

# ARAB LEAGUE CONDEMNS SOMALILAND'S PLAN TO OPEN EMBASSY IN OCCUPIED AL-QUDS



The Arab League has denounced the decision by the breakaway region of Somaliland to open an embassy in the Israeli-occupied al-Quds, describing the move as "absolutely unacceptable." In a statement issued on Wednesday, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the Arab League secretary-general, condemned in the strongest terms the measure as rejected, and extremely provocative to Arab and Muslim states. The Arab League chief also warned against Israeli penetration into Horn of Africa. Somaliland's ambassador to the Israeli-occupied territories, Maxamed Cumar Xaaji Maxamuud, announced in a statement on Wednesday that the Muslim-majority territory will soon inaugurate a diplomatic mission in al-Quds. He added that Israel will establish its representation in Hargeisa reciprocally. For his part, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar hailed the opening of Somaliland's embassy in al-Quds as a major step towards promotion of diplomatic relations between the Tel Aviv regime and the self-declared republic. He said Somaliland's embassy in al-Quds would be the eighth diplomatic mission to have been inaugurated in the holy city. In December 2025, Israel recognized Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland. In response, Somalia's federal government strongly rejected the move, calling it unlawful and reiterating that Somaliland remains an integral part of Somalia's sovereign territory.

In a related development, a growing number of countries and international organizations also rejected Israel's decision, warning of its implications for regional and international stability.

## PALESTINE NAKBA DAY RALLY HELD ON CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill pro-Palestinians marked the 78th year of the Nakba, or catastrophe in 1948; Zionist paramilitaries used genocide, ethnic cleansing, and horrific violence, to force some 750,000 Palestinians to flee their homes. Of course, the Nakba still hasn't ended. Thanks to the economic, military, and political support of Washington, the Zionist project, based in Tel Aviv, is still killing, torturing, and attempting ethnic cleansing in Palestine right now. It's no exaggeration to say that the Israeli apartheid regime is in its biggest crisis ever. Iran has proven that Tel Aviv's military prowess is not just exaggerated but inadequate.

They repeatedly get stonewalled by Hezbollah in Lebanon, and have been unable to subdue Gaza despite the most horrific campaign of war crimes since World War Two. Without US support, there is no doubt that Israel would implode immediately. That day now appears to be coming soon. In Gaza, new technologies and alternative media have finally shown the entire world the truth of imperialist Zionism's inherent immorality. Polls have revealed a complete reversal of support for Israel in the United States, with the majority of the country now supporting Palestinians over Israelis in what activists are calling "the awakening". After 78 years, the reversal of the Nakba appears closer than ever.

## 'Upside-Down Logic': Iran attacks US-Israel move against Gaza aid activists

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Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs has condemned US sanctions targeting Gaza aid flotilla activists, saying Washington is falsely presenting its complicity in Israeli actions against Palestinians as "security."

Taking to X on Wednesday, Kazem Gharibabadi reacted to US sanctions imposed on four activists involved in Gaza flotilla missions aimed at breaking Israel's illegal siege on Gaza.

"The Israeli regime stops humanitarian vessels bound for Gaza; the United States sanctions people linked to the aid flotilla, and calls this complicity 'security,'" Gharibabadi wrote.

The sanctions were announced on Tuesday after at least 430 activists were abducted during Israeli violent



interceptions of aid ships heading towards Gaza.

The senior diplomat said Tel Aviv and the Trump administration were promoting an "upside-down logic" in which humanitarian assistance is criminalized while the blockade and starvation of civilians are justified as "defense" measures. "In this upside-down logic, food and medicine become threats, humanitarian aid

becomes a crime, and a siege that starves children is rebranded as 'defense.'"

Gharibabadi stressed that international law clearly prohibits starving civilians, obstructing humanitarian relief and collectively punishing a population are crimes, not security policies," he added.

"This is not about security; it is about hiding the crime," he said, arguing that the regime's targeting of aid ships and Washington's sanctions against activists reflected fear over growing international exposure of the regime's war crimes in Gaza. Though a ceasefire agreement has been in place since October 10, 2025, Israel has killed at least 871 Palestinians and injured 2,562 others since it came into effect. Meanwhile, the regime's blockade of the territory has caused severe shortages of food, drinking water, medicine and fuel.

