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Emirati dish harees added to Unesco's heritage list

DUBAI
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The next time you treat yourself to the popular Emirati traditional dish, *harees*, be informed that you are tasting a preparation that has been added to the Unesco's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yes, the much-loved porridge-like dish, which is often served during Ramadan, at family gatherings, weddings, and national and religious holidays, will now be preserved as cultural heritage.

The committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at Unesco approved the inscription of *harees* on the Unesco Representative list during its 18th session in Kasane, Botswana earlier this month.

The addition of *harees* to the list is part of the UAE's efforts to carry forward the country's historical legacies, said Shaikh Salem Bin Khalid Al Qassimi, the UAE's Minister of Culture.

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Half a million starving in Gaza as UN aid vote remains elusive

ISRAEL INTENSIFIES STRIKES, HAMAS FIRES ROCKETS AMID TRUCE TALKS

GAZA/UNITED NATIONS

More than half a million people in Gaza — a quarter of the population — are starving due to "woefully insufficient" quantities of food entering the territory ever since Israel's military responded to Hamas' October 7 attack, according to a report released yesterday by the UN and other agencies.

The report highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Gaza after more than 10 weeks of relentless bombardment and fighting. The extent of the population's hunger eclipsed even the near-famines in Afghanistan and Yemen of recent years, according to figures in the report.

"It doesn't get any worse," said Arif Husain, chief economist for the UN's World Food Program. "I have never seen something at the scale that is happening in Gaza. And at this speed, how quickly it has happened, in just a matter of two months."

Resolution delayed

The report came as the United States, key allies and Arab nations engaged yesterday in high-level diplomacy in hopes of avoiding another US veto of a new UN resolution on desperately needed aid to Gaza. The long-delayed vote, last scheduled for yesterday, appeared likely to be postponed again.

US Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood told reporters as he headed into a Security Council meeting on Syria that "We're



■ Palestinian envoy to the UN Riyad Mansour (third from right) with members of the UN Security Council during a meeting on the Israel-Hamas war at the UN headquarters on Wednesday night.

The key sticking point is the inspection of aid trucks entering into Gaza to ensure they are only carrying humanitarian goods. The current draft calls for the UN to take over the job from Israel.

still working it. We're working it very hard." He said there needed to be some changes in the text "that would make it worthy of our support."

The US has been struggling to change the text's references to a cessation of hostilities in the Israel-Hamas war, but the key sticking point is the inspection of aid trucks entering into Gaza

to ensure they are only carrying humanitarian goods. The current draft calls for the UN to take over the job from Israel.

Fierce fighting

Fighting in the Gaza Strip escalated yesterday with some of the most intense Israeli bombardment of the war and Hamas demonstrated its ability to

rocket Tel Aviv, even as the foes engaged in the most serious talks for weeks on a new truce.

Israeli bombing was at its most intense over northern Gaza, where orange flashes of explosions could be seen from across the fence in Israel in the morning. Later, Israeli planes roared over central and southern areas, dropping bombs that sent up plumes of smoke, residents said.

In Israel's commercial capital Tel Aviv, sirens wailed and rockets exploded overhead, intercepted by Israeli defences.

— Agencies

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