

Zionist Regime 'Legalizes' West Bank Outpost
WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime granted legal status on Sunday to a previously unauthorized outpost in the occupied West Bank allegedly in response to a Palestinian shooting attack last month that killed one of its residents. Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the decision to retroactively authorize the 50-family outpost of Havat Gilad was meant to “allow the continuation of normal life there”.
 Most countries deem Israeli settlements in the West Bank, land that the regime captured in a 1967 war and which Palestinians want for a future state, to be illegal. The decision was approved unanimously by the regime’s cabinet.

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

PLO Mulls Withdrawing Recognition of Zionist Regime



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas recites a prayer prior to chairing a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee in the West Bank city of Ramallah on February 3, 2018.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has decided to suspend recognition of the Zionist regime as Washington’s recent hostile moves against the Palestinians deepen the decades-long conflict in the occupied territories.

After a three-hour meeting in Ramallah, the PLO Executive Committee released a statement saying it would set up a body to study de-recognition of the Tel Aviv regime. It also called on the Palestinian Authority to cut off all its relations with the occupying regime, including security coordination in the West Bank. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas should “immediately start preparing plans and projects for disengagement steps with the Israeli occupation ... at the political, administrative,

economic, and security levels,” the committee said. It further decided to seek action against the Zionist regime’s occupation at the United Nations Security Council, the General Assembly and the International Criminal Court (ICC), demanding the latter start a judicial inquiry into the regime’s settlements, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing in the occupied lands. The request with the ICC was

meant to bring Zionist regime officials before international justice in accordance with the Rome Statute of the ICC, which considers settlements as a war crime. About 600,000 Zionists live in over 230 settlements built illegally since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories. In recent months, Tel Aviv has stepped up its settlement construction activities in the occupied Palestinian lands in a blatant violation of international law and in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334. Elsewhere in its statement, the PLO committee blasted the U.S. for leading a “campaign of incitement and distortion against President Abbas and the Palestinian leadership.” The campaign, it said, is aimed at justifying Washington’s “arbitrary and punitive measures against the Palestinian people and providing a cover for passing its plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause.” Last December, U.S. President Donald Trump declared that Washington was recognizing al-Quds as the “capital” of the Zionist regime and planning to relocate the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the city.

Kurdish-Led Forces Vow to Foil Turkish Campaign in Syria’s Afrin



A Turkish soldier checks the national flag on a mountain on the Syrian-Turkish border, north of the Syrian area of A'zaz on January 28, 2018.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) say it will keep fighting to thwart the Turkish-led military campaign in Afrin in northern Syria. The Turkish army has used all its military capabilities and weapons, including the prohibited ones, but failed to advance into Afrin, the SDF said in a statement. The intense Turkish airstrikes and shelling have killed and wounded hundreds of civilians and dozens of militants since the operation started more than two weeks ago, it added. Hundreds of Turkey-backed militants have also been killed and wounded during the military showdown in Afrin, the statement noted. Meanwhile, the SDF pledged to retake the areas captured by the Turkish army and its allies of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and al-Qaeda-linked groups on the outskirts of Afrin. Turkey has also warned that

American soldiers risk being targeted in northwestern Syria as the Turkish military pushes ahead with its offensive against Kurdish militants supported by the United States in the Arab country. Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag told CNN-Turk on Sunday that American soldiers risked being caught up in clashes if they appeared in uniforms of the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG). “If they come up against us in such a uniform we will see them as... terrorists.” “But the US has to be aware of Turkey’s sensitivities. If U.S. soldiers wear terrorist uniforms or are among the terrorists in the event of an attack against the army, then there is not going to be the chance to make a distinction.” Bozdag, however, said Turkey wanted no confrontation with American troops. “We do not at all want any clash with the US in Manbij, east of the Euphrates or in any other place.”

