

Gaza Amputees Get New Limbs But Can't Shake War Trauma



A doctor in Abu Dhabi cares for a Palestinian child injured in the Gaza Strip during a strike by the Zionist regime.

GAZA (Dispatches) – Layan al-Nasr, 14, thought she would never walk again after both of her legs were amputated following a bombing by the Zionist regime in Gaza one year ago.

Now, she stands proudly on artificial limbs. But fear for her family, still living under the attacks, gnaws away.

“When I was told about prosthetics when I arrived, I didn’t even know they existed,” she jokes, taking a few steps supported by crutches.

She is able to smile as she describes her operations, rehabilita-

tion and her newfound hope. But emotion eventually catches up with her.

“What scares me today is losing my brothers, my sisters and my father,” she confides, bursting into tears.

Nasr is one of more than 2,000 wounded or seriously ill Palestinians flown with their closest relatives to the UAE during the Zionist regime’s aggression.

Plucked from shattered Gaza, much of it in ruins, they are lucky to escape a conflict that has left more than 45,000 people dead in the Palestinian territory.

“I don’t care what happens to me, the important thing is that nothing happens to them,” insists Nasr.

The complex housing them has a school, mosque, grocery store and a hairdresser, as well as a care center offering physiotherapy, speech therapy and counseling.

“Thanks to the prosthetics and the care provided, patients have regained their autonomy,” says physiotherapist Mustafa Ahmed Naji Awad.

But the hardest thing to treat is the psychological impact, he admits.

Faten Abu Khoussa, who came

with her 10-year-old daughter Qamar, can testify to this.

The little girl was caught in an air raid in Gaza when she went out to buy a packet of crisps, losing a leg from her injuries.

Qamar’s spirits have gradually improved over time, but “it remains very difficult for her. She loved nothing more than playing on her scooter”, says her mother.

“She feels alone without her brothers and sisters” who have fled to Egypt, Abu Khoussa adds.

The single mother, now separated from the other children she has been raising since her husband’s death, is desperately trying to reunite her family.

Until then she feels her life is “suspended”, leaving her unable to plan for the future.

The Emirati authorities say the afflicted Palestinians and their family members will be asked to return home when conditions allow.

Ahmad Mazen, 15, who came with his mother to have a lower-leg prosthesis fitted, was looking forward to being reunited with his father and brother.

But shortly after his arrival, he learned that they had been killed in a bombing raid.

His only consolation is football, his passion, and the “indescribable feeling” of finally being able to kick a ball again, he says.

Zionist...

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Dubbed by Zionist forces as the Netzarim corridor, the Times of Israel said the army had established more than a dozen army bases and demolished whole villages in the area to create these bases.

During an escorted visit with the Israeli army, army officials told the Times of Israel it was expanding its operations in the centre of Gaza and said it “necessary” to demolish hundreds of homes in the area.

The Israeli newspaper added that the military bases “featured everything one would expect at a well-entrenched position for troops to remain indefinitely, except that nothing seemed to be permanently attached to the ground.”

The United Nations’ World Food Program (WFP) warned on Saturday that more than two million Palestinians in Gaza were without food, shelter and water.

At least two rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip towards Occupied Al-Quds on Saturday, according to Israeli media.

This is the first time long-range missiles have been fired from Gaza in months.

Video...

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in the hallway, at times peering into the room as the assault continued. Near the end of the videos, those nurses are called into the room and appear to check Brooks’s vital signs.

A medical examiner has preliminarily determined that Brooks, who suffered fractures and injuries to his upper body, groin, neck and head, may have died as a result of “asphyxia due to compression of the neck”.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) released a statement saying: “Brooks’s fatal beating is not an isolated incident. Rather, it highlights a culture of violence and a lack of accountability for wrongdoing by corrections officers that puts the lives of incarcerated New Yorkers at risk.”

It added: “No one should die in custody at the hands of corrections officers, who are charged with the safety and security of individuals in DOCCS’s facilities. Mr Brooks’s family and all New Yorkers deserve transparency and accountability.”

FM...

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It came after a video emerged of a fire inside a shrine in Aleppo, where militants - whom mainstream media has tried to depict as tolerant despite their history of close links with the most violent takfiri groups such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda - walked inside and killed its guards.

On Tuesday, hundreds of demonstrators protested in Christian areas of Damascus against the burning of a Christmas tree by militants near Syria’s Hama.

Armed...

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Revolution and its goals but faced successive and ignominious defeats.

Stressing that global arrogance considers the Islamic Republic to be the greatest obstacle to its oppression and crime, the statement said, “Therefore, it is trying to use all international and regional capacities to overcome this obstacle.”

“However, if it reviews its past days, it will understand that, as in the past, all their aspirations will be trampled on by the heroic nation of Islamic Iran, and by God’s grace, they will not achieve anything in Syria either.”

Senior...

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today they continue to move with all their might on the path of martyrs and the fatwa of the religious authority,” Fayyadh added.

