

## Israel Fuels Terrorism in Region: Syria's Miqdad

DAMASCUS (Press TV) - Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad has blamed Israel for escalating violence and fueling terrorism in the region.

Miqdad made the remark during a lecture at the Syrian press network Dar al-Baath in the capital, Damascus, on Tuesday, saying that Israel spreads terrorism in Syria and in the whole region.

He further noted that the Tel Aviv regime benefits from fueling violence and terrorism in the region and its role in what is happening in Syria and the region must not be overlooked.

## Thought for Today

An Angel announces daily: "Birth of more human beings means so many more will die, collection of more wealth means of much more will be destroyed, erection of more buildings means so many more ruins will come".

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 9550 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Wednesday, August 21, 2014, Mordad 29, 1393, Shawwal 23, 1435

# Pakistan Opposition Protesters March on Parliament



Pakistani supporters of cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri gather in front of the parliament during a protest in Islamabad on August 20, 2014.

ISLAMABAD (Press TV) - Tens of thousands of Pakistani protesters have marched on the country's parliament in the capital Islamabad amid tight security.

The Wednesday march was led by

Imran Khan, the leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, and dissident cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri.

The government had ordered the protesters not to enter Islamabad's "red zone", which is home to key buildings,

including parliament, the prime minister's house and many embassies.

On Tuesday, police said about 30,000 security troops had fanned out around the parliament and the red zone.

However, Khan and Qadri rejected the call and soon after midnight thousands of their supporters entered the high-security red zone.

Khan also issued an ultimatum, demanding that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resign by Wednesday evening. "Nawaz Sharif, I will wait for your resignation until tomorrow evening and after that, we will enter inside the prime minister's house."

The march comes as Pakistan's army spokesman General Asim Bajwa called for restraint and a negotiated resolution. "Situation requires patience, wisdom and sagacity from all stakeholders to resolve prevailing impasse through meaningful dialogue in larger national and public interest," he said in a message posted on a recognized Twitter account.

Earlier, a senior cabinet minister, Ahsan Iqbal, who was appointed by Sharif to lead talks with the opposition, said that instead of the march "we request that Imran Khan and Tahir-ul-Qadri agree to talks with the government."

Both Khan and Qadri have left an offer of talks from the Pakistani prime minister dangling. Khan has not responded to the government's call for talks, seeking more details. However, Qadri has rejected the offer outright.

The two have called for Sharif to quit, accusing him of corruption and ballot rigging in last year's parliamentary vote.

## Israel Kills Several in New Strikes on Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Press TV) - Several people have been killed in fresh Israeli attacks following the Tel Aviv regime's violation of a ceasefire in the besieged Gaza Strip.

According to reports on Wednesday, at least eleven people were killed in the renewed Israeli airstrikes on the blockaded enclave. Some 110 other people have also been injured in the attacks. The Israeli military said it has targeted over 60 locations across Gaza since Tuesday.

At least 16 people, including four children and a pregnant woman, were killed in the Israeli attacks on the central Gaza town of Deir el-Balah on Wednesday.

Three Palestinians, including a Palestinian infant, were also killed in the Israeli airstrikes against the besieged enclave on Tuesday.

The Israeli regime renewed its merciless onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip on Tuesday ahead of the expiration of a recently-agreed truce at 2100 GMT.

Following the strikes on Tuesday,

Ezzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas official, said that the Tel Aviv regime will "not enjoy security so long as the Palestinian people do not."

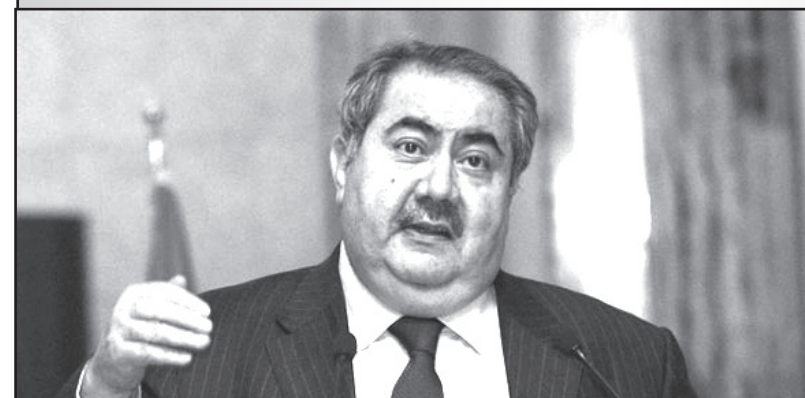
The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, also said on Tuesday the Israeli regime had "opened the gates of hell on itself" through its latest killings in the blockaded territory and warned that the Tel Aviv regime would "pay the price for its crimes."

The military wing of Hamas also said on Tuesday that it launched 10 retaliatory rocket attacks on several Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv. After the Israeli regime's violation of the truce.

The Israeli military confirmed that at least one rocket hit Tel Aviv's metropolitan area.

Israeli warplanes and tanks have been pounding the blockaded sliver since early July, inflicting a heavy loss of life on the coastal enclave. At least 2,030 people, mostly civilians, have lost their lives and some 10,200 have been injured in the Israeli war on Gaza.