# IRAN BLASTS CENTCOM'S 'SHAMELESS DISTORTION' ON MINAB SCHOOL MASSACRE

The Democratic News, May 20



The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has rejected as totally "baseless" the US Central Command (CENTCOM)'s narrative regarding the missile strike on Minab's Shajareh Tayyebeh school, saying the US is attempting to shun accountability for the massacre of more than 170 students and teachers.

In a post on his X account early Wednesday, Esmail Baghaei said

that the "claim by US Central Command (CENTCOM) that the targeted #Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in #Minab was located within a 'missile launch facility' is a baseless fabrication and an appalling lie."

On the very first day of the unprovoked war of aggression by a US-Israeli military coalition on February 28, US Tomahawk missiles struck Shajareh Tayyebeh Girls' Elementary School in Minab, in southern Iran, killing at least 175 people, most of them schoolgirls.

Baghaei's remarks came after Adm. Brad Cooper, the CENTCOM commander, claimed during a House committee hearing that the school was located near an active Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) cruise missile base.

"This shameless distortion is a clear attempt to obscure the severe reality of the 28 February missile attacks, which resulted in the tragic slaughtering of over 170 school children and their teachers," Baghaei stressed.

## 10 NATIONS CONDEMN ISRAEL'S ATTACK ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA

The foreign ministers of ten countries have strongly condemned Israel's attack on the Global Sumud Flotilla, a peaceful civilian humanitarian mission attempting to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza and deliver aid to the Palestinian people. In a joint statement released on Monday, the ministers of Turkey, Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Spain, Colombia, Libya, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Jordan said they viewed with "deep concern" Israel's repeated interventions against aid missions in international waters. "These attacks, including assaults on vessels and the arbitrary detention of activists, constitute a clear violation of international law and international humanitarian law," the statement read. Israeli forces intercepted the flotilla on Monday in international waters west of Cyprus, about 70 nautical miles off the island.

## ITALY PREPARING TO MOVE TWO WARSHIPS TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ



The Democratic News, May 20

Italy has deployed two minesweepers to the Strait of Hormuz as part of an international mission involving several European countries.

The announcement came from Italian Defense Minister

Guido Crosetto on Wednesday when he said that two minesweepers left Sicily as part of an international mission that also includes Britain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Minister Crosetto has pointed out that the two minesweepers would only be deployed in case of

a lasting truce in the region. Italy's opposition parties have been very critical of the government's move, stressing that the decision to deploy two Italian minesweepers in the proximity of the Hormuz Strait came too early, considering that an agreement between Iran and the US to end the war seems to be far from being reached.

Press TV has reached the only Italian opposition lawmaker aboard the new Freedom Flotilla coalition aid convoy, which is currently sailing toward the Gaza Strip, and has asked him about the two Italian minesweepers moving towards the Persian Gulf.

## Hezbollah Vows Relentless Fight Until Israeli Forces Leave Lebanon

The fighters of Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah have pledged that they will neither rest nor settle until every Israeli occupier is driven from the Lebanese soil.

The Democratic News, May 20

In a letter addressed to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, the resistance fighters thanked him for his fatherly guidance and reiterated their commitment to the path of jihad, sacrifice, and victory.

"We have received your dear message, carrying the imprint of a father on his sons, a commander of his soldiers, and a sheikh on his disciples," the letter read.

The fighters described their daily operations against Israel; destroying tanks, burning military vehicles, targeting Israeli soldiers, and teaching the enemy lessons that will be "engraved in its artificial memory."

"Your courageous leadership has opened the way for a series of operations that have left the enemy exhausted, fearful of settling on southern soil, constantly looking to the



sky awaiting our missiles and drones, and used to lowering its head in terror of our explosives and ambushes." "We will not rest until occupation is defeated." The fighters vowed to continue the fight with even greater force. "We will keep the enemy in this state, and we have more in store. We will not rest, we will not relent, and our eyes will not close until the occupation leaves our land, defeated and humiliated."

## South Korea's president condemns Israel's kidnapping of nationals on Gaza aid flotilla

During a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Lee criticized Israel's interception of the civilian flotilla in international waters as "excessive" and legally indefensible.



South Korean President Lee Jae-myung has sharply condemned Israel's abduction of South Korean nationals aboard a Gaza-bound aid ship, calling the act "inhumane" and suggesting that Seoul should arrest Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he enters South Korean territory.

During a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Lee criticized Israel's interception of the civilian flotilla in international waters as "excessive" and legally indefensible.

