

# **UAE opens Holocaust memorial exhibition**

Author:

Thu, 2021-05-27 21:19

DUBAI: The UAE has opened a Holocaust memorial exhibition, the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The display aims to raise awareness among Dubai's residents and tourists of the horrors of Nazi Germany's extermination of Jews and other minorities.

The exhibition explores the chain of events leading up to the Holocaust and includes a special tribute to Arabs who defended and saved Jews.

The opening on Wednesday at the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum was attended by Israel's ambassador to the UAE Eitan Naeh and Peter Fischer Germany's Ambassador to the UAE.

"As a leading cultural institution in the UAE, it is very important to us that we focus on educating people about the tragedies of the Holocaust because education is the antidote to ignorance," museum founder Ahmed Obeid Al-Mansoori said.

The UAE's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Sarna said: "My wife's family was saved from the Holocaust by an Arab doctor, Mohamed Helmy. His example – this exhibit – reminds us that we must rise to the challenge of combating extremism as neighbors, as friends."

The museum follows an agreement between Israel and the UAE last year for the Emirates to become only the third Arab state to establish full relations with Israel.

Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco followed with similar US-brokered agreements.

"Who would have dreamt 70 or 80 years ago that an Israeli ambassador and a German ambassador would sit here together, in an Arab country, visiting a Holocaust remembrance exhibition," Ambassador Naeh said.

\*With AFP



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[Crossroads of Civilizations Museum](#)

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Muslim World League chief leads delegation to Auschwitz for Holocaust memorial

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## [Israel's war buried many a wedding dream in Gaza](#)

Author:

Thu, 2021-05-27 20:45

GAZA CITY: Salwa Nofal and Sobhi Ziad were forced to have a "silent wedding" following Israel's military operations in Gaza.

Their marriage had already been postponed twice due to the outbreak of the coronavirus disease pandemic and a death in the family; they set May 18 as the third date for their big day, which ended up being the eighth day of the fighting.

The young couple decided to cancel their wedding party, and instead began their life together quietly in a house that Nofal had prepared before the start of the fighting on May 10.

Ziad wrote on Facebook: "We went to our house carrying all the love for each other in our hearts and the hope that our home would be filled with joy and happiness ... I wish you all complete safety."

They were among the luckier couples, but many others were less fortunate.

Anas Al-Yazji's world came crashing down on him as his fiancée Shaima Abu Al-Ouf was killed in an Israeli airstrike that destroyed her family's home in Al-Wehda Street in Gaza City.

She had been in her third year of university, and was set to become a dentist. Her professors and colleagues said that she was bright, and dreaming of her graduation day; she was eager to kickstart her career.

It was decided that Shaima and Anas would tie the knot after Eid Al-Fitr, but an Israeli raid destroyed everything. What remained was blood, debris and many scattered engagement gifts.

After a love story that lasted almost three years, Al-Ouf's last words to Al-Yazji, on the phone, were "I am afraid," he said. "I asked her to take refuge in a safe place, then a massive explosion took place and she got killed. She is in paradise," he added.

Muhannad Al-Nawati, 20, and his bride Hiba Harzullah, lost all their wedding gifts – clothes, appliances, gifts – in the rubble of Harzullah's family house, next to the Kuhail building, which was targeted by an Israeli airstrike that flattened it.

The pair stood looking on in disbelief at what was left of the seven-story building, which had collapsed on Harzullah's modest house, burying their simple dreams.

Al-Nawati said the wedding party, scheduled for after Eid, has been postponed indefinitely due to what happened.

Ahmed Al-Masry, 21, was preparing for his wedding on the second day of Eid, but was killed in the first strike of the conflict, along with his sister Rahaf, 10, nephew Yazan, 18 months, and seven others, most of whom were his relatives.

"It is not possible now for Ahmed to be a groom in this world ... He is now a groom in heaven," said his father, Abu Atallah. "He joined his mother, who was martyred in an Israeli raid during the first war on Gaza in 2018," he added.

The family has suffered before at the hands of Israeli strikes on Gaza: Their home was flattened during the 2014 war.

“The missile tore my heart before it took the life of Ahmed and killed our joy,” he added.



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## [UN mission in Iraq extended, widened to observe October vote](#)

Author:

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Thu, 2021-05-27 15:41

UNITED NATIONS, United States: The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously voted to extend the mandate of its mission in Iraq and to expand

it to cover monitoring of legislative elections set for October 10, acceding – in part – to a request from Baghdad.

