

# Report: India State-Owned Company Shipped Munitions to Israel Amid Gaza War

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – In another revelation, an Indian state-owned defense company has been accused of sending ammunition and explosives to Israel, a report says, making New Delhi actively complicit in Tel Aviv's genocidal actions against Palestinians.

As per publicly available records, Munitions India Ltd (MIL), a public sector enterprise under the Indian Ministry of Defense, has been granted permission to export its products to Israel starting from January 2024, the Indian news website The Wire reported on Tuesday, after it revealed in February that an Indian private arms manufacturing company sent killer drones to Israel.

"On April 18, 2024, the company has again applied for exporting the same products under a repeat order from Israel. Approval for the company's second export to Israel is under consideration by the licensing authorities," the report said.

The granting of the exports license by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government comes despite an ongoing genocide in Gaza and speculation that the equipment might be used in the genocide by



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu

the Israeli occupying forces.

The export of the munitions by the government-owned entity puts India among the countries profiting from the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

Established in 2021, the MIL is engaged in the "production, testing, R&D and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the army, navy, air force and para-military forces."

The Wire also reported that a private Indian company named Premier Explosives Ltd. (PEL) has been exporting explosives and allied accessories to Israel under SCOMET, or Special Chemicals,

Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies, license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) at least since 2021, and has been permitted to export these items twice since Israel's war on Gaza began last year.

The latest disclosure comes months after the Indian news outlet revealed in a report that made-in-India killer drones manufactured by the privately owned Adani group were exported from India to Israel.

Between 2019 and 2023, Hyderabad-based Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems India Ltd., a joint venture by Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel's Elbit Systems, made a

sale of more than 20 Indian-made Hermes 900 medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) UAVs to Israel.

Over the months, Indian pro-Palestinian advocates have voiced their concerns over the government's inconsistent stance towards Palestine. While India publicly supports the Palestinian cause and advocates for a free Palestinian state, its actions seem to indicate support for Israel's actions in Gaza, prompting criticism from activists.

Under the Modi government, relations between New Delhi and Tel Aviv have seen their unprecedented new highs.

Modi, who first came to power in 2014 hailing from the infamous Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is considered a staunch supporter of Israel. He has come under criticism for standing by Israel even in the regime's latest military aggression in the Gaza Strip.

Back in October when Israel launched its devastating war in Gaza, India was among the countries that did not back a UN resolution for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza, instead choosing to ab-

## Zionist...

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The Zionist regime's occupation of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing came after Hamas said it had accepted a truce proposal.

As the onslaught raged on the outskirts of Rafah on Wednesday with Zionist forces closing in, Palestinians were on the move again, abandoning neighborhoods of the southern Gaza city and leaving them as ghost towns.

People in the Jneina, Al-Shawka, Al-Salam and other neighborhoods were ordered by the Zionist military to leave in anticipation of an assault. Some 1.4 million people have been sheltering in Rafah, raising the prospect of major casualties.

"Some streets look like a ghost town now," said Aref, 35, who asked not to be named, fearing Israeli reprisals. "We don't fear death and martyrdom but we have kids to care for and live for another day when this war ends and we rebuild the city," he told Reuters via a chat app.

Suleiman Abu Kweik and his family are being displaced for the fourth time.

"Our homes have been destroyed. In Gaza (City) our house... they destroyed it. It was shelled. We went to Khan Younis. When they threatened Khan Younis, we went to Rafah," he said.

Hamas said its fighters were battling Israeli forces in the east of Rafah. Lines of smoke from airstrikes and tank shelling rose from places east of the city, residents said.

"Some people are still staying in their homes, even in the red zone areas, but I daresay that tens of thousands have already left Rafah, including from areas west of the city, that are not included in the occupation army warning," said Muhammad Emad, 34, a father of three.

## Pro...

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Riot police used a bulldozer to knock down barricades at another UvA site on Tuesday and detained 169 people, but said the university had not yet asked for similar intervention on Wednesday.

UvA management were hoping talks on Wednesday will bring an end to the protests, but the students were digging in, pulling up bricks from the streets and pavements near to the 19th century campus and forming human chains to send them to the barricade.

The protesters say the Israeli institutions the university works with profit from the oppression of Palestinians.

