

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist air force has started carrying out attacks on the Gaza Strip, as the Palestinian resistance movements of Hamas and Islamic Jihad deny launching projectiles into Israel. Israeli warplanes carried out raids on the Nuseirat ref-

Who are you to abuse the world when it has openly declared its mortality and mortality of everything connected with it, when it has given everyone of its inhabitants to understand that all of them are to face death.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Report:

Zionist Regime Seeks 50% Increase in US Military Assistance

Turkey, US Begin Program to Train, Equip Syria Terrorists



An Israeli missile is launched from the Iron Dome missile system.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is seeking a large increase in annual military assistance from the United States and has begun preliminary talks with the Obama administration on a 10-year financial package

that would provide up to \$45 billion.

During unofficial talks in recent months by working-level bilateral groups, the occupying regime has asked the US to increase its annual military assis-

tance by 50 percent to an average of \$4.5 billion a year over the 2018-2028 period, Defense News reported, citing an Israeli security source.

Under the existing agreement that was signed in 2007 and ex-

pires in 2017, annual military assistance to Israel grew to about \$3 billion a year. That deal was negotiated during the George W. Bush administration.

US President Barack Obama agreed in principle with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to increase the follow-on aid package to between \$4.2 billion and \$4.5 billion, the report said.

The money is separate from the nearly \$500 million in annual US funding for the regime's missile system programs in recent years. It is also on top of the US warfighting material held in Israel, which is valued at \$1.2 billion.

Last week, the US House of Representatives Appropriations' Defense subcommittee drafted the 2016 defense bill which included \$487.5 million in funding for various US-Israel active weapons programs.

US aid to Israel has held steady despite cuts to a wide range of domestic and military programs in the United States, including reducing the size of the US Army to its lowest level since before World War Two.

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey and the United States have officially started a joint program for training and equipping the terrorists operating against the government in Syria.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Tuesday that the mission has kicked off with "small groups of militants" being trained on the Turkish soil.

"We can say that the train-and-equip (mission) has started with small groups. All infrastructure has been completed and the necessary equipment has been supplied," he told the official Anatolia news agency.

Cavusoglu claimed that the main aim of the program would be to prepare the terrorists for the fight against Takfiri ISIL terrorists, who control some parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq.

However, many suspect the move is in fact strengthening the terrorists who are operating against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Cavusoglu said that Ankara and Washington will jointly select those terrorists they deem suitable to attend the training, adding, "Both the Turkish and the American personnel who will carry out the mission have been dispatched."

In similar remarks on Monday, the top Turkish diplomat had said Ankara and Washington will provide

"air protection" to those terrorists preparing to enter Syria.

The joint mission was repeatedly delayed over the past months, with Turkey insisting that the terrorists should be trained and backed for the sole purpose of fighting Assad.

Earlier in May, Cavusoglu said Turkey had opted to put off the joint program allegedly due to some technical problems, denying speculations that disagreements had occurred between Turkey and the US.

The program, which is based on a deal reached between Washington and Ankara in February, is aimed at training over 15,000 terrorists in three years. Over 120 US soldiers are reportedly in Turkey to train the terrorists.

Turkey was one of the three countries that publicly expressed readiness to allow its territory to be used for the training of the anti-Damascus terrorists.

"Saudi Arabia and Qatar have also announced that they will be hosting a train-and-equip program," Cavusoglu said on February 20.

The United States and its regional allies - especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey - are reportedly supporting the terrorists operating inside Syria.

Anti-Damascus terrorist groups also use Turkish territory to infiltrate into Syria, according to reports.

About 30 Afghan Forces Killed in Militant Attacks



Afghan security forces in the Dangam district in the eastern province of Kunar

KABUL (Press TV) – Multiple militant attacks have killed nearly 30 members of Afghanistan's security forces, as the number of assaults by the Taliban against Afghan police increases.

In a bomb attack on a court house in the eastern province of Maidan Wardak on Tuesday, two policemen were killed and three civilians were injured.

The provincial police chief, Khalil Andarabi, confirmed the attack, saying four assailants also died in the attack.

In a separate incident, one civilian and one police officer were killed and three policemen were injured in a clash from late on Monday to early Tuesday with two assailants in the southern province of Kandahar. The provincial governor's spokesman, Samim

Khepilwak, said security forces had killed the two attackers, who were hiding out in a building in the provincial capital, Kandahar.

In neighboring Helmand Province's Nawzad district, dozens of assailants attacked several police checkpoints on Monday, killing 26 members of security forces there.

"Nineteen policemen and seven soldiers were killed," said a local police source on condition of anonymity.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks but police stations and security checkpoints are a preferred target for militants and are frequently attacked by them.

On April 24, the militants launched their so-called annual spring offensive against Afghan and foreign forces.

Yemeni Rockets Target Saudi Military Bases

SANAA (Press TV) – The Yemeni army, backed by fighters from Popular Committees, has targeted Saudi military bases near the border between the two countries.

According to media outlets on Wednesday, the Yemeni forces fired as many as 40 rockets at a Saudi military base in the area of al-Tuwal in the Jizan region of southwestern Saudi Arabia.

The Yemeni forces also targeted the Saudi military bases of Jabal al-Dukhan, MBC, Jabal al-Dood, al-Radif and a number of other bases in the area of Jizan.

Yemen's Ansarullah fighters also targeted a number of Saudi tanks at the al-Makhrouq military base in the southern Saudi province of Najran.

The development comes as Saudi Arabia keeps pounding areas across Yemen.

The Saudi fighter jets pounded the Yemeni provinces of Aden, Sana'a, Hajjah, Ibb, and al-Hudaydah early on Wednesday.

The Saudi warplanes targeted a medical center in the district of Haradh in the northern province of Hajjah. At least five staffers at the clinic suffered injuries in the attack.

At least nine people were also



Smoke billows following an airstrike by Saudi Arabia on the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

killed, and 21 other sustained injuries in the Saudi airstrikes on the district of Baki al-Mir in the province.

In Sana'a, the Saudi fighter jets pounded the area of al-Hadeh in the center of the Yemeni capital. Reports say that the Saudi fighter jets also bombarded the street of al-Sabeen in the capital. There is no report of the number of the casualties in the attack.

The Saudi fighter jets also targeted a Yemeni naval base in Hudaydah, injuring at least 21 people.

Riyadh pounded the University of Medical Sciences in the prov-

ince as well. Dozens are feared dead and injured in the attack.

he Saudi airstrikes against Yemen, which were launched on March 26 without a United Nations mandate, aim to weaken the Houthi Ansarullah movement, which currently controls the capital, Sana'a, and major provinces.

Riyadh also intends to restore power to Yemen's fugitive former President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Saudi Arabia.

According to the United Nations, since March, nearly 2,000 people have been killed and in excess of 7,300 others have suf-

fered injuries due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Reports also indicate that millions of Yemeni people are in dire need of clean drinking water.

UN Dismayed

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed disappointment with the postponement of a planned initiative on a peaceful resolution of the crisis in Yemen.

The decision to delay peace talks talks, which had been planned to be organized in the Swiss city of Geneva on May 28, was made after a request by the Saudi-based Yemeni government headed by fugitive former President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and some other countries.

"The secretary general has asked his special envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to postpone the consultations in Geneva planned for 28 May following a request from the government of Yemen and other key stakeholders for more time to prepare. The secretary general is actively working to convene the talks at the earliest possible time," a statement by a spokesman of Ban released on Tuesday said.