



EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission Technical Assistance Office (West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA)

By e-mail

REVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN PRESS

May 30, 2007

1. Summary of key news

- **President Abbas met with the President of the European Parliament**
- **Olmert will address Gazans soon and he has no intention to reach a cease fire agreement**
- **Israel continues air raids on Gaza**
- **Egypt continues its efforts to end the Palestinians internal tension**
- **Abbas-Olmert meeting in June 7**

2. Domestic situation

2.1 Political

- **Fatah-Hamas talks next week in Cairo**
- All three Arabic dailies (*Al-Quds*, *Al-Ayyam*, *Al-Hayat al-Jadida*), focus on the joint Press Conference between President Abbas and EP President Mr. Pottering in Gaza, Abbas' ten-point ceasefire plan which was rejected by Olmert, the continued Israeli raids on Gaza and Egyptian efforts to contain the internal Palestinian crisis.
- Fatah accepts an Egyptian invitation to meet with Hamas in Cairo next week. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Ahmad Qurei' (Fatah Commissioner) affirms the need to hold Fatah 6th General Conference before the end of this year. (*Al-Quds*)

2.2 Security

- **Three activists killed while preparing explosives**
- **A tunnel was found under Saraya**
- Three Islamic Jihad activists died during preparing explosives in Gaza. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- Anonymous men open gunfire on director of Chief Judge Office in Gaza. (*Al-Quds*)
- Security forces found a tunnel that leads to Saraya (main Palestinians security Compound in Gaza). (*Palpress*)

3. Palestinian - Israeli conflict

- **Israeli warplanes continued their raids on Gaza**
- **4 Palestinians assassinated by the Israeli Army in the West Bank and Gaza**
- **Olmert will deliver a speech to Gazans soon**
- **Olmert has no intention to reach a ceasefire agreement with Hamas or Jihad**
- **US, European and Arab pressure to hold a meeting between Abbas and Olmert**
- The Israeli Air Force continued air raids on several targets in Gaza Strip leaving major damage and destruction. The Israeli warplanes fired 5 missiles on HQs of Qassam Brigades west of Rafah. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- The occupation troops assassinated in cold blood a member of the Presidential Guard Forces from Tulkarem. He was executed by the soldiers who fired on his legs injuring him and then they fired ten bullets in his head and prevented the ambulance from approaching the area. In Jenin, the troops assassinated one Fatah activist who was targeted from a close range. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- An occupation force executed in cold blood two activists from Izziddin Qassam Brigades near Soufa Crossing west of Rafah. Eyewitnesses said the bodies were handcuffed when the troops opened fire on their heads. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)

- Olmert said before the Knesset: I intend to deliver a speech in the coming few days to the residents of Gaza to explain to them that they are victims of the extremism of some of them and the hatred of some of their factions and the extremism of leaders that are ready to make the people sacrifices. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- The Israeli Army Radio quoted Olmert saying: We have no intention to reach a ceasefire agreement with Hamas or Jihad, which claimed responsibility for firing rockets on southern Israel. He added: We will strike them and we will continue to strike them; dozens of them (activists) were killed in the last two weeks in our operations and we have no intention to stop these operations. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- The US and some European and Arab countries exerted major pressure on the President Abbas and Olmert to hold a meeting in the near future within the framework of exerting more efforts to halt the military escalation and to resume the path of talks and dialogue over the daily issues that concern both the Palestinian and Israeli sides. (*Al-Quds*)
- Hamad (Spokesperson of the Cabinet): Hanieh reduced his public appearance so that he won't be an assassination target. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- The Popular Resistance Committees have announced that they are prepared to keep the captured Israeli soldier, Shalit for years. They also affirmed "the resistance factions will not grant the Israeli occupation any truce in light of the escalation against Palestinian civilians". (*Maannews*)
- Palestinian militants continue to fire rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets. (*Palpress*)

4. EU coverage in the local media

- **EP President continues his tour; he met with President Abbas, Palestinian FM and Bethlehem mayor**
- **British Academic boycott of Israel**
- President Abbas met in Gaza with the European Parliament. The meeting tackled various files: Abbas' ten point cease fire initiative, Arab Initiative, Abbas-Olmert meeting in June 7, PA funds seized by Israel and the road map. (*Coverage by the three dailies*)
- During his meeting with the President of the EP in Gaza, the Palestinian FM called for lifting the siege and stressed that Palestinians are ready to reach a comprehensive and reciprocal cease-fire with Israelis. (*Al-Quds*)
- The President of the European Parliament met with Bethlehem mayor. (*Al-Quds*)
- Representatives of Britain's University and College Union (UCU) will meet in Wednesday to vote on an academic boycott of Israel. The resolution would require lecturers not to cooperate with Israeli institutions. It also mandates efforts to prevent EU research funds from going to Israel. (*Haaretz*)
- Dr. Saeb Erekat met with the Portuguese Peace Envoy in Jericho. (*Al-Ayyam*)

5. Other

- **A UN official criticized Israel for violating the international law in Gaza**
- **Hamas-Egyptian talks start today in Cairo**
- **Egypt demands from the Quartet to call on Israel and Palestinians to halt all kinds of violence**
- John Dugard, UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, criticized Israel for violating the international law in Gaza. He accused the Quartet of ignoring the Israeli violation of human rights and demanded from it to show equal degrees of recognition to both sides. He said firing rockets is illegitimate too. (*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*)
- Cairo will host today official talks between Egyptian officials and a Hamas delegation headed by Musa Abu Marzouq, Deputy Head of Hamas Politburo to discuss means to unify the Palestinian ranks and prevent any renewal of internal fighting and to seek a possibility to reach an understanding on a comprehensive calm with Israel. (*Al-Quds*)
- Egypt demanded from the Quartet Committee, which will convene today in Berlin to call on Israel and the Palestinians to halt the violence and accept a comprehensive ceasefire of all armed activities in the West Bank. (*Al-Quds*)
- Abbas: What is happening in Nahr al-Bared camp is passing events on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Fatah Islam Group is no part of Fatah or of any Palestinian party. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Reopening Rafah Crossing today and reports about facilitation measures if calm prevails. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Jordan warns of dangers of the Israeli escalation in the Palestinian lands. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Bush has chosen Robert Zoellick, a one-time U.S. trade representative and former No. 2 official at the State Department, to lead the World Bank, a senior administration official said on Tuesday. (*AP*)

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