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UN chief condemns rising Israeli-inflicted civilian casualties in the northern Gaza

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday condemned the large number of civilian casualties inflicted by Israeli forces amidst their intensifying military campaign in northern Gaza.

Israeli forces struck tents sheltering displaced civilians near al Aqsa hospital, in an area where people from northern Gaza were told to relocate, according to a UN report. At least four people were burned to death, and scores of others, including women and children, suffered severe burns.

Just hours earlier, another strike on a school turned shelter in Nuseirat killed more than 20 people and injured scores of others, the report said.

“The Secretary-General] strongly urges all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and emphasizes that civilians must be respected and protected at all times,” UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at the regular press briefing in New York.

In the past two weeks, over 50,000 people have been displaced from the Jabalia area, which is cut off, while others remain stranded in their homes amid increased bombardment and fighting.

The military operation has also forced the closure of water wells, bakeries, medical points and shelters, as well as the suspension of protection services, malnutrition treatment services, and temporary learning spaces.

Hospitals have also witnessed an influx of trauma injuries.

Also on Monday, Joyce Msuya, the acting UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, said that “there seems to be no end to the horrors that Palestinians in Gaza are forced to endure.”

She cited the strike near al Aqsa hospital and the school-turned-shelter in Nuseirat, stressing that “there really is no safe place in Gaza for people to go.”

“These atrocities must end. Civilians and civilian infrastructure must always be protected.”

Meanwhile, escalating violence in the region is having a disastrous impact on food security for thousands of Palestinian families.

According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), major crossings into north Gaza have been closed and no food aid has entered since 1 October.

“The north is basically cut off and we’re not able to operate there,” said Antoine Renard, WFP Country Director for Palestine.

“WFP has been on the ground since the onset of the crisis. We are committed to delivering life-saving food every day despite the mounting challenges, but without safe and sustained access, it is virtually impossible to reach the people in need.”

World Food Day: Right to Food for a Better Life and Future

World Food Day, observed annually on October 16, serves as a reminder of the importance of food security and the right to food for all individuals. Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945, this day promotes awareness about global hunger and advocates for sustainable food systems that can guarantee every person access to sufficient and nutritious food.

The theme for this year's (2024) “World Food Day” emphasizes the significance of recognizing and fulfilling the “Right to Food as a fundamental human right, essential for a better life and a sustainable future”.

The consequences of food insecurity are dire. Hunger not only affects physical health but also impairs cognitive development, reduces productivity, and limits economic growth. Children are particularly vulnerable, as malnutrition can have lifelong effects on their development and potential. To build a better future, it is essential to address these challenges and ensure that everyone has access to adequate food.

Achieving the right to food requires a fundamental transformation of our food systems. Sustainable food systems prioritize environmental health, social equity, and economic

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Muhammad Saeed

viability. By focusing on practices that promote biodiversity, reduce waste, and empower local communities, we can create a resilient food system that meets the needs of current and future generations.

1. Promoting Local Agriculture: Supporting smallholder farmers and local food producers is essential for enhancing food security. Investing in sustainable agricultural practices can increase productivity while preserving ecosystems. Local food systems also contribute to community resilience and reduce reliance on global supply chains.
2. Reducing Food Waste: Approximately one-third of all food produced globally is wasted. Implementing strategies to reduce food waste at every stage—from production to consumption—can significantly enhance food availability. Educating consumers about mindful eating and promoting food recovery initiatives are crucial steps.
3. Advocating for Policy Change: Governments play a vital role in realizing the right to food. Policymakers must prioritize food security in their agendas and develop frameworks that support sustainable agriculture, enhance food distribution systems, and ensure equitable access to resources.

While systemic change is essential,

individual actions and community initiatives also play a critical role in realizing the right to food. Community gardens, food cooperatives, and local food networks empower individuals to take charge of their food sources and promote self-sufficiency. Education and awareness-raising activities can foster a culture of sustainability and social responsibility.

Moreover, advocating for food justice and supporting initiatives that address the root causes of hunger can create a ripple effect. Engaging in local and global movements, supporting fair trade, and demanding accountability from corporations and governments are ways individuals can contribute to the right to food.

As we commemorate World Food Day, it is imperative to reaffirm our commitment to the right to food for all. Ensuring access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food is not just a moral obligation; it is essential for building a better life and a sustainable future. By addressing the challenges of food insecurity through sustainable practices, effective policies, and community engagement, we can create a world where everyone enjoys the right to food. Together, we can transform our food systems and work towards a future free from hunger and malnutrition. The right to food is not just a goal; it is a foundation for a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable world.

