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ICC issues arrest warrants for Israeli PM Netanyahu, Gallant

EU'S BORRELL CALLS ON ICC MEMBER STATES TO RESPECT 'BINDING' VERDICT

DUBAI
BY STEPHEN N. R.
 Senior Associate Editor

The International Criminal Court (ICC) yesterday issued arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza, dealing a huge blow to Israel's global legitimacy as it continues its bombardment of Gaza and Lebanon.

The ICC also issued a warrant for the arrest of Mohammad Deif, Hamas's military chief, for crimes against humanity, including murder, hostage taking and sexual violence. Israel said in August that it had killed Deif.

Netanyahu and Gallant could be arrested if they travel to any of the more than 120 countries that are party to the ICC. The warrants charge them with "crimes against humanity and war crimes," including the use of starvation as a method of warfare, as well as murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.

Outrageous, US says

Still, chief ally the US isn't a signatory and US President Joe Biden has said the prosecutor's



■ People comfort each other inside the Kamal Adwan hospital, as victims receive medical care following an Israeli strike that hit an area near the medical establishment in Beit Lahia yesterday.

decision to seek arrest warrants was "outrageous."

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, emphasised that the arrest warrants were "binding" and must be respected by ICC member states.

He stated, "It is not a political decision. It is a decision of a court, of an international court of justice."

Netanyahu accused the ICC of anti-Semitism, comparing the decision to the Dreyfus affair, where a French Jewish officer was falsely convicted of treason in the 19th century.

Netanyahu insisted that Israel's actions in Gaza were "just" and dismissed the charges as "absurd" and "false."

SEE ALSO P12



■ Yoav Gallant (left) and Benjamin Netanyahu

UAE clarifies eligibility for extended visa amnesty

ABU DHABI
BY ALI AL HAMMADI
 Reporter

The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security has clarified that individuals violating residency and visa regulations after September 1 will not be included in the grace period, which runs until December 31, for exemption from fines for violators of entry and residency regulations.

The authority stated that three other categories are also not eligible for this exemption. They include individuals reported under administrative cases, such as absconding or work abandonment after the specified date; individuals subject to deportation orders, whether issued by the UAE or other GCC countries; and individuals who entered the country illegally through unauthorised means. These violators must refer to the Department of Violators and Foreigners Affairs for further proceedings.

The authority reminded those eligible that this extension represents the final opportunity for violators to regularise their status, with an exemption from fines and without receiving a ban that would prevent them from re-entering the country. **SEE ALSO P2**

US slaps bribery charges on Adani

Charges 'baseless', Indian tycoon-owned conglomerate says

NEW DELHI

Billionaire Indian industrialist Gautam Adani has been charged with paying hundreds of millions of dollars of bribes and hiding the payments from investors, US prosecutors said on Wednesday.

Adani Group yesterday called the charges "baseless". "The allegations made by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission against directors of Adani Green are baseless and denied," the conglomerate said in a statement. "All possible legal recourse will be sought," it added.

With a business empire spanning coal, airports, cement and media, the chairman of Adani



■ Gautam Adani

Group has been rocked in recent years by corporate fraud allegations and a stock crash.

Adani is alleged to have agreed to pay more than \$250 million in bribes to Indian officials for lucrative solar energy supply contracts. The deals were projected to generate more than \$2 billion in profits after tax, over roughly 20 years.

None of the multiple defendants in the case, including Adani, are in custody, the

prosecutor's office told AFP. Prosecutors say one of Adani's alleged accomplices meticulously tracked bribe payments, using his phone to log the bungs offered to officials.

Obstructing justice

"This indictment alleges schemes to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials, to lie to investors and banks to raise billions of dollars, and to obstruct justice," said Deputy Assistant Attorney General Lisa Miller.

"Gautam Adani and seven other business executives allegedly bribed the Indian government to finance lucrative contracts designed to benefit their businesses... while still other defendants allegedly attempted to conceal the bribery conspiracy by obstructing the government's investigation," said the FBI's James Dennehy. — AFP

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