

First Palestinian Ambassador to Spain Submits Credentials

MADRID (Dispatches) – The first Palestinian ambassador to Spain presented his credentials on Monday to Spanish King Felipe VI after Madrid in May formally recognized a Palestinian state.

The head of state welcomed Husni Abdel Wahed to the royal palace in Madrid for the traditional ceremony for newly appointed foreign ambassadors to Spain, according to images published by the royal palace on social network X.

Wahed had been the head of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Madrid since 2022 and he enjoyed a similar status to that of an ambassador but he officially changed rank after Spain along with Ireland and Norway formally recognized



Ambassador Husni Abdel Wahed addresses the press at Palestine's embassy in Madrid, Spain, May 28, 2024.

a Palestinian state comprising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The three countries said at the

time they hoped their decision would spur other European countries to follow suit and accelerate

efforts toward securing a ceasefire in the Zionist regime's war against Palestinians in Gaza.

The Zionist regime was angered by the decision, saying it bolsters Hamas, the resistance movement that led the October 7 retaliatory operation on the Israeli-occupied territories.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, one of the staunchest critics in Europe of the Zionist regime's genocidal campaign on Gaza, announced earlier this month that a bilateral summit between Spain and Palestine would be held before the end of the year.

Israel's aggression has so far killed at least 41,226 people in Gaza, according to the health ministry in the territory.

U.S. Base in Northeastern Syria Comes Under Rocket Attack

DAMAASCUS (Dispatches) – A military installation used by the occupying American forces in northeastern Syria has been reportedly targeted by a barrage of rockets.

Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news network reported that the attack on the Kharab al-Jir base in Syria's Hasakah Province took place on Sunday.

There has been no immediate claim of responsibility for the

raid, according to the report.

There were also no reports on any possible casualties or the extent of damage at the U.S. base.

Iraqi resistance forces have conducted dozens of strikes on the U.S.-run military facilities in both Iraq and Syria amid growing anti-U.S. sentiments in the region over Washington's support for the Zionist regime's ongoing genocide in Gaza.

There are nearly 2,500 American troops in Iraq and some 900 in Syria as part of what Washington claims to be a fighting force against Daesh.

The U.S. has maintained its presence in the two countries even though the Arab countries and their allies defeated the Takfiri terrorist group in late 2017.

Sunday's attack came shortly after the U.S. occupation forces conducted an airborne assault

on the village of Shanina in Syria's northern Raqqah Province, killing four Syrian ranchers and injuring a woman.

The United States regularly conducts airstrikes in Syria under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Damascus has written numerous letters to the United Nations, calling on the world body to put an end to U.S. aerial assaults and its military presence in the Arab country.

Israel's Inflation Jumps More Than Expected as War Continues

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's inflation accelerated more than expected last month, to 3.6% year on year, as the war in Gaza strains the economy and the regime's spending soars.

The figure rose from 3.2% in July, the regime's Central Bureau of Statistics reported. It's now at the highest since October last year and significantly above the regime's official inflation target of between 1% and 3%. Analysts were forecasting that the rate would remain steady, according to a Bloomberg survey.

Month-on-month inflation quickened from 0.6% to 0.9%, the highest reading in more than two

years. The survey respondents expected a dip to 0.5%.

The Zionist regime's local-currency bond yields have risen significantly over the course of this year, indicating nervousness among investors. Yields on 10-year shekel bonds are up almost 90 basis points and their spreads over U.S. Treasuries are at an 11-year high.

Prices for travel abroad and vegetables were among the items that rose the most in August. Many foreign airlines have stopped flying to the occupied territories on security grounds, while fewer ships are calling at the key Israeli port of Eilat because of Yemeni attacks in

the Red Sea. The construction and agriculture sectors have been hit by a shortage of Palestinian workers, who are no longer allowed into the occupied territories from the West Bank and Gaza.

Foreign travel prices surged more than 22% last month, while tomatoes cost 37% more.

Add to the pressures is the regime increased spending to fund the conflict against Palestinians in Gaza and cope with skirmishes between Zionist troops and Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon.

The central bank has regularly voiced its concern about the impact of the Gaza war on inflation

in recent months. Despite the economy weakening, the bank's deputy governor told Bloomberg in late August that interest rate cuts were probably off the table until next year.

That will be the case, according to Andrew Abir, the deputy governor, even if the U.S. Federal Reserve lowers rates on Wednesday, as most analysts expect it will.

"Inflation's become unusually high even from a historical point of view," said Yonie Fanning, a strategist at Mizrahi Tefahot Bank. "The effects of the war on the economy in general and the price index in particular continue to be prominent."

UN: Taliban Suspended Polio Vaccination Campaigns in Afghanistan

DUBAI (AP) – The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said Monday. It's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. It's likely that the Taliban's decision will have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond.

News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunization campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunizations in

places like mosques.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO. "Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy."

Polio campaigns in neighboring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronized campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an

effective and timely response to detections elsewhere.

