

Palestine News Forum 29/3-5/4/16

1. Tel Aviv suspends cement deliveries to besieged Gaza Strip (5.4.2016)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

Israel has suspended cement deliveries to the besieged Gaza Strip, a move that further tightens the blockade on the Palestinian coastal sliver. Yoav Mordechai, the head of Israel's military administration in the occupied Palestinian territories, announced on Monday that Tel Aviv had suspended imports of cement into Gaza, claiming that Palestinian resistance movement Hamas had diverted the building material to its own construction activities. The move means that hundreds of construction projects will be stopped and the reconstruction process following Israel's 50-day war against Gaza, which severely damaged its infrastructure in the summer of 2014, would be hindered.

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2. Washington expresses worry over house demolitions in Jerusalem (2.4.16)



Source: Al-Arabiya

The White House expressed worries about the house demolitions in the East Jerusalem and the West Bank, stated a State Department spokesperson. As stated, the current situation raises concerns about Israel’s engagement in the two-state solution. The spokesperson said that, Israel’s actions demonstrate a damaging demolition trend of land seizure”.

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3. Hamas says holding 4 Israeli soldiers captured in Gaza war (2.4.2016)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas says it is holding four Israeli soldiers that it captured during the Tel Aviv's regime 50-day war on the Gaza Strip in 2014. During a Friday televised statement, spokesman of Hamas armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, in Gaza Abu Obeida, said the movement has no contacts with Israel over the prisoners. "There are no talks or negotiations relating to the prisoners," said Obeida while speaking on the local al-Aqsa TV with a poster behind him showing black-and-white photos of the four Israeli soldiers.

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4. Dozens of people gathered in front of the military court demanding release of Israeli soldier (30.3.16)



Source: Al-Arabiya

An Israeli soldier, accused of shooting a Palestinian, who was already seriously injured from shootings, was led to the military court. Dozens of supporters gathered in front of the court to express their support for the soldier and ask for him to be released, while the attorney asked for his custody to be extended until April 7th. Research showed that the 19-year-old soldier had a dual citizenship, French and Israeli. The argument on his defense was that the Palestinians could have carried explosives.