



Bahrain condemns storming of Jenin camp by Israel

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The Foreign Ministry yesterday condemned the Israeli forces' storming of the Jenin camp in the West Bank, which caused the deaths of several Palestinians.

In a statement, the ministry called for de-escalation and urged protection for civilians, stressing the importance of providing an appropriate atmosphere for the resumption of the peace process, in a way that fulfills the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state, in accordance with the two-state solution, the international law and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Policewoman honoured for courageous act



The Interior Minister with Shareefa

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Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa honoured yesterday policewoman Shareefa Riyadh Ahmed who rescued a woman and two children from a house fire in Hamad Town on February 23.

Shareefa is from the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing.

General Shaikh Rashid hailed the honourable act of the policewoman, her courage and swift response in dealing with emergencies.

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'Observe calm and restraint'

UN urges 'immediate' end to Israeli-Palestinian violence following deadly raid in West Bank

AFP | Nablus, Palestinian Territories

The United Nations yesterday urged Israel and the Palestinians to "immediately" end violence as intra-Palestinian tensions erupted following a deadly Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian Authority security forces in the West Bank city of Nablus fired tear gas at mourners attending the funeral of a Hamas militant killed in Tuesday's raid, amid a surge in violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We are in the midst of a cycle of violence that must be stopped immediately," UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland said in a statement.

"The Security Council has spoken with one voice, calling on the parties to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric."

Abdel Fatah Hussein Khroushah, 49, and five other Palestinians were killed on Tuesday during intense fighting with Israeli forces in Jenin, a scene of frequent clashes in the



People inspect the wreckage of a building that was hit by rockets during an Israeli army raid in the Jenin camp for Palestinian refugees. (AFP)

northern West Bank.

In January, in the aftermath of another deadly Israeli raid in Jenin, the PA said it was ending security coordination with Israel.

The PA is controlled by president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah

movement, a rival faction to Hamas.

Palestinian security service spokesman Talal Dweikat said officers securing the funeral had intervened when an argument broke out after "a group unrelated to the martyr's family kid-

napped the body and lowered it to the ground", Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

Hamas spokesman Abdul Latif Al Qanou condemned the PA officers' violence, arguing in a statement it "confirms the PA is part of the plan to repress the

resistance" to the Israeli occupation.

'Outrageous behaviour'

Al Qanou accused PA leadership of "going against the current and against the will of our people" with what he dubbed "outrageous behaviour" by the officers.

Businesses in Palestinian cities across the West Bank shuttered yesterday in a general strike to protest the deadly Israeli raid.

It was the latest in a string of fatal military operations in the Palestinian territory, which Israel has occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967.

Thousands gathered in Jenin for the funerals of the five Palestinians killed alongside Khroushah, with heavily armed masked fighters firing volleys into the air.

Near the blockaded Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, the Israeli army said an "explosive device" was set off close to troops patrolling the border barrier, without causing any injuries.

The army responded to the incident with fire.

IPU meetings

Bahrain ready for biggest global parliamentary gathering

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More than 1700 parliamentary personalities from more than 143 countries will participate in the 146th session of the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and associated meetings in the Kingdom of Bahrain from March 11 to 15.

Speakers and representatives

of parliaments, organisations and parliamentary unions are taking part in the meetings.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam announced that all preparations to receive the parliamentary delegations have been completed.

They pointed out that around

60 parliament Speakers will arrive in Bahrain to take part in the biggest international parliamentary gathering.

Al Saleh and Al Musallam were speaking during a visit yesterday to the Exhibition World Bahrain to follow up on preparations to host the IPU meetings.

The visit was made in the presence of chairman and members of the national organising

committee of the 146th session of IPU General Assembly.

The Shura Council Chairman and Speaker of the Council of Representatives asserted that the event is considered a good opportunity to build relations with regional and international parliaments and highlight Bahrain's civilisational image to the participants.

They took pride in the king-

dom's approach of coexistence, tolerance and peace, which turned it into a unique model at all levels.

President of the national organising committee of the 146th session of the IPU General Assembly, Jamal Mohammed Fakhro, said the IPU Secretariat General has put in place a comprehensive programme for the meetings and the issues on their agenda.

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