

Anne Boleyn, second wife of English King Henry VIII, is beheaded at the Tower of London on charges of adultery, incest and treason

Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven form the United Colonies of New England



England is declared a Commonwealth by an act of the Rump Parliament, making England a republic for the next 11 years

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk lands at Samsun on the Black Sea coast, beginning the Turkish War of Independence

“IN A CONTEXT LIKE THIS, LACK OF ACTION IS NOT PASSIVITY. IT IS A LICENSE”.

UN urges Israel to prevent acts of ‘genocide’ in Gaza

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations demanded yesterday that Israel take measures to prevent acts of “genocide” in Gaza, and decried indications of “ethnic cleansing” in the Palestinian territory and in the occupied West Bank.

In a fresh report, the UN rights office said Israel’s actions in Gaza since the start of the war in October 2023 involved “gross violations” of international law, amounting in many cases to “war crimes and other atrocity crimes”.

UN rights chief Volker Turk called in the report on Israel to ensure compliance with a 2024 International Court of Justice order that it take measures to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza.

Israel, he said, should ensure “with immediate effect that its military does not engage in acts of genocide, (and take) all measures to prevent and punish incitement to commit genocide”.

‘Unlawful killings’

Monday’s report, which covered the period from October 7, 2023, when Hamas’s unprecedented attack inside Israel sparked the Gaza war, up

to May 2025, also condemned “serious violations” including some amounting to war crimes, by Palestinian armed groups during the initial attack and after.

The Hamas attack resulted in the deaths of 1,221 people on the Israeli side, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official data.

Monday’s report highlighted the abuse suffered by the hostages seized by the Palestinian armed groups, many of whom reported torture and sexual abuse as they were held “in inhumane conditions” for months on end.

“Most hostages who died in Gaza died while held in secret detention, either killed by their captors or impacts of the conflict occurring around them,” it said.

Most of the focus however was on Israel’s actions in Gaza, where its retaliatory military campaign has killed more than 72,000 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN.

Hundreds of thousands of people are still living in tents and conditions remain dire despite a ceasefire that took effect

in October last year.

“The ceasefire diminished the immense scale of violence up to that point, and opened some modest humanitarian space,” Ajith Sunghay, head of the UN rights office in the occupied Palestinian territories, told reporters in Geneva.

“But killings and the destruction of infrastructure have continued on an almost daily basis, and the overall humanitarian situation remains dire,” he warned.

A large proportion of the killings since the start of the war “appear unlawful”, the report said.

It also highlighted how Israel had “directed attacks on civilian or protected objects, including healthcare and medical facilities and attacks on civilians, including journalists, civil defenders, health workers, humanitarian actors and police in a

routine and repeated fashion”. Israel’s conduct in Gaza had rendered living conditions in much of the territory “incompatible with Palestinians continued existence as a group”, it warned.

The report also looked at the situation in the West Bank, where violence has spiralled since the start of the war in Gaza, pointing out that “the use of unnecessary and disproportionate force (there had) led to hundreds of unlawful killings”.

“Incitement and derogatory and dehumanising language targeted at Palestinians as a group from Israeli officials was also observed with no accountability,” it warned.

The rights office stressed that it was “essential that there is due reckoning” for all violations listed in the report through “credible and impartial judicial bodies”.

Sunghay warned that “in a context like this, lack of action is not passivity. It is a license”.



‘Collective punishment’

Force displacement on a mass scale had been seen in both

Gaza and the West Bank, it said.

It charged that “the deliberate and unlawful destruction of wide swathes of Gaza”, coupled with “the emptying and destruction of large parts of refugee camps in northern West Bank”, had contributed to forcing Palestinians from their homes, “with strong indications that Israel intends their displacement to be permanent”.

Taken together, Israel’s repeated violations across the occupied Palestinian territories indicated a pattern aimed at doling out “collective punishment of Palestinians”, and “forced displacement, emptying and ethnic cleansing of large parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, said the report.

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The sister of Ireland’s President Catherine Connolly is among eight Irish citizens intercepted by Israel on Gaza-bound aid flotilla ships, organisers said.

Around 50 ships had departed from southwestern Turkey on Thursday.



Israeli troops intercept Gaza flotilla trying to breach the blockade (Picture courtesy of AP)

Israel intercepts Gaza-bound aid flotilla, activists claim ‘abduction’

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli forces intercepted a Gaza-bound aid flotilla yesterday after it sailed from Turkey last week.

The Global Sumud Flotilla vessels are the latest in a string of attempts by activists to breach Israel’s blockade of the Palestinian territory, with the last convoy intercepted by

Israeli forces last month. “Global Sumud Flotilla is under attack!” the group wrote on X.

“The Israeli occupation has again illegally and violently intercepted our international fleet of humanitarian vessels and abducted our volunteers.”

“We are outraged by the normalisation of these violations

of international maritime law and the kidnapping of peaceful civilians in international waters,” it said, demanding the swift release of the activists and the end of the blockade of Gaza.

A website tracking the flotilla’s location showed several vessels being intercepted west of Cyprus.

Earlier on Monday, the Israeli foreign ministry denounced the convoy as a provocation and vowed to prevent it from reaching Gaza.

“This time, two violent Turkish groups -- Mavi Marmara and IHH, the latter designated as a terrorist organisation -- are part of the provocation,” it said on X.

Activist Gorkem Duru, a member of the Turkey branch of the Global Sumud Flotilla group, who is not on board, told AFP that “communication links with the ships were cut off”.

Activist Suayb Ordu, who was aboard one of the vessels, told Turkish channel NTV that the activists had “no choice but to raise our hands and surrender peacefully without offering any resistance”.

Israel rejects shortage claims

The Israeli ministry rejected claims that Gaza was facing aid shortages.

“The Gaza Strip is flooded with aid. Since October alone, more than 1.58 million tons of humanitarian aid and thousands of tons of medical supplies have entered Gaza,” it said.

A previous flotilla attempt was intercepted last month in international waters off Greece, with most activists expelled to Europe.

Indonesian newspaper Republika said nine Indonesians were in the group



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TWEETS

01



Housing is a human right, and fundamental for human dignity. Yet nearly three billion people live in inadequate housing, often in informal settlements and slums. We must put housing at the centre of sustainable development – leaving no one behind.

@antonioguterres

02



Honoured to receive the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. This honour is dedicated to the people of India and is a tribute to the enduring friendship between India and Norway. It reflects our shared commitment to global progress.

@narendramodi

03



Delighted to present Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, with a @WHO field vest as a gesture of my regard for her commitment to promoting and protecting people’s health.

@DrTedros

04



Our Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine has obtained new Russian documents assessing the aggressor state’s losses from the war. Importantly, this is specifically a Russian internal assessment – one they are trying to conceal both from the world and from their own domestic audience.

@ZelenskyyUa

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