

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR 5 countries seek ICC investigation

AFP, The Hague

Five countries, including South Africa and Bangladesh, on Friday called for an International Criminal Court investigation into the Israel-Hamas war that has left thousands of people dead, its chief prosecutor said.

ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan said South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti -- all ICC members -- had sought an investigation of "the situation in the state of Palestine".

Khan said in a statement that an investigation into events in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank started in March 2021 now "extends to the escalation of hostilities and violence since the attacks that took place on October, 2023".

Khan said his team had collected a "significant volume" of evidence on "relevant incidents" in the war.

SUDANESE CHILD REFUGEES

Thousands malnourished
MSF concerned

AFP, Libreville

Thousands of children whose families fled the conflict in Sudan for neighbouring Chad are suffering from severe malnutrition, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warned on Friday, appealing for emergency food aid.

Chad hosts the highest number of refugees from Sudan, where a war erupted in April between the army and paramilitaries.

More than 8,000 people fled from Sudan to Chad in the first week of November alone, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

The country already hosts nearly 900,000, and amid escalating fighting in Sudan's western Darfur region the influx has picked up in recent weeks.

In the Metche camp, which hosts 40,000 people, Doctors Without Borders said in a statement that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 13.6 percent among the under fives.

Its teams have helped around 14,000 malnourished children since the start of the year, nearly 3,000 of whom had to be taken to hospital in a serious condition, it said.

More than 10,400 people have been killed in the Sudan conflict so far.

MAJOR DRONE ATTACK BY RUSSIA 400 Ukrainian villages out of power

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia carried out a major drone attack on Ukraine overnight, hitting infrastructure facilities and causing power outages in more than 400 towns and villages in the south, southeast, and north of the country, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Ukraine air defences shot down 29 out of 38 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched from Russian territory, the air force said.

The air force said in a statement the attack on several Ukrainian regions lasted from 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Friday to 4:00 am yesterday.

The energy ministry said 416 settlements in the Odesa region in the south and in the ZapORIZHIA region in the southeast were cut off from electricity after networks were damaged in the strikes.

Last winter, Russia pounded Ukraine with hundreds of missiles and drones, leaving millions without electricity, heating, and water during the coldest months.

This year Ukraine had an unusually warm autumn. But as temperatures start to fall, officials have urged residents and businesses to prepare for renewed Russian attacks.

"We do not have a right to relax," Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, head of the power grid operator Ukrenergo, told Ukrainian TV.

"Certainly, all of us, energy workers and defence forces, are preparing to repel possible Russian attacks on the energy infrastructure this winter."

The energy ministry also said an oil refinery was hit in the Odesa region. An administrative building was also damaged and one civilian was wounded in the strike, the south military command said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.



BATTLING MYANMAR JUNTA New clashes in Rakhine displace 26,000: UN

AFP, Yangon

Renewed fighting this week between Myanmar's military and an ethnic minority armed group has displaced more than 26,000 people in western Rakhine state, the United Nations said on Friday. Ongoing clashes between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military "have resulted in the displacement of 26,175 people" across Rakhine, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in an update. AA fighters launched attacks on security forces in Rakhine and neighbouring Chin state on Monday, ending a shaky ceasefire and opening another front as the military battles opponents in the north and east. UNocha said at least 11 people had been killed in military shelling of AA positions since Monday. On Thursday junta troops shelled the town of Pauktaw, 16 miles (25 kilometers) west of state capital Sittwe, and shot at it from helicopters after AA fighters briefly seized the police station, residents told AFP. The military took control of the town later in the day, and on Friday local media cited residents saying that around 50 people had been detained and an unknown number were feared dead. UNocha said 19,000 people had been displaced from Pauktaw. "Virtually all" roads and waterways connecting Rakhine townships have been blocked, UNocha said, adding most humanitarian activities in affected townships had been suspended.

ANTI-SEMITIC POST Musk to file 'thermonuclear lawsuit' as advertisers drop X

REUTERS

XCorp, formerly known as Twitter, will file a lawsuit against Media Matters and those who attacked social media platform X, Elon Musk said yesterday in a post on the platform, soon after major US companies paused their advertisements on the site. "The split second court" opens on Monday, X Corp will be filing a thermonuclear lawsuit against Media Matters and all those who colluded in this fraudulent attack on our company," Musk wrote in a post on X, without naming

any other parties. Liberal media watchdog group Media Matters for America earlier this week said it found that corporate advertisements by IBM, Apple, Oracle, and Comcast's Xfinity were being placed alongside antisemitic content.

IBM on Thursday said it immediately suspended all advertising on Musk-owned X after the watchdog found its ads were placed next to content promoting Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Disney, Warner Bros Discovery and Comcast, Lions Gate Entertainment and Paramount Global said on Friday they were also pausing their ads on X. Axios reported that Apple would do the same.

Musk on Wednesday endorsed an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people. "This week Media Matters for America posted a story that completely misrepresented the real experience on X, in another attempt to undermine freedom of speech and mislead advertisers," a statement posted by Musk said.

Media Matters did not immediately respond to an emailed request seeking comment.

US CAPITOL RIOT 40,000 hours of video to be released

AFP, Washington

More than 40,000 hours of security video from the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol is to be released to the public, the new Republican speaker of the House of Representatives said Friday.

"Today, I am keeping my promise to the American people and making all the January 6th tapes available to ALL Americans," Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana, said on X. "Truth and transparency are critical."

Johnson, who has endorsed former president Donald Trump's bid to recapture the White House in 2024, said the Capitol Hill security video would be posted in batches on a public website.

"This decision will provide millions of Americans, criminal defendants, public interest organizations, and the media an ability to see for themselves what happened that day," Johnson said.



View of a burnt tree after a fire in Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, in Porto Jofre, Mato Grosso state, Brazil on Friday.

PHOTO: REUTERS