

[UAE medical convoy of one million COVID-19 vaccines arrives in Gaza Strip](#)

Author:

Fri, 2022-01-28 00:24

LONDON: A UAE medical convoy of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in the Gaza Strip via the Rafah crossing on Wednesday to help combat the coronavirus pandemic, Emirati state news agency WAM reported on Thursday.

The convoy, containing one million Sputnik shots, "is the largest medical support convoy from the UAE for the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic," the statement said.

The vaccines will be immediately distributed to vaccination centers to encourage Gazans to get vaccinated after the impoverished territory entered a fourth wave of the pandemic.

Ghazi Hamad, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, thanked the UAE for its assistance, which comes at a critical time, and said it would enhance the health sector's ability to effectively confront the spread of the virus.

He was speaking during a press conference at the Rafah crossing in the southern Gaza Strip after the arrival of the convoy.

Former Palestinian health minister Dr. Jawad Al-Tibi said the health sector is one of the most time-consuming sectors and great efforts are required to combat this global epidemic.

"The UAE sends aid after aid to support our steadfastness and to face difficulties and diseases in the Gaza Strip," he said, adding: "This batch of Emirati aid comes at the right time to support the health sector and vaccinate students."



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[UAE](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Sputnik V vaccine](#)

[Coronavirus](#)

Egypt's Abdel Fattah El-Sisi urges more support for Gaza reconstruction
UAE resumes entry for travellers from 12 African countries

[US envoy to Yemen holds talks in London to revive peace efforts](#)

Author:

Thu, 2022-01-27 23:43

LONDON: The US envoy to Yemen Tim Lenderking held talks with senior UK and Gulf officials in London, as part of his first tour of 2022 to reinvigorate peace efforts in coordination with the UN.

During talks with the British Minister for Middle East and North Africa James Cleverly, the two sides stressed they are “committed to working together to advance a durable resolution to the Yemen conflict, help stabilize the economy, and support urgent steps to ease the humanitarian crisis.”

The US envoy also took part in a UK-hosted Quint meeting to discuss the situation in Yemen with senior representatives from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Britain, along with UN special envoy Hans Grundberg.

Important meeting with US Special Envoy for Yemen [@LenderkingTim](#) today to discuss how we, the international community, can support [@OSE_Yemen](#) and all parties in working toward peace in [#Yemen](#).
pic.twitter.com/X0dVblvtrl

– James Cleverly (@JamesCleverly) [January 26, 2022](#)

Lenderking was in Riyadh, the UAE and Oman last week, where he focused on the urgent need for de-escalation and the protection of all civilians, bringing the parties together to support a UN-led inclusive peace process, and doing more to address economic stability, humanitarian assistance access and fuel shortages, a State Department spokesperson told Arab News.

His visit comes as the Iran-backed Houthi militia have stepped up cross-border attacks against populated areas in Saudi Arabia and have attempted to strike the UAE capital twice in the last two weeks. The Houthis have also continued their brutal offensive on the Yemeni province of Marib, which has served as a safe haven for millions of internally displaced persons who have been fleeing the fighting since the conflict began in 2014.

The US has repeatedly pledged to continue to work with their partners in the region, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, to help them defend against these deplorable Houthi attacks, the State Department said.

“The recent escalation of violence in the region poses a threat to

all, and we must all work together to press the parties to return to dialogue,” [#USEnvoyYemen](#) Lenderking said in a meeting with Omani FM [@badralbusaidi](#). [@USEmbMuscat pic.twitter.com/QititoEAzL](#)

– U.S. State Dept – Near Eastern Affairs (@StateDept_NEA) [January 26, 2022](#)

However, increased calls from regional allies are putting pressure on US President Joe Biden’s administration to relist the Houthis as a terrorist organization one year after it reversed a last-minute decision by former President Donald Trump to designate the militia.

“We will continue to work with our allies and partners in the region especially to promote accountability for the Houthis, for those Houthi leaders that have been behind these terrorist attacks,” the State Department said.