Saudi Jets Kill More Civilians in Yemen

SANAA (Dispatches) – Extremely graphic footage has emerged, showing a charred body and heart-wrenching injuries after Saudi Arabian warplanes attack civilians in Yemen’s west-central Sana’a Province. Yemen’s al-Masirah television network published the video on Sunday, showing the aftermath of the attack on Criminal Investigation headquarters in the province’s Dhahban District, which killed two people and injured 20 more. The footage featured a body burnt thoroughly beyond recognition and Yemeni civilians bearing gaping wounds, which the physicians were scrambling to stitch up. Only hours earlier, the aircraft had hit the nearby Sa’ada Province, wounding four civilians.

More than 13,600 have died since the kingdom led many of its allies in an invasion of the Arab world’s already most impoverished nation. The allies have been seeking to restore Yemen’s Riyadh-aligned former government to power. Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement, which the coalition has unsuccessfully been seeking to defeat during the invasion, and its allied Army forces have been launching tit-for-tat missile attacks against the kingdom’s border areas. Also on Sunday, Yemen’s War Media said the Army’s snipers had taken out seven members of the Saudi Arabian military in counterattacks against various locations in the kingdom’s Jizan border region.



This file photo taken on November 14, 2016 shows children sitting amidst the rubble of a house hit by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes two days earlier on the outskirts of the Yemeni capital Sana'a.

The sharpshooters also killed and injured some of the Saudi-backed militants, which Riyadh has been heavily arming to enable a comeback by the former Yemeni government.

‘Zionist Regime Conducted Over 100 Airstrikes in Egypt’s Sinai’

CAIRO (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has reportedly been conducting a years-long campaign of airstrikes in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula with Cairo’s blessing. Using unmarked warplanes and drones and unconventional flight routes, Tel Aviv has been staging airstrikes against targets in the peninsula at least since 2014, The New York Times said on Saturday. It named former and current British and American officials involved in Middle East policy as its sources. So far the Zionist regime has carried out more than 100 such attacks, the report said. Apart from Jordan, Egypt is the only Arab country, which is in a “peace agreement” with the occupying regime. Cairo and Tel Aviv have also close intelligence cooperation. The NY Times alleged that attacks were aimed at terrorist targets. While terrorism has taken a considerable toll on security forces and civilians in Sinai, the terrorists have never been known to use Egypt as a base for attacks on Zionist targets. The airstrikes are being

conducted with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi’s approval, The Times added. The report said Sisi had kept the strikes secret, only letting a small group of military and intelligence officials in on the cooperation. It said the president had also kept northern Sinai a closed military area, barring reporters from the region. The Associated Press, meanwhile, reported that the Egyptian Army was bulldozing homes and olive groves to build “a buffer zone” around North Sinai Province’s only airport in the city of el-Arish. The report said the buffer zone will destroy dozens of hamlets around the airport, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes for an unknown future, sparking some protest by residents despite the government promises of compensation. Heavy-handed government policies ranging from displacements to shoot-to-kill orders have not contained the insurgency, but have sometimes made residents prey to recruitment by the militants.

Lebanese Army Receives 3rd Batch of U.S. Military Aid

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Lebanese army has received the third batch of arms supplied by the U.S. at the port of Beirut, the army’s Orientation Directorate said Sunday. “The eight M2A2 Bradley Fighting vehicles - carriers of armed troops with a gun platform - were delivered Saturday as part of a larger U.S. military assistance program to Lebanon launched last year,” it said in a statement. Under the program, the army will receive a total of 32 such vehicles, in addition to six MD 530G light attack helicopters, six Scan-Eagle



Lebanese army soldiers are seen in this file photo.

unmanned aerial vehicles, as well as communications and night vision devices, it added. Last year, the Lebanese army received eight Bradley Fighting vehicles and six A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft from the United States. Since the war erupted between the Zionist regime and Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement in 2006, the Lebanese army has received U.S. military assistance worth more than 1.5 billion U.S. dollars. The U.S. special forces have also provided training and support to the Lebanese troops.