



Turkey to Join South Africa's Genocide Case Against Israel Before ICJ

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey will join South Africa in its genocide case against the Zionist regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan announced on Wednesday. Fidan said that Turkey has been deliberating how to respond to the occupying regime's actions during the war on Gaza for a while and has already taken steps against Israel, such as restricted some exports.

"Our legal experts have been studying how to participate in the legal case against Israel at the ICJ," Fidan during televised remarks. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan approved the officials' plan, Fidan added, so Turkey "will legally support South Africa's case against Israel at the ICJ, and file our application to the court soon".

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Rights Group: Israel Using Thermal Weapons That Melt, Evaporate Bodies

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A Geneva-based right group urges an investigation into the Zionist regime's potential use of banned thermal weapons in its genocidal war campaign against Gaza which could evaporate or melt victim bodies.

Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor in a report said that testimonies received by the rights group show that victims' bodies appear to have evaporated or melted as a result of the Zionist regime's bombing of residential homes in the Gaza Strip. "An international committee of experts must be established to look into the weapons Israel has been using as part of its genocide in the Gaza Strip, ongoing since October 7, 2023, including the potential use of bombs that produce such high heat that victims' bodies evaporate," the report said.

According to the Euro-Med Monitor report, thousands of bodies in Gaza remain missing



Parts of a missile lie amid debris of buildings destroyed during previous Israeli bombardment, in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip on April 29, 2024.

and they "no longer exist" and may have "turned to ashes," raising questions about the type of bombs used in the attacks.

The report added that the "shockingly high" death toll in Gaza raises fears about the potential use of "thermal weapons", or what are known as "vacuum bombs", well-known in military circles for their ef-

ficacy in demolishing caves and underground tunnel complexes.

Israel claims that the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has dug an extensive network of tunnels under schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure as cover for its activities to justify its targeting of those facilities. These claims have never been

completely verified and in some cases were disproved by media investigations.

The report further quotes a Gaza resident, Ahmed Omar, who lost 15 members of his family, including his parents, in an Israeli airstrike on their Gaza City home on October 15, 2023.

Omar told Euro-Med Monitor that despite "strenuous attempts" to retrieve the victims' bodies, three victims—Raghad Saleh Farwaneh, 14, Ola Saleh Farwaneh, 7, and Rahaf Ahmed Qanita, 8— were never found while they were present in the house at the time of the attack.

Gaza Civil Defense Service has also in several statements pointed to the "dissolution of victims' corpses and their conversion into ashes."

"An international investigation must be launched into Israel's probable use of internationally banned weapons, including thermobaric bombs," Euro-Med Monitor said.

More European Warships Depart Red Sea Yemen Says Its Weapons Stockpile 'Unimaginable'



Yemeni Armed Forces parade their missiles in the capital Sana'a.

SANA'A (Dispatches) – A high ranking Yemeni official has warned the United States against any hostile action against the Arab country, saying it possess far greater strategic stockpiles of deterrent weapons that Washington could imagine.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, made the remarks in a post on X on Wednesday, amid reports that the U.S. is preparing a large-scale aerial offensive against Yemen.

"Don't play with fire. Everything you would expect from a strategic stock of Yemeni deterrent weapons, it is much, much more than you can imagine, in terms of quantity, quality and variety," he said.

Houthi's remarks came after the spokesman of Yemeni armed forces announced earlier in the day that the country's army has targeted two American destroyers and two Israeli ships in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean in a fresh operation in solidarity with Palestinians.

Yemen has been a key element of a regional campaign targeting Israeli and U.S. interests, seeking an end to the brutal war on Gaza.

Yemenis have either seized or launched drone and missile attacks on ships linked to the Israeli regime, the U.S. or Britain that have been sailing in regional waters in recent months.

Attacks have also been launched from Yemen on ports controlled by the Zionist regime since October, when Israel started its war on Gaza.

Yemen's ruling Ansarullah movement has reiterated that attacks on shipping will continue until Israel completely stops its aggression on Gaza.

Meanwhile, a Dutch media said the Yemeni armed forces have progressed in attacking distant targets, after the Yemeni army targeted the MSC Orion container ship in a drone attack in the Indian Ocean.

"It seems that the Yemeni army now has weapons with which it can attack targets in the Indian Ocean," the NOS network said.

Portugal-flagged MSC Orion was truck in a drone attack on Monday, (372.8 miles) off the coast of Yemen.

The ship was sailing between the ports of Sines, Portugal, and Salalah, Oman, according to LSEG and other ship-tracking data.

UN: More War Debris in Gaza Than Ukraine

GENEVA (AFP) – The Gaza Strip is filled with more war debris and rubble than Ukraine, the head of UN demining operations for the narrow Palestinian territory said Wednesday.

And the danger for clearance work is restricted not just to unexploded ordnance but includes possible exposure to toxic substances such as asbestos.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) estimated the amount of debris in Gaza at 37 million tons in

mid-April, or 300 kilograms per square meter.

