Deputy FM: Iran willing to cooperate with UN on Gaza

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Alireza Ansachi expressed the Islamic Republic’s willingness to cooperate with the United Nations on Gaza.

Addressing a ceremony to commemorate the International Humanitarian Day in Tehran on Monday, Ansachi said the international community should not remain silent on the murder of defenseless people in Gaza, IRNA reported.

He said the Zionist regime and the Takfiri terrorists should not go scot free for the crimes they have committed against humanity. Noting that Iran is situated in a most critical region which almost always experiences natural disasters and blind terrorism, he voiced Tehran’s deep sympathy with the people in Iraq and Syria.

Ansachi called on the international community to stop the trend of killing mankind in the region and go ahead with carrying out humanitarian operations.

He urged the international community to take practical initiative to thwart such attitudes by providing humanitarian assistance to affected people all over the world, particularly in the region.

No politicization

Ansachi also said humanitarian aid to people in areas affected by terrorist attacks across the Middle East should not be politicized.

“Humanitarian measures should not be used as tools for political objectives and unjust actions,” Ansachi said on Monday.

He made the remarks after a meeting with UN Under-secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos in Tehran.

Gaza aid

Ansachi said he had discussed with Amos the dispatch of humanitarian aid to the crisis-stricken people of Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and especially Gaza, with the cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Iranian official also reiterated the Islamic Republic’s readiness to send relief aid to Gazans through the Red Cross, saying the continuation of Gaza siege would hinder aid delivery to the Palestinian territory.

According to latest reports, Iran’s humanitarian aid supplies to the Gaza Strip are currently awaiting permission to be dispatched to the war-stricken enclave through the Rafah border crossing close by Egypt.

Earlier on August 12, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said the Islamic Republic is still awaiting Egypt’s permission to send relief aid into Gaza and transfer those wounded in Israeli attacks to Iran for treatment.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alireza Ansachi (2nd L) and UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos (4th L) attended a ceremony to commemorate the International Humanitarian Day in Tehran on August 10.

He said that Egyptian officials were refusing to respond positively to a request by the Iranian airlines to send a plane carrying humanitarian aid to the airports in Cairo or Ismailia.

Attacks on relief workers

Addressing the ceremony, the UN humanitarian affairs chief stressed that those groups or states that attack relief workers should be brought to justice and punished.

Amos said civilians in different cities in Sudan, Central Africa, Gaza, Syria and Iraq are, unfortunately, paying the price in modern wars waged in the cities.

“As an international and humanitarian society, humanitarian laws shouldn’t be ignored by armed groups and countries, but relief workers who love humans are, unfortunately, attacked,” she added.

“Effort should be made to punish those who attack relief workers,” Amos underlined.

As the conflict in Gaza (started on July 8) deepened, tens of thousands—and then hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes and into shelters operated by the United Nations. Dozens of UN-operated schools were converted for the purpose. Eventually, almost 270,000 internally displaced people were crammed fall into 90 shelters in Gaza.