The mission, known as the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), will now run through May 27, 2022, according to a resolution drafted by the United States.

It calls for a “strengthened, robust and visible UN team, with additional staff, in advance of Iraq’s forthcoming election, to monitor Iraq’s election day with as broad a geographic coverage as possible.”

The world body’s help should come in a “manner that respects Iraqi sovereignty,” the text says.

Baghdad “wanted more,” including a “full observation mission” for the elections, a diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity.

But what the Council agreed upon was in keeping with its usual practice, the diplomat said, adding that some members were hesitant to accept a larger role, fearing the UN would end up taking on too much responsibility for the vote.

According to the resolution, UNAMI should “engage, encourage, and coordinate with, and provide, as appropriate, logistical and security support to international and regional third-party observers invited by the government of Iraq.”

The mission will also be asked to “launch a UN strategic messaging campaign to educate, inform, and update Iraqi voters on election preparations, and UN activities in support of elections in advance of and on election day,” the text says.

During a recent Council meeting on Iraq held by videoconference, the UN special representative to Iraq, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, asked authorities in Baghdad to “uphold the integrity of the electoral process.”

Killings, attempted murder and abductions have targeted more than 70 activists since a protest movement erupted against government corruption and incompetence in 2019.

“These elections were a central demand of the protest movement; and yet, many of its members continue to be persecuted with rampant impunity,” she said earlier this month.

“The failure to hold credible elections would cause significant, lasting, widespread anger and disillusionment, which in turn could further destabilize the country at a time where strength and unity are desperately needed,” the UN envoy warned.



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[United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq \(UNAMI\)](#)

[Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert](#)

[iraq elections 2021](#)

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## [Sanders ends bid to block US weapons sale to Israel](#)

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Wed, 2021-05-26 21:41

LONDON: Sen. Bernie Sanders has reportedly canceled an attempt to block a \$735 million arms sale to Israel authorized by the US government.

The Wall Street Journal report cited a Sanders aide who said the State Department had already finalized the sale and it was unclear whether legislation could prevent it.

Sanders, who staged high-profile presidential bids in 2016 and 2020, is a

frequent critic of the Israeli government, alongside other popular Democrats from the progressive wing of the party.

He previously said “the provision of US military aid must not enable human rights abuses,” before introducing legislation to prevent the sale.

“At a moment when US-made bombs are devastating Gaza, and killing women and children, we cannot simply let another huge arms sale go through without even a Congressional debate,” he said last week.

“I believe that the US must help lead the way to a peaceful and prosperous future for both Israelis and Palestinians. We need to take a hard look at whether the sale of these weapons is actually helping do that, or whether it is simply fueling conflict.”

The Vermont senator’s legislation was designed to target “defense articles, defense services and technical data” provided to the Israeli military by the US.

Earlier this month, the US blocked the UN Security Council from issuing a statement condemning Israeli military airstrikes against the Gaza Strip that left hundreds of people dead and thousands homeless.

When asked to comment on the weapons sale, a State Department spokesperson said it is “legally restricted from commenting on details of individual export licensing cases.”



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## [Egypt receives \\$500,000 Canadian grant for health sector](#)

Author:

Wed, 2021-05-26 21:19

CAIRO: Canada granted Egypt \$500,000 in aid to combat the negative effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as the funds will go toward procuring necessary equipment at the Sadr Al-Abbasiya Hospital in Cairo.

The announcement of the grant came during Tuesday's meeting between Egyptian ministers, Canada's Ambassador to Egypt Louis Dumas, and the UNDP Resident Representative in Egypt Randa Aboul-Hosn.

During the meeting, they also discussed supporting Egypt's health sector and how to combat the spread of the virus.

Rania Al-Mashat, Egypt's minister of international cooperation, said Canada is among several development partners that have come forward to help the country.

The ministry seeks to advance development efforts in various sectors through the principles of economic diplomacy, following the UN goals of sustainable development.

Al-Mashat said the government has developed an urgent response plan for the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19. She also praised Egypt's ministry of health and the huge efforts it has made since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

Development cooperation efforts with Canada in 2021 have resulted in partnerships worth \$28 million in various sectors such as empowering women and youth, she added.



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