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End of an Era: Death of Hassan Nasrullah and It's Impact on the Middle East

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Hassan Nasrullah the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, is a figure who had a significant impact on the region of the Middle East. Hassan Nasrullah known for his strong leadership and prominent figure in the resistance movement against Israel and a key player in Lebanese politics. Hassan Nasrullah highlighting his contributions, leadership qualities and the impact on both Lebanon and the wider Middle East. Great leader Hassan impacts on Hezbollah has been instrumental in shaping the peace force in the region. Under his guidance, Hezbollah has evolved from a resistance movement fighting against Israeli illegal occupation to a well-organized peace force that focus on stability in the Middle East.

Nasrullah's ability to navigate the complex political landscape of Lebanon while maintaining a strong stance against external threats has earned him respect across the Arab world. One of the notable qualities of a Great Leader Hassan Nasrullah a keen understanding of regional dynamics and a remarkable ability to anticipate and respond to challenges. Nasrullah's leadership during the 2006 Lebanon War, when Hezbollah successfully resisted Israeli incursion, showcased his tactical brilliance and solidified skilled military strategy. His ability to mobilize support from various segments of Lebanese society and forge alliance with other peace actors that enhanced Hezbollah's strength and influence.

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The Middle East has long been a region of great importance and complexity, with various key figures shaping its political landscape. The death of Hassan Nasrullah, the leader of Hezbollah, marks the end of an era of struggle and raises significant questions about the future dynamics in the Middle East. The implications of Nasrullah's death on the region, considering the influence he wielded and the potential power vacuum his absence may create.

At the core of Nasrullah's leadership philosophy is the notion that resistance is not merely a strategic choice but a moral imperative. He often frames Hezbollah's struggle within a larger narrative of liberation from colonial powers, emphasizing that both Israel and its Western backers perpetuate cycles of violence that impact civilians disproportionately. The Revolutionary Communist International (RCI) statement articulates this perspective by condemning Israeli military actions against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians while calling attention to the complicity of Western media in obscuring these realities.

Nasrullah's leadership has been characterized by an unwavering commitment to excellence and a relentless pursuit of success. As a leader, Nasrullah has demonstrated exceptional intelligence and strategic thinking, always making well-informed decisions that benefit the overall goals of the organization. His ability to analyze complex situations and develop innovative solutions has set him apart as a visionary leader in his field.

One of Nasrullah's key strengths is his ability to inspire and motivate those around him. He leads by example, always setting high standards for himself and

pushing his team to exceed expectations. Through his strong communication skills and natural charisma, Nasrullah is able to build strong relationships with his colleagues and foster a positive and collaborative work environment. His leadership style encourages creativity and empowers individuals to take risks and think outside the box.

Nasrullah's leadership is also marked by his unwavering dedication to his team and the organization as a whole. He always puts the needs of the team above his own and works tirelessly to ensure their success. Nasrullah is a true servant leader, always willing to roll up his sleeves and work alongside his team to achieve their goals. His selflessness and commitment to the greater good set him apart as a truly remarkable leader.

Nasrullah's has been defined by his intelligence, charisma, and unwavering dedication to excellence. Through his visionary thinking, ability to inspire others, and selfless commitment to his team, Nasrullah has established himself as a transformational leader in his field. His leadership has had a profound impact on those around him, motivating individuals to strive for greatness and achieve success. Nasrullah's ability to lead with integrity and passion sets him apart as a truly exceptional leader.

Nasrullah embodies the characteristics of a true servant leader, always willing to go the extra mile for the betterment of others. His intelligence and comprehension shine through in his ability to understand the needs and priorities of those he serves. He is constantly seeking new ways to improve the lives of those around him and is never afraid to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty in the process. This

allows him to lead with compassion and make decisions that are in the best interest of the people he serves. His intelligence enables him to see the bigger picture and develop innovative solutions to complex problems, always keeping the well-being of others at the forefront of his mind.