It added that the the Houthis’ redesignation as an “international terrorist organization” is “under review” and the US is expected to implement additional steps, including sanctions, to hold Houthi leaders accountable. But when asked by Arab News about the possibility that the Biden administration will relist the militia, it said: “The United States remains committed to improving the humanitarian situation in Yemen and would have to fully consider the humanitarian implications.”

State Department spokesman Ned Price had also said that they not going to relent in designating Houthi leaders and entities involved in military offensives that threaten civilians and regional stability and perpetuate the conflict, who are responsible for some of the human rights abuses or the violations of international humanitarian law.

“When you talk about the humanitarian crisis, there is one actor that is primarily responsible for the suffering of the Yemeni people, the widespread suffering of the Yemeni people. And that is the Houthis,” Price told reporters at a press briefing.

He added they are using every appropriate tool to hold the Houthis to account.

The State Department reiterated the American condemnation of the Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and the UAE and said it remained committed to solving the Yemeni conflict.

“Helping advance a durable resolution that ends the conflict in Yemen, improves Yemeni lives, and creates the space for Yemenis to collectively determine their own future remains a top US foreign policy priority,” it said.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[United States](#)

[Tim Lenderking](#)

[Yemen](#)

[United Kingdom](#)

[James Cleverly](#)

[US State Department](#)

[Houthi](#)

[Terrorist organization](#)

[Britain](#)

UK hosts Quint meeting on Yemen, condemns Houthi attacksIran uses Yemen as base for attacking neighbors, says Yemen PM

[Sudanese rally against UN bid to resolve crisis](#)

Author:

Wed, 2022-01-26 23:55

KHARTOUM: Thousands of Sudanese pro-military protesters rallied on Wednesday

against a UN bid to resolve a political crisis in the country three months after a coup.

The demonstrators gathered outside the Khartoum office of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan, or UNITAMS, which launched talks with Sudanese factions this month.

They held up banners that read, "Down, down UN," and others that urged UN special representative Volker Perthes to "Go back home."

"We don't want external intervention in our country," protester Hamed Al-Bashir said.

On Jan. 10, Perthes said the consultations aimed "to support the Sudanese to reach an agreement on a way out of the current crisis." But he added that "the UN is not coming up with any project, draft or vision for a solution."

On Wednesday, UNITAMS said protesters had gathered outside the mission's office demanding to expel the mission.

"We defend freedom of assembly & expression and offered to receive a delegation in our premises which they refused," it said on Twitter.

Sudan has been rocked by a deadly crackdown against protests calling for civilian rule since an October 25 military coup led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

The country's latest military takeover derailed a power-sharing transition between the army and civilians that had been painstakingly negotiated after the 2019 ouster of longtime autocrat Omar Bashir.

The ruling Sovereign Council – formed by Al-Burhan after the coup with himself as chairman – has welcomed the UN-led dialogue, as have the US, Britain, neighboring Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The Forces for Freedom and Change, Sudan's main civilian bloc, has also said it would join consultations "to restore the democratic transition."

In a Wednesday press conference, FFC leader Omar Al-Degeir called on the international community to stand by "the Sudanese people to achieve its demands to reverse the coup."

Stephanie Khoury, UNITAMS director of political affairs, said earlier: "Our role at this stage of consultations for a political process for #Sudan is to hear Sudanese stakeholders; ensure we actively listen to their views, document their visions & suggestions."

An 18-year-old protester died on Wednesday after suffering a bullet wound to the head during protests last month, according to the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors.

His death brought the number of people killed in the crackdown on anti-coup demonstrations to 77, including others who were also shot in the head, it

said.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Sudan](#)

[UN](#)

[Sudan protests](#)

Sudan frees medics held in crackdown on anti-coup protests
Three killed as Sudanese security forces crack down on protest

[UK hosts Quint meeting on Yemen, condemns Houthi attacks](#)

Wed, 2022-01-26 23:45

LONDON: Senior representatives of the governments of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, the UK, and the US, along with UN special envoy, Hans Grundberg, met in London on Wednesday to discuss the situation in Yemen.

“The Quint strongly condemned the Houthis’ repeated attacks against civilians within Yemen, including US local staff in Sanaa, and their continued heinous terrorist attacks against Saudi Arabia and more recently the UAE,” they said

in a joint statement.

