civilians". Hamas said Biden's remarks reflect a clear "American bias" towards Israel and Washington's complicity in the "war of extermination against defenseless civilians in the Gaza Strip". The group said it is committed to a cease-fire framework outlined by Biden on May 31 which he said had been proposed by Israel.

Iran repudiates US claims over election campaign hacking



Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations roundly rejected allegations about the Islamic Republic's interference in the 2024 US presidential election, calling the assertion "unsubstantiated." Asked by the American media outlets, the Iranian diplomatic mission responded to a Monday statement issued by three US federal intelligence agencies that has accused Tehran of attempting to interfere in the 2024 presidential election and targeting political campaigns and American public with cyber and influence operations, Press TV reported. "Such allegations are unsubstantiated and devoid of any standing. As we have previously announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran harbors neither the intention nor the motive to interfere with the US presidential election," the Iranian mission said in a statement. "Should the US government genuinely believe in the validity of its claims, it should furnish us with the pertinent evidence—if any—to which we will respond accordingly," it added.

US intelligence officials claimed on Monday that they were confident that Iran was responsible for the hack of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, casting the cyber intrusion as part of what they called broader effort by Tehran to interfere in American politics and potentially shape the outcome of the election. Besides breaching the Trump campaign, officials also believe that Iran tried to hack into the presidential campaign of Kamala Harris.

Israel envoy: UN building 'should be wiped off face of earth'

International Desk

Israel's outgoing Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan said the UN building in New York is "unnecessary" and "should be closed and wiped off the face of the earth." "I'm coming out with a feeling of satisfaction on one hand, of my battle

and work here, but on the other hand with great distress and frustration with the fact that this building, which may look nice from the outside, is actually twisted and distorted," Erdan told Israeli daily Maariv in an interview. This was not the first time for Erdan to attack the United Nations.

Last month, Erdan was quoted as saying: "We must take unprecedented steps against the UN, such as closing the UN compound in Jerusalem [Al-Quds] and expelling the heads of the agencies stationed in Israel, to send a clear and unequivocal message that the continued bias and exploitation

of the UN against Israel will come at a price." His remarks came after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague accused the regime of genocide and ordered the regime to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah. In May, the Israel's ambassador also shredded a tiny

version of the UN Charter in a mini paper shredder in protest at the UN General Assembly's resolution to urge the Security Council to recognize a Palestinian state. The Israeli diplomat had also previously criticized UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UN agency for Palestine Refu-

gees (UNRWA). Israel has faced international condemnations over its brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip. The Israeli onslaught has since killed over 40,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured more than 92,740, according to local health authorities.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Thousands protest US support for Israel's war on Gaza in Chicago

International Desk

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Chicago on the opening day of the Democratic National Convention on Monday, in a show of anger against the US administration's support for Israel in the Gaza war. "This is not about some Machiavellian politics," said social critic and independent presidential candidate Cornel West at the onset. "This is about morality. This is about spirituality." Mo Hussief, a Chicago accountant, joined the rally.

"My family is in Gaza," Hussief said. "I've had over 100 family members murdered over the last 10 months by the genocide. So, I'm here to protest as an American, to say I don't want my tax dollars to be used to murder my own family." Hussief said it is impossible for him to cast a ballot for the vice-president as long as she supports arming Israel. The US is by far the biggest supplier of arms to Israel, with more than 70% of its arms imports coming from the US, according to the



Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Pro-Palestinian groups have for months protested the US administration's mili-

tary and financial support for Israel in its war against Hamas, which has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza.