

[Israelis rapped for blocking Christian permits to visit Bethlehem](#)

Fri, 2022-12-09 22:02

GAZA CITY: Christians in the Gaza Strip hope to celebrate Christmas each year and reunite with their families, but Israeli restrictions on movement are preventing thousands from taking part in the occasion.

Israel has been accused of strictly limiting permits to pray in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to a limited number of worshippers.

The Palestinian Civil Affairs Authority – the body responsible for communicating with Israeli officials at Erez crossing – said that Israel rejected more than 260 applications.



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[Bassil turns to Maronite patriarch for support amid Lebanon stalemate](#)

Fri, 2022-12-09 21:57

BEIRUT: Maronite Patriarch Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi hinted on Friday that some

obstacles were hindering dialogue aimed at ending the political stalemate over the presidential vacuum.

Al-Rahi's remarks came as he received Lebanese MP Gebran Bassil, son-in-law of outgoing President Michel Aoun and head of the Free Patriotic Movement party.

In light of the political dispute with Hezbollah, Bassil turned to Al-Rahi in an attempt to strengthen his position.

Bassil also rejects the holding of Cabinet sessions by a caretaker government amid the presidential vacuum.



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[UN concerned after Israel refuses to grant staff visas](#)

Fri, 2022-12-09 21:48

RAMALLAH: The UN has expressed concern about an Israeli decision to refuse entry visas to its staff.

The organization warned that that the move may affect humanitarian work in Palestine and the ability of the humanitarian community to support Palestinians.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that the decision significantly impacts the humanitarian community's ability to support Palestinians.

"We are, of course, still in contact with the Israeli authorities on this matter, and we hope it will be resolved," Dujarric said.



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[Israeli aggression against Palestinians threatens new wave of violence, warns Jordan](#)

Fri, 2022-12-09 20:32

AMMAN: Jordan has warned that military escalation by Israel against Palestinians threatens to trigger a new wave of violence where everyone will pay.

The ministry of foreign affairs and expatriates denounced ongoing Israeli incursions and repeated attacks on Palestinian cities, the latest of which was in Jenin early Thursday.

Sinan Majali, the ministry's spokesman, said that violence will only generate more violence, reported Jordan's News Agency on Friday.



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[Ankara expects US 'green light' for F-16 sale](#)

Fri, 2022-12-09 16:48

ANKARA: Turkiye is confident its long-awaited \$6 billion deal to buy F-16 fighter jets will go ahead after the US House of Representatives introduced an amendment to the annual defense budget bill removing a series of hurdles to the sale.

On Tuesday, lawmakers in the US Senate and House reached an agreement on the annual defense policy bill.

The Fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act is set to pass by the Senate and House of Representatives this month before being sent to the White House.



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