"We will remain until UvA, VU and AUC DISCLOSE, BOYCOTT, AND DIVEST!" the organizers, amsterdam, encampment, said on Instagram overnight. They were referring to two other institutions in the city, although all the protests are at UvA.

The university said on Monday it had exchange programs with three universities in Israel, which are halted because of security concerns, and was cooperating with Zionist scientists or companies in eight different European research projects.

On Tuesday, police dispersed protests at the Swiss University of Zurich and at the courtyard of the Freie Universitaet Berlin.

Last week, police took similar action at the Sorbonne University in Paris, while on Wednesday the Brussels University said it would file a police complaint against students who were involved in a protest.

In a response to protesters, Ireland's Trinity College Dublin (TCD) said this week that it would pull investments from Israeli companies that the United Nations link to settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, following a student protest over the war in Gaza.

Students have been camping out in the college grounds since May 3, forcing the university to restrict campus access and to close an exhibition of the 1,200-year-old Book of Kells, one of Ireland's top tourist attractions.

On Monday evening, TCD said it condemned "the atrocities of October 7th and the continuing ferocious and disproportionate onslaught in Gaza" and it had "initiated a process to divest from investments in companies that have activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

In the UK, dozens of brightly colored tents adorned the lawns outside Oxford University's natural history museum, as a chorus of pro-Palestine chants echoed around the historic 19th-century neo-Gothic building.

Adorned in keffiyehs and holding

hand-painted banners emblazoned with messages of defiance, more than 100 protesters could be heard passionately lobbying the university to cut ties with arms manufacturers and companies linked to Israel, and back calls for a ceasefire as the war rages on in Gaza.

The scene was in stark contrast to the images from the U.S. over the past week, where heavily armed riot police violently dispersed and arrested hundreds of peaceful protesters.

Every few minutes, a passing car beeped their horn in support of the encampment. The protesters responded by cheering and applauding.

The protesters also erected a temporary wall on one side of the camp which urged people to write messages on it "if you want apartheid to fall".

More than 80 percent of Gaza's schools have been severely damaged or destroyed by Israeli airstrikes and shelling, including every one of the strip's 12 universities.

## FM...

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mistake, we will target American bases."

"Most of the neighboring countries told us that they will not allow any country to launch acts of aggression against Iran from their soil," he said.

The minister pointed to the ongoing situation in the Gaza Strip, and said conditions are ripe for a "lasting ceasefire" in the besieged Palestinian territory should the West live up to its promises.

"We had an unwritten agreement with the Western parties to focus on the ceasefire in Gaza, and the Westerners said they would move in this direction and, today, positive signs have appeared in this regard," Amir-Abdollahian said.

He said that Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has presented a response to the initiative proposed by Egypt and Qatar "within the framework of its principles and as part of a realistic plan."

"If the Americans and the West fulfill their promise and truly adhere to the ceasefire, everything is ready for the establishment of a lasting ceasefire and resolution of problems," he added.

The top Iranian diplomat also warned that Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and hardliners in his administration favor the continuation of war because "if the war ends, a new Israeli crisis will break out in the occupied territories."

## Envoy...

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Iravani said resistance factions in Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon are not proxies, but rather legitimate groups whose actions are lawful. They are engaged only in fighting against Israeli occupation and aggression on Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories, as well as occupation forces in other parts of the region.

"Therefore, Israel's attempt to label them as proxies is only aimed at covering up and justifying its own acts of aggression and destabilizing measures in the region.

"It is indisputable that the Israeli regime, characterized by a long history of blatant violations of international law, the UN Charter, and UNSC resolutions, remains the top threat to international peace and security," he said.

The envoy stated that any futile attempt by the Zionist regime to obscure the reality through disinformation, smear campaigns, or unsubstantiated accusations against others is groundless and in vain.

"The Israeli regime cannot deny its direct and full responsibility for the ongoing massacre and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, which are all in defiance of UNSC resolutions," Iravani pointed out.

He said Israel must finally bear full responsibility for the consequences of its actions, and the Security Council must address the regime's persistent destabilizing and irresponsible actions, as well as its atrocities against Palestinians and other nations in the region.

These actions, he said, pose a genuine threat to both regional and international peace and security and require immediate attention and decisive action on the part of the Security Council.