"Gaza has more rubble than Ukraine, and to put that in perspective, the Ukrainian front line is 600 miles (nearly 1,000 kilometers) long, and Gaza is 25 miles (40 km) long," said Mungo Birch, head of the UNMAS program in the Palestinian territories.

But the sheer volume of rubble is not the only problem, said UNMAS.

"This rubble is likely heavily contaminated with UXO (unexploded ordnance), but

its clearance will be further complicated by other hazards in the rubble," Birch told journalists.

"There's estimated to be over 800,000 tons of asbestos, for instance, alone in the Gaza rubble." The cancer-causing mineral used in construction requires special precautions when handling.

Birch said he hoped UNMAS, which works to mitigate the threats posed by all types of explosive ordnance, would become the coordination body for mine action in

Gaza.

It has secured \$5 million of funding but needs a further \$40 million to continue its work in Gaza over the next 12 months.

However, "the sector as a whole will need hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars over multiple years in order to make Gaza safe again for the population", Birch added.

Israel's carnage has killed at least 34,568 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry in the territory.

Egyptian Firm Making \$2mn a Day From Palestinians Fleeing Gaza

CAIRO (Dispatches) – A company owned by an influential Egyptian businessman and ally of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is making around \$2mn a day from Palestinians fleeing Israel's war on Gaza, Middle East Eye can reveal.

Hala Consulting and Tourism Services, a firm owned by Sinai tribal leader and business tycoon Ibrahim al-Organi, has been charging Palestinians crossing from Gaza's Rafah to Egypt at least \$5,000 per adult and \$2,500 for children under 16.

It has a monopoly on providing transfer services at the Rafah crossing, the only Gaza exit not bordered with the Israeli-occupied territories and the single route out of the coastal enclave for Palestinians.

In the past three months alone, the company is estimated to have made a minimum of \$118mn, or 5.6 billion Egyptian pounds, from desperate Palestinians trying to leave war-torn Gaza.

Despite international media scrutiny on

Hala and Organi in recent months, including numerous reports by Middle East Eye, the firm doubled its profits from Palestinians in April, with the average daily fees exceeding \$2mn.

MEE's analysis of the travelers list published online by Hala reveals that last month the company may have earned at least \$58mn from around 10,136 adults and 2,910 children who crossed the border via its "VIP list".

The daily average of \$2mn per day in April is roughly double what it is estimated to have earned daily in March.

The largest recorded profits for April were on Tuesday, when it appears Hala made at least \$2.3mn that day alone from Palestinian refugees.

By the end of this year, if the April average continues, the company may earn well over half a billion dollars from the so-called VIP list of people Hala is transferring across the Gaza-Egypt border.

Hala's "VIP" transfer service was first recorded on 2 February.

Before that, Palestinian and Egyptian sources told MEE that several intermediaries were involved in coordinating the exit of Palestinians in a haphazard, decentralized way.

Before February, Palestinians were charged up to \$11,000 per adult to leave Gaza, until Hala monopolized the business and standardized fees.

Prior to the war, Hala charged everyone exiting Gaza via the Rafah crossing \$350 per person, but the price has increased 14-fold for Palestinians.

Based on the lists of travelers published since February 2, MEE can reveal that Hala's profits from Palestinians may have been at least \$21mn in February, \$38.5mn in March and \$58mn in April.

These estimates do not factor in profits potentially made in the first four months of the war, when the Rafah crossing business had not yet been monopolized by Hala.

Netanyahu 'Asked' Families of Captives to Lobby ICC on His Behalf

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked the families of captives held by Hamas in Gaza to try to persuade the International Criminal Court (ICC) not to issue arrest warrants against him and other senior Israeli officials and military commanders, according to a report in News 12.

Netanyahu reportedly contacted the headquarters of the Captives and Missing Families Forum, a body established by the families of those taken to Gaza during the Hamas-led October 7 operation, and asked them to use their relationship with the ICC to lobby on behalf of him and other Israeli figures at risk of being targeted over Israel's war in Gaza.

In February, about 100 families of the captives travelled to The Hague, the Dutch city where the ICC is based, to file a lawsuit.

Since then, News 12 reported, "friendly" relations have been established between some of the families and the court's prosecutor, British lawyer Karim Khan.

After learning about this connection, Netanyahu asked the headquarters of the missing families fo-

rum to convince Khan to drop any plans to issue arrest warrants against Israeli officials.

While the Israeli broadcaster described this as a "very unusual appeal", the Zionist prime minister is known to be very worried about the prospect of ICC warrants being issued and has been pursuing every possible diplomatic avenue to avert it. The Israeli broadcaster said that sources familiar with the matter had told them that Khan was "due" to issue the arrest warrants, "possibly as early as this week".

Other reports in the Israeli media have said that lawyers acting on behalf of the ICC are worried the warrants may already have been issued secretly, and that Israeli officials may only find out about them after arriving in European countries.

A source who spoke to the Israeli outlet Ynet said that Netanyahu was using "threatening" tactics against Khan, and compared the prime minister's behavior to that of an "elephant in a china shop". The Israeli leader is said to be "frightened and unusually stressed" by the possibility of an imminent arrest warrant, according to Maariv.