

Iraqi Army Forces Daesh Terrorists Out of Mosul Airport

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi government forces, supported by fighters from Popular Mobilization Units, have closed in on the Mosul International Airport, forcing the Daesh terrorists to pull out.

Iraqi forces are engaged in a new offensive to fully recapture the country's second largest city and drive Daesh terrorists out of their last urban bastion in the Arab country.

The airport had been a strategic stronghold for Daesh and the progress was made after fierce fighting with terrorists, Commander of Federal Police Forces Lieutenant General Raed Shaker Jawdat announced the news in a statement on Tuesday.

He added that tactics employed by Iraqi forces, including heavy bombardment of Daesh positions by jets and helicopters, forced the group to fully withdraw from the facility, adding that liberation operation, commenced early morning on Tuesday, also inflicted substantial damage on the group.

Iraqi Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network, citing a local source, reported that earlier in the day, chief security observer of Daesh at Mosul airport, identified as "Abu Abdullah," was killed along with two other companions in a drone strike at the main gate of the facility.

Iraqi forces on Monday had wrested control over a major military base in



A member of Iraqi security forces directs a tank in the liberated part of Abu Saif village, south of Mosul, Iraq, February 21, 2017.

Ghizlani, a facility close to the airport, which had been under Daesh control since the group took over Mosul about three years ago.

The airport lies on the southern approach to Mosul, which is located some 400 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad, and on the east bank of the Tigris River. Iraqi forces plan to turn the airport into a support base

for the offensive into the western part of the city. The airport and its premises are some two kilometers away from the newly-liberated village of Abu Saif.

The Popular Mobilization Units announced that their volunteer fighters from the 26th Brigade of the force had also flushed terrorists out of the strategic village of al-Sahaji west of Mosul.

The operation, which led to withdrawal of Daesh terrorists from Mosul airport, is part of a full-scale offensive to liberate the western side of the city that began on February 19. Last month, Iraqi government forces retook the eastern side of Mosul, which fell to Daesh in 2014, when the terror outfit began its campaign of death and destruction in the Arab country.

McCain Meets With Saudi King in Riyadh

RIYADH (Press TV) – U.S. Senator John McCain has arrived in Riyadh and held talks with Saudi Arabia's King Salman, according to official media.

McCain, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, took the trip after he met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara to discuss Syria, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The news network gave no details about McCain's meeting with Salman at his office, but said, "They reviewed the relationship between Saudi Arabia and

the United States."

A number of senior Saudi officials, including State Minister Musaeb al-Aiban and Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, were also present at the meeting.

McCain's visit comes two days before a new round of United Nations-brokered peace negotiations on Syria in Geneva.

While in Turkey, the Arizona Republican said the alliance between the U.S. and Turkey was "more vital than ever" because of the "growing disorder" in Europe and the Middle East.

McCain also said that the two countries

must work to "deal a rapid and lasting defeat" to the Daesh terrorist group "as part of a broader strategy to strengthen U.S. allies and partners, counter the malign influence of our adversaries, and build a favorable balance of power in the region."

Turkey began a major military intervention in Syria in August last year, sending tanks and warplanes across the border in a purported mission to fight Daesh terrorists.

Ankara has long criticized Washington's policy on Syria, complaining that its calls

for creation of "safe zones" inside the war-torn country were being rejected.

McCain said Erdogan "described a proposal to establish safe zones in Syria and retake Raqqa that should receive serious consideration by the United States."

The new U.S. president, Donald Trump, has said he is open to the idea of establishing "safe zones" in Syria.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey have both provided military and financial assistance to militants fighting the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Those wars are a source of pride for all regional nations, for the world of Islam and for all freedom fighters in the world.

In the 33-day war, all the ways to help the Lebanese nation and the valiant and resistant soldiers of Hezbollah had been blocked, but by Allah's favor and with reliance on a great force comprised of the resistant people of Lebanon, the Zionist regime and its main ally – the United States of America – suffered a humiliating defeat as a result of which they will not dare attack that region anymore. The continuous resistance attempts made by Gaza – which has now turned into an invincible fortress – showed in the course of several wars that this regime is too weak to resist the willpower of a nation.

The main hero during Gaza wars is the courageous and resistant nation which continues to defend this fortress with reliance on the power of faith despite enduring many years of economic siege. It is necessary to commemorate all groups involved in the Palestinian Resistance – including Sarayah al-Quds from Islamic Jihad, Kataeb al-Izz ad-Din al-Qassam from Hamas, Kataeb al-Shuhada al-Aqsa from Fath and Kataeb Abu Ali Mustafa from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – all of which played valuable roles in these wars.

Dear guests!

