

UK Probes 257 Saudi Human Rights Abuses

LONDON (Dispatches) – UK Defense Secretary Sir Michael Fallon says Britain is investigating more than 250 alleged violations of humanitarian law by Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen.

While responding to a question by Member of Parliament Margaret Ferrier, Fallon said, “The Ministry of Defense (MoD) is tracking 257 allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.”

“Details of the MoD’s analysis of these allegations are necessarily confidential,” Fallon said after he was asked by the MP to provide specific details of Saudi Arabia’s humanitarian law breaches.

London has faced repeated calls to suspend arms sales to Riyadh, which is accused of repeated and serious human rights abuses.

Massive British arms sales to Saudi Arabia have come under scrutiny for months due to the kingdom’s role in inflicting heavy civilian casualties through its bombing campaign across Yemen.

“UK-built and licensed Typhoon and Tornado aircraft from the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) have been deployed on combat missions in the Yemen campaign,” deputy defense minister Harriet Baldwin told ITV News.



Yemenis search under the rubble of damaged houses following Saudi air strikes on the outskirts of Sana’a on February 1, 2017.

Saudi Arabia launched a war against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to bring back the former government to power and undermine the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The war has killed more than 11,500 people and unleashed a humanitarian crisis in the

improvised Middle Eastern country.

The Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has taken advantage of the chaos and breakdown of security in Yemen to tighten its grip on the southern and south-eastern parts of the Arab country.

India Approves Budget to Buy Missiles From Zionist Regime

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) – India has approved a 2.5-billion-dollar deal to purchase a surface-to-air missile system from the Zionist regime.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the budget for its army to buy the Medium Range Surface to Air Defense Missile (MR-SAM) system from Israel Aerospace Industries, Indian media reported.

The Indian Army “will induct over five regiments of the MR-SAM missile, which will have

around 40 firing units and over 200 missiles of the system,” wrote India Today, citing government sources.

The system can reportedly target aircraft, drones, and AWACS planes at the strike range of between 50 kilometers to 70 kilometers in the sky.

The first delivery of the missile system is expected in 2023.

The missile system will reportedly be devel-

oped jointly by India’s Defense Research and Development Organization in collaboration with the Israel Aircraft Industry.

New Delhi and Tel Aviv signed an agreement back in February 2015 to jointly develop the missile system for the Indian army.

The Zionist regime has been supplying India with military hardware, including missiles, weapons systems, and unmanned aerial vehicles over the last few years

‘Turkey Urges Expats in Germany to Spy for Erdogan’

ANKARA (Press TV) – Turkey’s government has reportedly asked teachers and parents of Turkish origin in Germany to collect information on any criticism of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in German schools.

The Turkish consulate in North Rhine-Westphalia in western Germany has been holding meetings, named “information events,” during which it told the Turkish attendees that their children should film their teachers at classes, the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ) reported.

The report cited the Union for Education and Science (GEW) as saying that parents and teachers of Turkish origin have been asked to report any critical comments about the Turkish government.

“We have heard from various different sources that people were told to report every piece of criticism of Turkey, which had been heard at schools in North Rhine-Westphalia, to the consulate,” said GEW spokesman Sebastian Krebs.

“The consulate also encouraged parents to tell their children to film teachers and pass on the evidence to Turkish authorities,” he added.

Teachers at the meeting in Dusseldorf, the capital of North Rhine-Westphalia, refused to comply with the demand to spy on their schools, Krebs noted.

The Turkish consulate has not provided any comment with regard to the accusations, but Germany’s state security has launched a probe into the incident.

The accusations come on top of the reports in early February that imams from the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs (Ditib) in Germany spied on Turkish followers of self-exiled Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Erdogan has accused of plotting an attempted coup in Turkey last July.

Also on February 14, senior Austrian opposition lawmaker Peter Pilz accused Turkey of running an informer network via its embassy in Vienna aimed at targeting the critics of Erdogan and promoting his policies.

Pilz said he had sent documents regarding the activities of the network, run by the umbrella group ATIB, to the police.

Zionist Regime Says Won’t Return Golan Heights to Syria



Pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrate against the visit to Australia by Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Sydney on February 23, 2017.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – decades-long occupation of Syria’s Golan Heights. The Zionist regime’s prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the Tel Aviv regime will never end its

streets of the Old City in Jerusalem (al-Quds), hike in the Golan Heights. By the way, the Golan will never go back to Syria. It will always be a part of Israel,” Netanyahu said during a meeting with his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney.

The remarks came on the same day that about 1,000 protesters gathered at Sydney’s Town Hall, to express their outrage at the Australian government’s warm reception of the Zionist prime minister.

“He’s responsible for settlement expansion which is illegal under international law, he’s responsible for a lot of wars that have been committed against the Palestinians in Gaza, and really this man should be tried in the ICC (International Criminal Court), not welcomed down in Sydney,”

protester Mona Abuzalaf said.

Another protester, Randa Abdel-Fattah, wanted to remind Netanyahu that Palestinians had supporters.

“We will not give up. We are a resilient people and our resistance will continue until we are given restitution and our human rights,” she said.

Last November, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling on the regime to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which it has occupied since 1967.

The resolution also condemned the regime’s non-compliance with Security Council Resolution 497 since 1981, describing as null and void Tel Aviv’s decision issued on December 14, 1981 to impose its control over the occupied Golan Heights.

CIA Spies... (Continued From Page One)

hear from our new commander in chief,” said Price.