The Iran-backed Houthi militia have stepped up cross-border attacks against populated areas in Saudi Arabia and have attempted to strike the UAE capital twice in the last two weeks. The Houthis have also continued their brutal offensive on the Yemeni province of Marib, which has served as a safe haven for millions of internally displaced persons who have been fleeing the fighting since the conflict began in 2014.

The Quint said "such actions are obstructing peace efforts and exacerbating suffering," and stressed that "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," and the need to hold perpetrators accountable and brought to justice.

The joint statement expressed full support for Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and their legitimate national security concerns and called for an immediate end to attacks by the Iran-backed militia.

"The Quint acknowledged the legitimate right of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to defend themselves against terrorist attacks in accordance with international (and) humanitarian law, including taking all feasible precautions to avoid civilian harm," it said.

The meeting also condemned the Houthis' seizure of the UAE flagged Rwabee vessel off the coast of Yemen, and called for the need to find an urgent solution to the abandoned SAFER tanker, urging the Houthis to allow UN access to the vessel.

They said these highlight the Houthis' significant risk to the maritime security of vessels in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea.

"The Quint discussed the illicit Iranian provision of missiles and advanced weaponry to the Houthis in violation" of UN Security Council resolutions, the statement added.

The Quint called for urgent and comprehensive political solution to the conflict and re-affirmed their support for the UN special envoy's efforts. It also called for additional economic support from the international community to stabilize Yemen's economy, coupled with essential reforms to improve financial transparency.

They agreed to meet on a regular basis to coordinate a response to the Yemen crisis and support the UN envoy.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[United Kingdom](#)

[Yemen](#)

[Houthi](#)

[Hans Grundberg](#)

[Saudi Arabia](#)

[UAE](#)

[United States](#)

[Britain](#)

Yemeni army pushes into Marib province as Houthis retreat
Iran uses Yemen as base for attacking neighbors, says Yemen PM

[Algerian minister calls for vaccination amid virus surge](#)

Wed, 2022-01-26 23:53

ALGIERS: Algeria's health minister on Tuesday urged people to get vaccinated and save hospitals from collapse as the North African nation faces a surge of COVID-19 infections.

Algeria is battling infections from both the delta variant and the highly contagious omicron variant, which now accounts for 60 percent of COVID-19 infections.

On Monday, health officials reported a daily record of 2,215 cases and 13 deaths.

“I urge you to get vaccinated and break the chain of infections which risk bringing our health institutions to their knees,” Health Minister Abderahmane Benbouzid said at a media conference in the capital, Algiers. “For now, the hospitals’ staff are managing. The question is, how long can they hold on?”

Omicron is less likely to cause severe illness than the previous delta variant, according to studies. Omicron spreads even more easily than other coronavirus strains, and has already become dominant in many countries. It also more easily infects those who have been vaccinated or had previously been infected by prior versions of the virus.

The inoculation rate in Algeria remains low. Less than a quarter of the population has had even one vaccine dose despite the government’s robust vaccination campaign in state media and on social networks that includes pro-vaccine posts from famous Algerian actors, singers, athletes and influencers.

Algeria has a stock of vaccines that can largely ensure coverage of vaccination needs for two years, the minister said. Overall, only 13 percent of Algeria’s 45 million inhabitants, have been inoculated, the minister said. Of eligible adults, only 29 percent have received two vaccine doses, he said.

In December, Algeria started requiring a vaccine passport to enter many public venues, seeking to overcome vaccine hesitancy that has left millions of vaccines unused.

The pass is also required for anyone entering or leaving Algeria, as well as for entering sports facilities, cinemas, theaters, museums, town halls and other sites like hammams – bath houses that are popular across the region.

Official figures show Algeria has seen 6,508 COVID-19-related deaths since the pandemic began, but even members of the government’s scientific committee admit the real figure is much higher. Out of fears of being blamed for getting the virus, some Algerians keep their infections secret, which then puts others at risk.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Algeria](#)

[Algiers](#)

[Coronavirus vaccination](#)

Egyptian, Algerian presidents hold talks in Cairo
Algerian boy, 15, wins scholarship to UK's most prestigious school