The head of the anti-terror Iraqi group also said the PMU fighters are on high alert to confront any threats against the Arab country.

Fayyadh made the remarks ahead of the 5th anniversary of the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani and his Iraqi companion Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis near Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.

Both commanders were highly revered across West Asia because of their key role in fighting the Daesh terrorist group in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

In less than a week after the assassination, Iraqi lawmakers approved a bill that required the government to expel all US-led foreign forces from the country.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) also targeted the U.S.-run Ain al-Asad base in Iraq’s western province of Anbar with a wave of missile attacks in retaliation for the assassination of General Soleimani.

Iran...

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responsibility rests upon them to take appropriate action.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Israeli military’s storming of the Kamal Adwan Hospital has put the last functional health facility in northern Gaza out of service and key departments were destroyed by fire during the raid.

Gaza’s Ministry of Health also said Israeli forces have taken dozens of Kamal Adwan Hospital staffers, including its director, Husam Abu Safia, for interrogation.

Israel Intensifies Palestinian Home Demolition

West bank (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s authorities have intensified the demolition of Palestinian homes in occupied East Al-Quds, destroying 436 homes and buildings since October 2023. In the Silwan neighborhood alone, 1,500 Palestinians face the threat of displacement, Palestinian organizations say.

Since the war on Gaza began over a year ago, more than 62,000 Zionist settlers have made incursions like this into Islam’s third holiest site, the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. They include far-right Minis-

ter of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Palestinian organizations say religious provocation is just one way Israel is advancing its takeover of their capital.

Silwan is one of the hardest-hit areas. The neighborhood’s fight for survival can be seen everywhere. The Zionist regime’s land grabs and settlement expansion in occupied East Al-Quds have all but erased any space for Palestinians in the city.

Less than 12% of the land in East Al-Quds is available for

Palestinians to build on, while the rest is designated for settlers.

The occupying regime has also ordered the shutdown of schools, clinics, and community centers run by UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestine refugees, leaving close to 32,000 refugees in occupied East Al-Quds without any help.

Other schools are threatened with closure if they teach the Palestinian curriculum.

In the Old City, young Palestinians are harassed and attacked daily by Zionist troops.

Nearly 2,000 have been detained this past year, including children as young as 14.

Owners of Palestinian shops and businesses must pay fees and follow restrictions to stay open.

Even before the onset of the genocide, the regime pledged to spend nearly a billion dollars on taking over occupied East Al-Quds.

If the persecution and expulsion are not stopped, occupied East Quds’s Palestinian identity will be erased house by house, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Thousands Protest in Turkey to Demand Bigger Hike in Minimum Wage

ANKARA (Reuters) – Thousands of people protested in Turkey’s capital Ankara on Saturday to demand a bigger hike in the minimum wage, chanting slogans calling on the government to resign and waving the opposition and national flags.

The government announced this week that the net monthly minimum wage in 2025 will be 22,104 Turkish lira (\$630.28), a 30% increase from 2024. The government said the level was set to maintain fiscal discipline and continue the fight against inflation.

Turkish workers, who have faced hardships with an expected annual inflation of 45% this year, had called for an increase of around 70% in total: a 45% inflation adjustment and a 20% welfare increase.

Turkey’s main opposition CHP called Saturday’s protest, saying the minimum wage increase showed President Tayyip Erdogan’s government “lost touch with the realities of Turkey.”

“They say that inflation would increase as much as the minimum wage is increased. This is a big lie. There was no minimum wage

increase throughout the year, and we still have 50% inflation,” CHP leader Ozgur Ozel told the rally.

There were additional mid-year hikes to the minimum wage in 2023 and 2022, due to high inflation.

“While hundreds of thousands of people here are calling for your resignation, Mr. Erdogan, you cannot avoid elections. If there’s no bread and butter, there should be elections,” Ozel said.

Presidential and parliamentary elections in Turkey are scheduled for 2028.

Erdogan, speaking at a meeting of his AK Party (AKP) in northwestern city of Bursa, said the minimum wage increase was determined by taking factors including inflation and employment into consideration.

Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said the minimum wage increased in 2023 and 2024 more than the annual inflation.

“Price stability is a prerequisite for the permanent increase in the purchasing power and welfare of our workers,” Simsek said on X.

The minimum wage hike will affect some nine million workers.

Iraq Resumes Flights to Lebanon

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq is set to reopen air travel connections with Lebanon on Monday, as announced by the country’s transport minister. The move comes after flights were suspended earlier this month over regional security concerns.

Iraqi Airways had suspended its services to Lebanon on December 8, prompted by escalating tensions in neighboring Syria. The suspension came as militants in Syria seized control of Damascus, a major turning point that led to President Bashar al-Assad’s

departure to Russia.

The air connection resumption marks a significant step in response to the fast-changing political landscape in Syria after more than a decade of war and the end of Assad’s rule.