The dangers originating from the presence of the Zionist regime should never be ignored! Therefore, the Resistance should benefit from all the necessary tools for continuing its duty. On this path, all regional nations and governments and all freedom seekers in the world should meet the main needs of this resistant nation. The main pivot of the Resistance is the steadfastness and endurance of the Palestinian people who have raised courageous and resistant children. Meeting the needs of the Palestinian people and Palestinian resistance is an important and vital responsibility which should be carried out by all of us.

In doing so, we should not ignore the basic needs of the Resistance in the West Bank because the West Bank shoulders the main burden of the suppressed intifada. By learning from its past, the Palestinian Resistance should pay attention to this important point: the Resistance and Palestine are too lofty and valuable to get involved in the differences between Islamic and Arab countries or the domestic, ethnic and denominational differences that exist in different countries. The Palestinians, particularly Resistance groups, should appreciate the value of their precious positions and they should avoid entering into these differences. Islamic and Arab countries and all Islamic and national orientations should be at the service of the Palestinian ideal.

Supporting the Resistance is the responsibility of all of us. No one has the right to have special expectations of them in return for assistance. The only condition for assistance is that such assistance is expended on strengthening the people of Palestine and the structure of the Resistance. Commitment to the idea of steadfastness in the face of the enemy and to the Resistance in all its dimensions guarantees the continuation of this assistance.

Our position on the Resistance is a fundamental position, one which has nothing to do with any particular group. We are with every group that is steadfast on this path and every group that abandons this path has drifted away from us. The depth of our relationship with groups involved in the Islamic Resistance is only dependent on the level of their commitment to the principle of the Resistance.

Another point that should be raised is the existence of some differences between various Palestinian groups. The existence of differences of opinion is natural and understandable due to the diversity of tastes among these organizations and as long as these differences are confined to this, they will lead to increasing cooperation and depth in the fight of the Palestinian people. However, the problem begins when these differences culminate in skirmishes and – God forbid – serious conflicts.

If this happens, these various orientations will practically step into

a path that the common enemy of all of them wants. They do so by foiling one another's powers and capabilities. The management of disagreements and differences of opinion is a skill that should be utilized by all main orientations. They should formulate their various fighting plans in a way that those plans only pressure the enemy and help the cause to be strengthened. National unity on the basis of a jihadi plan is a national necessity for Palestine. It is expected that all orientations try to achieve this unity in line with the requests of all the people of Palestine.

These days, the Resistance is wrestling with another plot as well which is the effort of some so-called friends to divert the resistance and intifada of the people of Palestine from its course and to sell it to the enemies of the Palestinian nation in their secret transactions with them. However, the Resistance is so intelligent that it will not fall into this trap. One of the reasons for this is that the people of Palestine are the true leaders of fighting and of the Resistance, and past experiences show that by gaining an accurate understanding of the conditions, they prevent these deviations. God forbid, if one of the Resistance orientations falls into this trap, they [the people] can reproduce that need as they have done so in the past. If a group puts down the flag of Resistance, another group will undoubtedly emerge from the heart of the people of Palestine to hold it up again.

Without a doubt, in this conference, you honorable participants will only attend to Palestine which has been subject to lack of proper and necessary attention in the past few years. Undoubtedly, the existing crises in every part of the region and the Islamic Ummah deserve attention, but what has caused this gathering to be held is the issue of Palestine. This conference can be a model for all Muslims and regional nations to gradually harness their differences by relying on their common points and to prepare the ground by resolving each and every one of those differences, for the increasing reinforcement of the Muhammadi (God's greetings be upon him) Ummah.

Lastly, I deem it necessary to once more thank all you honorable guests for your valuable presence. Also, I would like to thank the esteemed Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis and his colleagues in the tenth Majlis for the efforts that they made to organize this conference.

I ask God the Benevolent to help all you succeed in serving the issue of Palestine as the most important issue in the world of Islam and as the pivot of unity for all Muslims and all liberated individuals in the world.

God's greetings and mercy be upon the lofty souls of all martyrs, particularly upon the honorable martyrs of resistance in the face of the Zionist regime, upon all sincere soldiers of the Resistance front and upon the immaculate soul of the founder of the Islamic Republic who paid the upmost attention to the issue of Palestine.

May you be successful and victorious.

Greetings be upon you and Allah's mercy and blessings.

Iran ... (Continued From Page 2)

He added that Europe should take up an independent approach toward the Islamic Republic and avoid any policy that would undermine its own interests to the same effect.

Zarif further hailed a recent step to establish a trade and industries office by Germany's state of Bavaria in Tehran and said such moves could ultimately help boost relations between Iran and Germany.

On a related front, Iran's Ambassador to Germany Ali Majedi emphasized that the current level of trade between the countries stood at around €3 billion, stressing that this could be doubled provided that Tehran and Berlin take the necessary measures to the same direction.