"What is the legal basis for Israel seizing or sinking ships, including those carrying our citizens who were volunteering for Gaza?" he asked. "Isn't Israel's invasion and occupation of Gaza itself illegal under international law?"

Lee said that South Korea should not ignore the ICC arrest warrants for Netanyahu, noting that multiple European states have already stated their intention to detain him if he enters their jurisdiction. "We should also consider this," he said.

South Korean nationals were among

dozens seized during Israel's April 30 raid on the Global Sumud Flotilla, intercepted in international waters off Greece as it attempted to break Israel's blockade on Gaza and deliver urgently needed aid to the besieged population.

The flotilla carried 426 passengers from a wide array of countries, including Turkey, Germany, the United States, Britain, Canada, Pakistan, Algeria, South Africa, and New Zealand, before Israeli naval forces stormed the vessels.

Dozens of activists were forcibly taken into custody, among them South Korean citizens Kim Dong-hyeon and Kim Ah-hyun. According to organisers, detainees have reported interrogations, death threats, sleep deprivation, and medical neglect, treatment that constitutes clear violations of international humanitarian law.

## Iraqi Resistance Claims Role in US KC-135 Tanker Collision During Iran War: Report

Iraqi resistance groups caused the collision of two KC-135 Stratotankers on Iraqi airspace during the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran, a report says.

A report published by the news outlet the Atlantic on Wednesday said the collision of two US KC-135 Stratotankers over Iraqi airspace on March 12, 2026 during the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which resulted in the destruction of the one of the tankers and the death of six crewmen, was not an accident as the Pentagon had claimed, but the result of Iraqi resistance groups firing on the aircrafts. US Central Command

(CENTCOM) was aware that Iraqi resistance group had fired ground-to-air missiles forcing the aircrafts to take evasive actions but decided to ignore this fact in favor more highly classified information that considered the incident the result of human error, the report explained.

Soon after the crash, a coalition of Iraqi resistance groups known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which includes Kata'ib Hezbollah,

took responsibility, saying that it had used "appropriate weaponry" to shoot down the tanker "in defense of our country's sovereignty and its airspace violated by the aircraft of the occupation forces." During the aggression, "they struck US sites in Iraq more than 600 times with drone and missile attacks, and their targets have included bases, diplomatic facilities, and aircraft on the ground," it noted.

## COMMANDER OF ISRAEL'S 401ST ARMoured BRIGADE SERIOUSLY INJURED IN HEZBOLLAH DRONE OPERATION

The Democratic News, May 20

The commander of the 401st Armoured Brigade of the Israeli military has been seriously injured in a drone operation conducted by Hezbollah resistance fighters against the occupation forces' positions in southern Lebanon.

According to the Hebrew-language Walla News website, Colonel Meir Biderman, 41, sustained grave wounds in the attack on

Wednesday, and was shifted to hospital.

Several Israeli troops were wounded in the attack as well.

Local sources reported that Hezbollah's First-Person View (FPV) drone went off inside a building, where the Israeli troops had holed up. The FPV drones are small, low-cost, explosive-laden "kamikaze" drones controlled by an operator wearing goggles. Their most critical feature is a physical fiber-optic cable



(between 10 and 30 kilometers long) that connects the drone to the controller. Because this cable transmits video and commands without any wireless signal, the

drones are effectively resistant to jamming by electronic warfare systems, allowing Hezbollah to bypass the Israeli military's advanced defense technologies.

## IRGC NAVY SAYS MORE SHIPS TRANSITING STRAIT OF HORMUZ UNDER ITS COORDINATION

The Democratic News, May 20

Iran reports increased ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz under new arrangements to facilitate transit via the key Persian Gulf waterway. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Wednesday that a total of 26 ships had passed through the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours. The IRGC Navy's command, which controls the

Strait in cooperation with the Iranian Army, said in a statement that the ships that passed through the Strait during the period included "oil tankers, container ships, and other commercial vessels". The statement said that all passages had taken place in coordination with the IRGC Navy, adding that the force had ensured the security of passage through the waterway. It said transit is currently flowing through the Strait of Hormuz in coordination with the IRGC Navy, and

after ships obtain permits from the force. The passage of 26 ships marks a major increase compared to transit rates in the Strait since the beginning of US-Israeli aggression against Iran in late February, which prompted Iranian military forces to take control of the waterway and impose restrictions on shipping through it. The restrictions have caused a major surge in international energy and commodity prices, as the Strait is responsible for a fifth of global oil demand.