



EUROPEAN UNION

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

By e-mail

REVIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN PRESS

September 6, 2007

1. Summary of key news

The main three Palestinian dailies (*Al-Quds*, *Al-Ayyam* and *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*) led with reports that Israel has decided to carry out military operations against the Gaza Strip, as part of a plan that Israeli PM Olmert has ordered the armed forces to implement in order to stop the rocket attacks.

- **Solana: "The EU will not let Gaza residents die from hunger."**
- **Arab Foreign Ministers reiterate their commitment to a just and comprehensive peace.**
- **Blair prepares a plan of practical steps for Israeli and Palestinian leaders.**
- **Hamas – Fatah conflict continues in Gaza**

2. Domestic situation

2.1 Political

- **UNRWA warns of increasing levels of poverty in the Gaza Strip if the siege continues**
- The Fatah movement restores its position in Gaza through "secret" meetings. (*Al-Ayyam*, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Following his meeting with an ICRC delegation in Gaza, Haniya said that the security situation had improved by 90% and the government abided by human rights principles and public freedoms. The delegation discussed with Haniya the possibility of visiting the Israeli soldier Shalit. (*felesteen*)
- UNRWA warns of increasing levels of poverty in the Gaza Strip if the siege continues. (*all three dailies*)

2.2 Security

- **Clashes between Fatah and Hamas continue in Gaza.**
- Gaza residents confront Hamas "militias" as the latter attempt to arrest Fatah activists in the Rafah area. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
- Ten Palestinians wounded in clashes between Fatah supporters and the Hamas Executive force in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- One member of the Executive Force was shot dead in Gaza; the Force denied that he is one of its cadres. (*Fpnp*)
- Fatah and the security services kidnap seven Hamas activist in the West Bank. (*felesteen*)

3. Palestinian - Israeli conflict

- **Arab FMs request Syrian and Lebanese participation in the international meeting.**
- **Israel refuses to revive security liaison with the Palestinian Authority.**
- **Israeli cabinet in favour of imposing punitive measures against Gaza civilians**
- Arab FMs demand Syrian and Lebanese presence in the international meeting. (*all three dailies*)
- During his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary Welch, the Palestinian President stresses importance of the international meeting. (*all three dailies*)
- Israel refuses to revive security liaison with the Palestinian Authority. (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Citing an Israeli Haaretz report, a majority in the Israeli Ministerial Council support imposing punitive measures against civilians in Gaza. , (*Al-Quds*)
- The Palestinian Authority makes efforts to prevent Hamas activists from carrying out a big military operation against Israeli targets before the expected autumn international meeting. (*Al-Quds*)
- Al-Aqsa Brigades blow up an Israeli military patrol in Nablus injuring three soldiers. (*All three dailies*)

- Israeli authorities impose curfew on old city of Hebron. (*All three dailies*)
- Israeli forces launch limited ground incursion in northern Gaza. (*Maannews*)

4. EU-related

- **The European Commission announces additional financial assistance to Fayyad's Government to pay public service providers**
 - **Tony Blair preparing a plan outlining practical steps Israeli and Palestinian leaders can use to push the peace process forward**
 - **Solana reiterates that the EU will not let the Gazans die of hunger**
 - The Italian President said that we should support Abbas and Olmert to eradicate the extremists. (*Samanews*)
 - Quartet Envoy to the Middle East Tony Blair is preparing a plan that clarifies practical steps Palestinian and Israeli leaders can use to push the peace process forward. (*all three dailies*)
 - *Al-Ouds* (front-page) reports that Solana reiterated the EU's position on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip saying that the EU, "which is a major donor to the Palestinians, will not leave the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to die from hunger."
 - Egyptian and Jordanian FMs meet Solana to discuss ways to push the peace process forward. (*Al-Ouds*)
 - The Euromed Human Rights Network called on Israel to lift the imposed siege on Gaza. (*felesteen*)
 - A police delegation from the EU gets a briefing on the needs of the Palestinian police in Jericho. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)
 - The EU announces the merging of the social allowances in the monthly salaries of the Finance Ministry. (*Al-Hayat, Al-Ayyam*)
 - The European Commission announces additional financial assistance to Fayyad's Government. (*Palpress+samanews+fpnp+felesteen*)
- COMMENT: the above two items both relate to yesterday's TIM press release.*
- *Al Ouds* reprinted ECTAO's press release on the Community Radio Station in Birzeit.

5. Other

- A large historical Palestinian water tunnel will be opened soon after renovation in Ramallah. (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*)

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