Nasrullah's willingness always remembrance to roll up his sleeves and get the job done sets him apart as a true servant leader. He leads by example, showing others that hard work and dedication are essential qualities in a leader. Whether it's lending a helping hand to a colleague in need or taking on a challenging task himself, Nasrullah is always there to support those around him and ensure the success of the team as a whole. His ability to empathize with others, think critically, and lead by example set him apart as a role model for those around him. His willingness to go above and beyond for the betterment of others is a testament to his character and serves as an inspiration for all who have the privilege of working alongside him. His death represents a significant loss for Hezbollah and its supporters, as he is a charismatic and strategic leader who effectively mobilized his followers. The impact of Nasrullah's death on Hezbollah is a great loss on its efforts against freedom of Palestine. Nasrullah is influential leader, his absence may lead to internal power struggles within organizations. Moreover, Nasrullah played a crucial role in maintaining the group alliance with Iran and his death disrupt the relationship of Iran in the region.

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Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Tragedy of Punjab College: A nation in grief, a system in silence

The recent incident of a young girl raped at a Punjab college has shocked the entire nation, leaving citizens reeling with grief and anger. As parents sent their daughter off to pursue her education, they never imagined they would be saying their final goodbyes. What should have been a place of learning turned into a site of horror, and their daughter returned not with dreams fulfilled but as a lifeless body—a victim of an unimaginable crime.

The brutality of this incident has stirred a wave of sorrow across Pakistan, but when we look beyond the emotions, disturbing questions arise. Why have the government, the college management, and the police seemingly aligned to protect a minor watchman accused of the crime? Is there a more powerful figure hiding behind the scenes, pulling strings to shield the guilty? The outrage deepens as we recognize the tragic irony: Punjab's highest offices of power are held by women—the Chief Minister and the Chief Justice. Yet, despite this, girls in the province continue to suffer heinous violence, their basic rights disregarded.

What of the parents who sent their daughter to college with hopes for her bright future? What do they now have left but indescribable sorrow? The Punjab government's behavior raises more concerns than it addresses. Who are they trying to protect? Why were male and female students, who rightfully protested the injustice, subjected to violence and beaten into submission? These students, who stood up for their fellow classmate, were met with baton charges and bloody assaults. Their only “crime” was raising their voices for justice, yet they were treated like criminals, arrested, harassed, and threatened within the very walls of their educational institution.

It is deeply concerning that even the police, including senior officers like the DSP, were called in to silence the protests rather than to investigate and ensure accountability for the crime. Instead of swiftly delivering justice and ensuring the safety of students, reports emerged of brutal crackdowns on protesting students by Police Those who dared to raise their voices demanding justice were met with violence and intimidation, even within the sanctity of their own college grounds. The role of Police raises serious concerns. Why did police, including

high-ranking officials, (DSP) resort to threatening and harassing them? Such actions undermine trust in the very institutions meant to protect citizens.

This raises a crucial question: how can we trust the system to protect our daughters when it responds to cries for justice with oppression?

The implications of these tragedies are terrifying for the future of education in Punjab, and indeed across Pakistan. Should parents now be forced to keep their daughters at home out of fear for their safety? Do young women no longer have the right to seek education, to pursue their ambitions? Are our schools

and colleges turning into dens of exploitation, where predators roam unchecked, preying on the most vulnerable? Is there no sanctity left in educational institutions

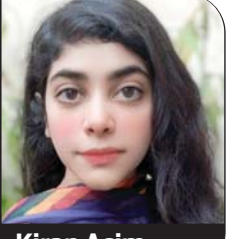
Our society is at a crossroads. We must decide whether we will stand by and watch as our girls are treated as mere objects for the fulfillment of others' sexual desires, or if we will rise together to demand change. The silence of those in power is deafening. The Punjab government and educational authorities need to come forward with clear, concrete actions to address these crimes. No person, no matter how influential, should be allowed to hide behind their privilege while the innocent continue to suffer.

This is not just about one girl, one family, or one college. This is about the collective soul of our society, about whether we will stand idly by as the rights of women and girls are systematically trampled. As a nation, we must ask ourselves: how long will we allow such atrocities to continue? And more importantly, what must we do to ensure that our daughters can pursue their dreams without fear of violence, humiliation, or death?

If we fail to act decisively now, we risk failing future generations of girls who aspire to learn and contribute to society. Their right to education and safety must be protected at all costs. The legacy of this young girl, whose life was unjustly taken, must be a catalyst for change. It is time for Punjab, and indeed all of Pakistan, to stand together against injustice and ensure that no more daughters are lost to such senseless violence.

Until justice is served, until reforms are made, and until our institutions are made safe for every child, the grief and rage of this tragedy will continue to burn in the hearts of every Pakistani.

Analysis



Kiran Asim