Iran, UN Discuss Aid for Conflict Zones

UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos, right, attends a forum held to mark World Humanitarian Day and chaired by Iran’s Deputy FM Abbas Araghchi, second from right, in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) — Humanitarian aid to those people affected by terrorist attacks across the Middle East region should not be politicized, a senior Iranian official said here on Monday.

“Humanitarian measures should not be used as tools for political objectives and unjust actions,” Deputy Foreign Minister for legal and international affairs Abbas Araghchi said during a meeting with UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos.

Aragchi said he had discussed with Amos dispatching 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 further reiterated the Islamic Republic’s readiness to send relief aid to Gazans through 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 closed by Egypt.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also stressed the need for coordination among regional countries to help those affected by violence and extremism across the Middle East during his talks with Amos.

The UN official, for his part, outlined plans by the world body to provide Iraq with aid and expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic’s cooperation in dispatching aid to Syria.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham called on the international community, particularly humanitarian organizations, to put pressure on the occupying regime of Israel to remove the blockade on the war-stricken Gaza Strip.

“It is necessary that the international community put pressure on the Zionist regime to completely remove Gaza siege and end the aggression,” she said.

Afkham pointed to the dire situation of Gazans injured in the Israeli assault as well as the spread of diseases in Gaza, calling for sending humanitarian aid to the impoverished Palestinian territory.

Afkham stressed the necessity to help rebuild the battered territory, saying the Tel Aviv regime must...

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