## Zebari: Kurdish Ministers Will Rejoin Iraqi Government



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari

BAGHDAD (FNA)- Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Kurdish ministers who suspended their participation in the government of Iraq's former prime minister have rejoined the administration. "I am back in Baghdad as foreign minister," Radio Free Europe quoted Hoshyar Zebari as saying.

Zebari also urged the world to support Baghdad in its fight against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists, calling the group a threat to the world.

On August 15, Nouri Maliki announced that he would step down and support Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to safeguard the high interests of the country.

## President Gul: Davutoglu Likely to Take Over Turkish Premiership

ANKARA (FNA)- Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu is likely to replace president-elect Recep Tayyip Erdogan as prime minister, outgoing President Abdullah Gul said.

"As far as it seems, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu will take over (as prime minister). I am the one who introduced him into politics and bureaucracy," he told reporters during a farewell reception in honor of him in the capital, Ankara, Anadolu Agency reported Tuesday.

Gul said that the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party extraordinary congress will convene on August 27 to choose a new party chairman to assume the prime minister's office, one day before Erdogan's presidential oath-taking ceremony.

AK Party has to select a successor for the premiership following the election of current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan as president on August 10.

Appointed as the top diplomat of Erdogan's cabinet in May 2009, Davutoglu had also served as Gul's foreign policy advisor both during his ministerial and presidential terms.

Gul said he had no plans to stay in the capital but would move and settle in Istanbul and would then act like other former presidents.

The outgoing president also repeated his previous remarks in which he said he would continue to serve for his cause and the party he had founded.

According to results from August 10 presidential election, Erdogan got 51.79 percent of the vote and was elected to a five-year term as president. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the joint candidate of the two opposition parties, received 38.44 percent of the votes while Selahattin Demirtas, candidate of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, won 9.76 percent.

## Turkish Soldier Killed in Clashes With Kurdish Militants

ANKARA (Reuters) - At least one Turkish soldier was killed and another wounded in clashes with Kurdish militants in eastern Turkey as tensions escalated, local media reported, potentially undermining government efforts toward direct peace talks.

A group of fighters from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fired at a military border patrol unit near the Iran border in the eastern province of Van. A Turkish lieutenant was killed, and another soldier was injured in the clash late on Tuesday, according to Turkish media.

A Kurdish protester was shot dead and two others were wounded in southeastern Turkey earlier on Tuesday as they clashed with security forces dismantling a newly erected statue of a prominent Kurdish militant.

The PKK, considered a terrorist group by Turkey, the European Union and the United States, waged a three-decade insurgency to push for greater Kurdish rights, but hostilities have largely died down since a March 2013 ceasefire.

Turkey began peace talks with jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan in late 2012, and last month parliament approved a legal framework for the process for the first time, an important step toward ending the insurgency.

Ocalan told pro-Kurdish lawmakers visiting him at the weekend that the PKK's war with the Turkish state was nearing an end.

Prime Minister and President-elect Tayyip Erdogan has made the Kurdish peace process one of his priorities.

Yet the flare-up in violence could harm efforts by the government to push for direct negotiations with rebels.

Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay told a television channel on Tuesday the government may hold direct talks with the armed guerrillas, also known as Qandil, the mountain range of northern Iraq where they are based.

"I desire direct talks between our yet-to-be-formed team and Qandil," Atalay told NTV news. "If necessary, our state institutions may talk to Qandil in some other places as well ... For the maturation of the action plan, any kind of necessary meetings could take place, within the legal framework."

Negotiators will propose a plan, including for militants' withdrawal, disarmament and the return to Turkey of some PKK members, he said.

"Later, these people will lead normal lives inside Turkey. We want Turkey to be a normal country. That's all we want," Atalay said.

## UN Refugee Agency to Start Aid Operation for Iraqis

BAGHDAD (Press TV) - The United Nations refugee agency says it plans to start a large humanitarian aid operation in a bid to help the displaced people in Iraq.

The air, road and sea operation will begin on Wednesday with a four-day airlift from Aqaba in Jordan to Erbil in Iraq, said Adrian Edwards, the spokesman of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on Tuesday.

He added that, in addition to the four-day airlift, road convoys of humanitarian aid will be sent from Turkey and Jordan over the next 10 days.

"The major focus is on improving living conditions for the displaced in the region, particularly people without shelter or housing," Edwards said, adding, "Conditions remain desperate for those without



Displaced Iraqi children at a mosque west of the southern Iraqi city of Basra, August 19, 2014

access to suitable shelter, people struggling to find food and water to

feed their families, and those without access to primary medical care."

"Many are still coming to grips with the tragedy they've been through in recent weeks - fleeing homes with nothing, and many trying to cope with the loss of loved ones. Emergency support is an urgent need that we are trying to meet," he said.

Iraq has faced brutal violence by the ISIL Takfiri group across the country's north and west since early June. The crisis has deteriorated in recent weeks, as the militants swept over new towns in the north, forcing members of the minorities out of their homes.

The ISIL terrorists have been committing heinous crimes in the areas they took, including the mass execution of civilians as well as Iraqi army troops and officers.

The Iraqi army is engaged in fierce fighting with the ISIL militants to push them out of the captured areas.