Iravani said by leveling baseless allegations Israel is merely attempting to divert international attention away from the ongoing heinous atrocities and acts of genocide perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

# UK Muslim Group Issues 18 Demands for Labour to Win Back Trust Lost Over Gaza

LONDON (Dispatches) – A Muslim advocacy group has issued a set of 18 demands for the UK's opposition Labour party to win back the support of the community.

Labour is the front-runner in opinion polls ahead of the UK general elections set to be held later this year but its declining support amongst Muslims over Israel's war on Gaza has already cost it a parliamentary seat during a recent by-election and several council seats in local elections held last week.

The Muslim Vote (TMV), an initiative backed by dozens of

Muslim organizations in the UK, issued a list of ways Labour could restore support for the party among Muslims.

Its top demands are related to the Palestinian issue and include a call for Labour leader Keir Starmer to apologize for his earlier support of Israeli actions, to back sanctions on companies operating in settlements in the occupied West Bank, and support the recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Other demands include a travel ban on Israelis involved in the war and an end to ties with Israel's military.

Starmer's position on Israel's war on Gaza has been the biggest driver of the fall in support amongst Muslims.

Initially, he backed the Israeli decision to cut off water, electricity and food supplies, which amounts to a war crime under international law.

The Labour leader later walked back his comments but refused to call for a ceasefire, another position he has since changed his line on.

Labour is now calling for a humanitarian ceasefire, but that has not helped to repair relations with the Muslim com-

munity, which is overwhelmingly against the war on Gaza and has called on British politicians to use their influence to stop Israel's military operations.

Muslim voters were pivotal in helping former Labour MP George Galloway return to parliament during a by-election in Rochdale on 29 February.

Galloway made Gaza a central issue in his campaign and Labour's own candidate lost the party's backing after suggesting that Israel had allowed the Hamas-led operation of 7 October to happen.

# Blast in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Leaves Several Casualties

KABUL (Xinhua) – Local Afghan media reported that several people were killed and injured in a car explosion in Badakhshan in northeastern of the country on Wednesday.

Zabihullah Amiri, head of Badakhshan's information and culture, told local TOLONews TV that an explosion took place in the city of Faizabad.

According to the report, the

blast targeted a vehicle.

According to the senior official of Badakhshan province, the explosion was caused by a motorcycle loaded with explosives.

Moreover, Al-Arabiya news channel reported that 3 people were killed and 6 others were injured in a suicide blast in Badakhshan province in northeastern Afghanistan on Wednesday.

# Rains Refill Iraq's Drought-Hit Reservoirs

DARBANDIKHAN (AFP) – The reservoir behind the massive Darbandikhan dam, tucked between the rolling mountains of northeastern Iraq, is almost full again after four successive years of drought and severe water shortages.

Iraqi officials say recent rainfall has refilled some of the water-scarce country's main reservoirs, taking levels to a record since 2019.

"The dam's storage capacity is three million cubic meters (106 million cubic feet). Today, with the available reserves, the dam is only missing 25 centimeters (10 inches) of water to be considered full," Saman Ismail, director of the Darbandikhan facility, told AFP on Sunday.

Built on the River Sirwan, the dam is located south of the city of Sulaimaniyah in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

"In the coming days, we will be able to say that it's full," said Ismail, with the water just a few meters below the road running along the edge of the basin.

The last time Darbandikhan was full was in 2019, and since then "we've only had years of drought and shortages," said Ismail.

He cited "climate change in the region" as a reason, "but also dam construction beyond Kurdistan's borders."

The central government in Baghdad says upstream dams have heavily reduced water flow in Iraq's rivers, on top of rising temperatures and irregular rainfall.

This winter, however, bountiful rains have helped to ease shortages in Iraq, considered by the United Nations to be one of the five countries most vulnerable to some impacts of

climate change.

In Iraq, rich in oil but where infrastructure is often run-down, torrential rains have also flooded the streets of Kurdistan's regional capital Irbil.

Four hikers died last week in floods in Kurdistan, and in Diyala, a rural province in central Iraq, houses were destroyed.

Ali Radi Thamer, director of the dam authority at Iraq's water resources ministry, said that most of the country's six biggest dams have experienced a rise in water levels.

At the Mosul dam, the largest reservoir with a capacity of about 11 billion cubic meters, "the storage level is very good, we have benefitted from the rains and the floods," said Thamer.

Last summer, he added, Iraq's "water reserves... reached a historic low."