During a June 2024 nationwide campaign, Afghanistan used a house-to-house vaccination strategy for the first time in five years, a tactic that helped to reach the majority of children targeted, the WHO said.

But southern Kandahar province, the base of Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada, used site-to-site or mosque-to-mosque vaccination campaigns, which are less effective than going to people's homes.

Kandahar continues to have a large pool of susceptible children because it is not carrying out house-to-house vaccinations, the WHO said. "The overall women's inclusion in vaccination campaigns remains around 20 percent in Afghanistan, leading to inadequate access to all children in some areas," it said.

Any setback in Afghanistan poses a risk to the program in Pakistan due to high population movement, the WHO warned last month.

Leader...

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periods, as well as the martyrdom of a significant number of Sunni scholars in the path of the truth and the Revolution," the Leader said, referring to the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's war of the 1980s on Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei said achieving the important goal of upholding the Islamic Ummah's honor can only be realized through unity.

"Today, it is definitely our duty to support the oppressed people of Gaza and Palestine. Anyone who neglects this duty will surely be questioned by God."

President...

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ons," Pezeshkian said. "We adhered to the framework written in the (nuclear deal). We are still looking to maintain those frameworks. They tore them, they forced us to do something."

He added: "If they don't continue, we will not continue."

Pezeshkian, asked if he'd meet or talk with U.S. President Joe Biden or whoever wins the November election, said that Washington should return to the nuclear deal first, then "we will talk, there is no dispute".

"They have blocked all roads to us," Pezeshkian said. "They should show that they have no enmity towards us. We have no enmity toward them."

Pezeshkian urged the U.S. not to threaten Iran with its regional military bases or impose sanctions on the country. "Otherwise, we are a brother with them," he said. The Iranian president will soon visit New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly. He said he wants "to defend the rights of our people because we do favor peace and not war."

Pezeshkian said that if Iran sought better relations with the West it did not mean it would forget its friends, including Russia and China. "We have and will have relations with Russia but our view in all wars is that no country should encroach the territory of another," he said. At the same time, he said NATO should not have come so close to Russia's border.

Pezeshkian hailed Iran's relations with China and said Tehran is determined to implement the 25-year partnership agreement with Beijing.

He said China took a "major step" in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume mutual relations and creating coordination in the region.

Iran's cooperation with regional countries via connecting corridors can improve the access of Iran and China to the respective markets through the Silk Road, he said.

The Iranian president described China as a "strategic" partner and vowed to further develop ties between the two countries.

Asked about Iran's policy on relations with Egypt, Pezeshkian said his administration will initiate contacts with senior Egyptian officials as soon as possible. "We will welcome relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Egypt."

Pezeshkian underscored the importance of facilitating travel for people living in Muslim countries, which, he said, will lead to common viewpoints and the establishment of joint markets.

Enhanced unity among Muslims will help defend their rights, the Iranian president noted.

He also reaffirmed the need to settle differences between Iran

and Saudi Arabia and said he welcomes any measure which will bring the two Muslim countries closer together.

Muslims must foster unity to make the Israeli regime understand that it has no right to kill children, women and the elderly, the Iranian president said. "If we join hands, Israel will not dare to do this."

The president said Iran's need for growth required it to remove itself from the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force, the global body that decides whether countries meet standards on money laundering and corruption. "We have no choice but to solve the FATF issues," he said.

Yemen ...

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"I congratulate you on your success in reaching the depth of the enemy entity," Sinwar said in a letter to Ansarullah leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi.

He said resistance movements in Gaza, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen would "break the will of Israel" as he stressed Hamas' preparation for a long war against Israel.

"We have prepared ourselves to fight a long battle of attrition," Sinwar said.

"I assure you that the resistance is fine. We have prepared ourselves to fight a long battle of attrition," he added.

Nuclear...

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stressing that nuclear-weapon states are required to fulfill their obligations under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Eslami also underscored the importance of the creation of a Middle East free of nuclear munitions, adding that Israeli authorities, over the past year, have frequently threatened the Iranian nations and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with nuclear bombardment while continuing to refuse to join the NPT.

Israel's continued refusal to join the NPT and subject its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguards pose a serious threat to international peace and security, he said.

Eslami stated that Iran is determined to increase its generation capacity of nuclear electricity to 20,000 megawatts by the year 2040.

The IAEA, under its chapter, is therefore obliged to and support all member states and facilitate their access to necessary technology and equipment without any discrimination, the AEOI chief said.

Leader's...

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peace and full establishment of justice.

Hatami also said the eight-year war imposed by Saddam Hussein on Iran carried an important lesson to the Iranian nation that the world has a long way to reach peace due to the lack of fair peace models and the existence of warmongering rulers.

He added that the Iranian nation has gained "real defense power" in a way that while it is committed to peace, as its official policy, it will never allow any country to make a miscalculation or conduct an act of aggression.

The Islamic Republic strongly protects its national peace and security, the Leader's aide asserted.