Ayatollah ... (Continued From Page One)

From the beginning, this cancerous tumor has been developing in several phases until it turned into the current disaster. The cure for this tumor should be developed in phases as well. Until today, several intifadas and a constant and continuous resistance have managed to achieve very important phased goals. The Palestinian intifada continues to gallop forward in a thunderous manner so that it can achieve its other goals until the complete liberation of Palestine.

The great people of Palestine – who shoulder the heavy burden of confronting global Zionism and its bullying supporters – have given an opportunity to all claimants to put their claims to the test and they have done so in a patient yet vigorous and solid manner. The day when "compromise proposals" were brought up seriously with the false excuse of realism and the necessity to accept minimum rights in order to prevent those rights from being violated, the people of Palestine and all those orientations which were already aware of the inaccuracy of that viewpoint gave it an opportunity. Of course, from the beginning, the Islamic Republic of Iran insisted on the incorrectness of compromise strategies and warned of their harmful effects and heavy damages. The opportunity that was given to the compromise procedure brought about destructive effects on the path of resistance and the fighting of the Palestinian nation, but the only benefit that it had was to prove the inaccuracy of the so-called "realism" outlook in practice.

Fundamentally the Zionist regime was formed in a way that it could not avoid seeking dominance, suppressing others and violating the true rights of the Palestinians. This is because its entity and identity are dependent on the gradual destruction of the identity and entity of Palestine. The illegitimate entity of the Zionist regime will continue to exist only if it is founded on the ruins of Palestine's identity and entity. That is why protecting Palestinian identity and guarding all the symbols of this truthful and natural identity is a necessity and a holy jihad.

As long as the name and memory of Palestine and the bright flames of the all-out resistance of that nation are preserved, it is not possible for the foundations of that usurping regime to be strengthened. The problem with "compromise" is not only that it legitimizes a usurping regime by violating the rights of a nation – of course, this is a grave and unforgivable mistake in itself – rather the problem is that it is completely at odds with the current condition of Palestine and that it does not take into account the expansionist, oppressive and greedy characteristics of the Zionists. However, by grasping their opportunities, these people have managed to prove the inaccuracy of those who support compromise. As a result of this, a kind of national consensus has emerged about the correct methods of fighting for asserting the true rights of the Palestinian nation.

Now, the people of Palestine have experienced two different paradigms in the past three decades of their history and they have understood the proportion of those two paradigms in relation to their conditions. The paradigm of heroic and continuous resistance and holy intifada

stands against the compromise paradigm. The first paradigm has brought about great achievements for that nation. It is not without reason that these days we witness that the Resistance is being attacked and that intifada is being questioned by notorious centers.

The enemy is not expected to act otherwise because he is completely aware of the correctness and fruitfulness of this path. However, we sometimes witness that some of those orientations and even countries which seemingly advocate the issue of Palestine but which are trying to divert the true path of those people in reality, attack the Resistance. Their claim is that in its decade-long life, the Resistance has not yet managed to help Palestine achieve its freedom and therefore, this method needs to be reconsidered.

In response, we say that although the Resistance has not yet managed to achieve its ultimate goal – the complete freedom of Palestine – it has managed to keep the issue of Palestine alive. We should ask in what condition we would be now if the Resistance did not exist. The most important achievement of the Resistance is creating a major barrier in the way of Zionist projects. The Resistance's success lies in imposing a war of attrition on the enemy. In other words, it has managed to defeat the main plan of the Zionist regime, namely dominating the whole region.

In this process, the essence of the Resistance and the soldiers who engaged in resistance from the beginning against the establishment of the Zionist regime and who held up the flag of resistance and conveyed it to future generations by laying down their lives – should be praised

and commemorated.

The role of the Resistance in post-occupation eras is no secret to anyone and without a doubt, the victory of the Resistance in the 1973 war cannot be ignored although it was a narrow victory. Since 1982, the burden of the Resistance fell practically on the people inside Palestine, but the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon - Hezbollah - turned to help the Palestinians in the path of their fight. If the Resistance had not brought the Zionist regime to its knees, we would now be witness to its transgressions against other regional countries – from Egypt to Jordan, from Iraq, the Persian Gulf region to other areas.

This achievement is very important, but it is not the only achievement that the Resistance has made. The liberation of southern Lebanon and Gaza is the attainment of two important phased goals in the process of Palestine's liberation. This has helped reverse the process of the geographical expansion of the Zionist regime.

Since the early 1980, not only has the Zionist regime not been able to transgress against new lands, but it has also begun to retreat. This retreat began with its humiliating withdrawal from southern Lebanon and it continued with another humiliating withdrawal from Gaza. No one can deny the major and determining role of the Resistance in the first intifada. In the second intifada as well, the role of the Resistance was fundamental and outstanding. This was an intifada which eventually forced the Zionist regime to leave Gaza. The 33-day war in Lebanon, and the 22-day, 8-day and 51-day wars in Gaza were all shining pages in the performance sheet of the Resistance.