“I couldn’t help but reflect on the stark contrast between the bombast of the new president and the quiet dedication of a mentor - a courageous, steadfast professional - who is memorialized on that wall. I know others at CIA felt similarly.”

The final straw for Price was the directive reorganizing the National Security Council (NSC), on which he served, earlier this year: “Missing from the NSC’s principals committee were the CIA director and the director of national intelligence. Added to the roster: the president’s chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon, who cut his teeth as a media champion of white nationalism.”

Leon Panetta, a former CIA director, warned specifically about the dangers of Trump’s executive order to ban refugees and travelers from seven Muslim-majority countries in an affidavit lodged with the U.S. Court of Appeal to Ninth Circuit, which upheld the stay on the executive order.

“The order will disrupt key counterterrorism, foreign policy, and national security partnerships that are critical to our obtaining the necessary information sharing and collaboration in intelligence, law enforcement, military, and diplomatic channels to address the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIL,” the affidavit said.

“The international criticism of the order has been intense, and it has alienated U.S. allies.

“It will strain our relationships with partner countries in Europe and the Middle East, on whom we rely for vital counterterrorism cooperation, undermining years of effort to bring them closer.

“By alienating these partners, we could lose access to the intelligence and resources necessary to fight the root causes of terror or disrupt attacks launched from abroad, before an attack occurs within our borders.”

The affidavit also was signed by former secretaries of state Madeleine Albright, John Kerry, and Janet Napolitano, a former secretary of homeland security.

Saudi...

(Continued From Page One)

after two deadly incidents claimed the lives of more than 470 Iranian pilgrims during the 2015 Hajj rituals.

Days after the deadly human crush, which occurred in September 2015, Saudi Arabia published a death toll of 770 but refused to update it despite gradually surging fatality figures from individual countries whose nationals had been among the victims of the crush. Iran said about 4,700 people, including over 465 of its nationals, lost their lives in the incident.

Earlier that month, a massive construction crane had collapsed into Mecca’s Grand Mosque, killing more than 100 pilgrims, including 11 Iranians, and injuring over 200 others, among them 32 Iranian nationals.

Trump...

(Continued From Page One)

requires that by February 5, 2018, both countries must limit their arsenals of strategic nuclear weapons to equal levels for 10 years.

The treaty permits both countries to have no more than 800 deployed and non-deployed land-based intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missile launchers and heavy bombers equipped to carry nuclear weapons, and contains equal limits on other nuclear weapons.

Analysts have questioned whether Trump wants to abrogate New START or would begin deploying other warheads.

In the interview, Trump called New START “a one-sided deal.”

“Just another bad deal that the country made, whether it’s START, whether it’s the Iran deal ... We’re going to start making good deals,” he said.

The United States is in the midst of a \$1 trillion, 30-year modernization of its ag-

ing ballistic missile submarines, bombers and land-based missiles.

Trump also complained that the Russian deployment of a ground-based cruise missile was in violation of a 1987 treaty that bans land-based American and Russian intermediate-range missiles.

“To me it’s a big deal,” said Trump, who has held out the possibility of warmer U.S. relations with Russia.

Asked if he would raise the issue with Putin, Trump said he would do so “if and when we meet.” He said he had no meetings scheduled as of yet with Putin.

Speaking from behind his desk in the Oval Office, Trump expressed concern about North Korea’s ballistic missile tests and said accelerating a missile system for U.S. allies Japan and South Korea was among many options available.

“There’s talks of a lot more than that,” Trump said, when asked about the missile system. “We’ll see what happens. But it’s a very dangerous situation, and China can end it very quickly in my opinion.”

China has made clear that it opposes North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs and has repeatedly called for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and a return to negotiations between Pyongyang and world powers.

But efforts to change Pyongyang’s behavior through sanctions have historically failed, largely because of China’s fear that severe measures could trigger a collapse of the North Korean state and send refugees streaming across their border.

Trump’s meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe earlier this month in Florida was interrupted by a ballistic missile launch by North Korea.

Trump did not completely rule out possibly meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at some point in the future under certain circumstances but suggested it might be too late.

“It’s very late. We’re very angry at what he’s done, and frankly this should have been taken care of during the Obama administration,” he said.

According to Japanese news reports, the Japanese government plans to start debate over the deployment of a U.S. missile system known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, and the land-based Aegis Ashore missile system.

Zionists...

(Continued From Page 2)

for collective efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue, which he described as the Muslim world’s major problem.

He warned that the normalization of ties between certain Arab countries and the Zionist regime was in fact turning a blind eye to the regime’s crimes in Palestine and other Muslim countries.

Most Arab governments have no official diplomatic relations with Israel. Even so, reports have indicated that several of them, including Saudi Arabia, have had secret relations with Tel Aviv.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said that lasting peace will not be restored to the Middle East region unless Palestine was liberated and the rights of the Palestinians were fully restored, including the return of all refugees to their homeland and the formation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem Al-Quds as its capital through a holding referendum with the participation of all Palestinians.

The two-day Tehran conference on Palestine, attended by around 700 foreign guests from dozens of countries and representatives of pro-Palestinian organizations, wrapped up on Wednesday with a statement that voiced support for the rights of the Palestinian nation and underlined the need for an end to Israel’s nearly seven decades of occupation.

In the statement, the participants underlined the need for further unity among the Palestinians, and highlighted resistance as the sole solution to the Palestinian issue.

They also called on the international community to mount pressure on Israel to put an end to its “inhuman” measures in the occupied territories, including killing and forced expulsion of Palestinians.

The attendees also called on the parliaments of Arab and Muslim countries to ban any political and economic relations with Israel.